

MINUTES

Elora Public School Council

SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

Virtual Attendees: Christine Veit, Curt McQueen, Dawn Airdrie-Donovan, Alison Negrave, Jane Beaudoin, Chris Jess, Jacquie Corley

Item

Action

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

2.0 Minutes

2.1 Review minutes from May 12, 2020 meeting

- Approved

3.0 School Council Membership and Executive 2020-21

3.1 Meetings

- 5 meetings per year.

3.2 Executive 2020-21

- Co-chair positions should be held by parents with students attending EPS in person
- Jacquie Corley will be co-chair
- Available positions are co-chair, treasurer and secretary
- Interested persons should contact Curt McQueen directly to volunteer for available positions

4.0 P/VP Report

4.1 Start of the year

- Change in number of classes. Down by one class.
- Approx 70 EPS students opted for remote school; approx. 12 EPS families opted for home schooling.
- Some rooms (e.g. learning commons, SciTech, Music) have been repurposed as a general classroom for this year
- School yard has been marked for class cohorts during recess and outdoor instruction. Classes will rotate around the yard to provide variety. Junior classes are currently using the space on the other side of the creek. Class lanyards are working really well to supervise class cohorts.

4.2 Staffing Update

- Transfer to Remote School for this year: Ms Craig (until her mat leave), Ms Miller
 - Retirement: Mr Rupnow (effective Sep 30, 2020)
 - New hire: Ms Rouble (7C core).
 - Vacant: Hiring in progress for part-time position. Currently have Mr. Porretti as OLT in this position.
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4.3 School Councils

- School councils serve in an **advisory capacity to the school Principal**, and the Board to promote continued excellence in education, placing the overall interest of students first.
- School councils support the **engagement of parents** in their child's learning and provide a powerful network of support
- Through the active participation of families, school councils work to **improve student achievement**
- School councils participate in fundraising initiatives **to help raise funds for overall school needs**
- Typically decision making is through **consensus**.

4.4 Terry Fox Run

- Mr. Gear has been working hard to find alternate ways for students to participate since traditional run/walk is not an option. It is the 40th year so EPS set a goal to raise \$700.

4.5 Snack Program

- Looks different this year, but still making sure students that need food can still get it.
- Available food is tucked away and under adult management. Staff will provide available snacks to those that need them.
- Food & Friends is still accepting referrals from school to provide healthy food, gift card, etc to families in need.

4.6 Dates of Note

- Sep 26 & 27: Family Terry Fox Walk/Run
- Sep 30: Orange Shirt Day – in the spirit of hope and reconciliation. To honour the survivors of residential schools and show a collective commitment to ensure that every child matters
- Oct 12: Thanksgiving Holiday
- Oct 30: PD Day

5.0 Return to School

5.1 Questions/Clarifications

- Guidance is constantly changing based on information from Public Health, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Labour. Families are encouraged to regularly check the board website for updates.
<https://www.ugdsb.ca/community/coronavirus/reopening-schools-plan/>
- Board page, Managing COVID-19 symptoms and cases in schools page, has information about symptoms in children and the process related to illness and return to school.
<https://www.ugdsb.ca/community/coronavirus/reopening-schools-plan/managing-covid-19-symptoms-and-cases-in-schools/>

Item**Action****6.0 Treasurer Report**

6.1 Balances & expenditures

- Spending since last meeting included:
offsetting costs of grad hoodies (general acct)
new hardtop lines/games (playground acct)
- General balance: \$947.32
- Landscaping balance: \$1,790.44
- Playground balance: \$153.93

7.0 Other Business

5.1 Garden

- It was noted that the gardens are beautiful this year. They have maintained by Pam & Herman Wulterkens since May/June. Any fruits/veggies are being used in the classrooms or students are taking them home.
- Alison - email thanks from School Council.
Dawn – display thank you on sign with Wulterkens' approval.

5.2 Something in lieu of Fall Open House

- Parents in interested in seeing the classroom set-up
- Suggestions to connect include:
Photo sharing through google classroom
Video tour of school

Next Meeting: To be scheduled after consultation with new school council executive
