

# MINUTES

## Elora Public School Council

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Nov 9, 2021

Virtual Attendees: Curt McQueen, Dawn Airdrie-Donovan, Michelle Youngblood, Jude Fletcher, Rachel Albano, Alison Negrave, Janice Spoelder, Kim Blair, Catherine Black, Shannan Noorlander, Jannilea Ghezzi, Colette Bayani, Alison Williams, Chris Watkins & Ajay Chopra

### **1. Welcome and Introductions (Rachel)**

### **2. Attendance**

### **3. Approval of Minutes from Sept 21, 2021 (Rachel)**

### **4. P/VP Report (Curt and Dawn)**

**4.1 Slow return to sports and activities** - Activities are not 100% open yet but are slowly returning and it is better than prior. Activities are being organized outside with small groups in the library & gym. Grade 7 & 8 volleyball intramurals will be the first sport to return to EPS. Unfortunately wind instruments are still not allowed inside but Mr Bibby has been outside with students as weather permits. Instruments can be signed out with proper sanitization.

**4.2 Remembrance Day** - A video, done by Mr. Fletcher, will be shown to all classes on Remembrance Day. A song will also be played that was done by the kindergarten classes. Each class will choose when the video and song will be played. Over the school announcements there will be the Canadian Anthem, the Last Post & a moment of silence. The intermediates will walk to the museum to recognize local veterans they have been learning about. All local veteran names from World War I and World War II will be posted in the foyer.

**4.3 Play structure update** - The play structure is old and has several issues. It cannot be used until it is repaired or replaced. It is still to be determined if it is worth repairing but, at this point, it will likely need to be replaced. The thought is to replace it with different natural element pieces that will need to be funded from the school budget & fundraising (not the school board). It is believed there will be no costs involved with the removal of the current play structure but it needs to be confirmed that the school board will take care of the removal. There are similar play structures at Victoria Terrace, Guelph Lake & St Mary's schools that were all built by the same person who Curt has spoken to about EPS. According to Colette, Guelph Lake ran into repair issues with their new play structure and the longevity of the structure is questionable due to rot, etc. Attendees also suggested that the Wellington County Daycare (Aboyne) has a play structure worth seeing for ideas.

**4.4 Progress Reports and Parent Teacher Conferences** - The majority of families will view progress reports on-line. Paper copies can be requested. Parent Teacher Conferences still need clarification but will likely be virtual or on the phone. An email will be sent to parents with details about how to book an appointment. Parent Teacher Conferences will take place the night before the PD Day (Nov 25th) and during the PD Day (Nov 26th). Some teachers' schedules may allow for times outside of these dates.

#### Dates to Note

November 10 - Picture Re-takes

November 11 - Remembrance Day

November 16 - Progress Reports available online for parents

November 22-26 - Bullying Prevention Week

November 25 (after school/evening) - Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 26 - PA Day -Parent Teacher Conferences

December 18 - Start of Christmas Holidays

## **5. Teacher Reports**

**5.1 Mrs Youngblood** - Starting to see clubs & intramurals return. Mrs. Hall & Mrs. Schwindt have organized 2 Journal Clubs for Grade 7 & 8. Mr. Speers is running "Students Create Change" which has 60 kids signed up. The Students Create Change group is looking at in-school ideas along with lobbying local councilors about issues important to them. There is discussion about starting a crochet & knitting club that would take place in the library. The school is analyzing equity within school resources and a deselection process is taking place in the learning commons with resources being added/removed according to equity and inclusiveness. There is a \$3000 budget allotted for adding books reflective of equity.

**5.2 Mr Fletcher**- As a member of the Canadian Armed Forces, he is going to be meeting with the intermediate classes on Remembrance Day to share his personal experiences. A video has also been produced that is going to be shown to all EPS classes on Remembrance Day.

**6. Moving Forward with Equity, Anti-Racism and Anti-Oppression at Elora (Dawn)** - Equity is at the forefront of everything the school is doing. Considerable money is being allocated for equity resources for both the resource centre and classroom activities. It needs to be ensured that multiple voices are being heard and that decisions are based on equity. It is important that everyone feels welcome and that they belong. An equity audit is being done at EPS for the benefit of staff, students & parents. A google survey is going to be shared with parents with a number of survey questions. The school is looking for people to assist with the audit. Please email Dawn if you would like to assist with the audit and/or if you have any feedback on the parent survey questions.

**7. Treasurer Report** (Janice & Curt) - There are currently no changes to the financials. There is a possibility that funds from the landscaping budget can be moved to the playground fund if needed. There is a possible grant to be researched pertaining to parent involvement.

General - \$445.45

Landscaping - \$2,390.44

Playground - \$40.39

**8. Fundraising Committee Report** (Alison) - The Fundraising Committee met last week. Fundraising efforts are required for general funds, Grade 8 graduation, an end-of-year teacher luncheon, technology, bereavement & a new play structure. The committee hopes to have the basket raffle return this year with some modifications. At this point, there will be no common school event before the holidays (i.e. Christmas concert). The committee is considering an activity before March Break such as a sled-a-thon, dance-a-thon, etc. The committee would really like to do a spring event such as BBQ or movie night (& tie in other fundraising activities) but realize it is too early to know if this will be possible. Curt mentioned that a new play structure will realistically need to be done in stages so it can get started rather than wait for the funds for the full structure. Three quotes will need to be requested (with multiple options) in order to determine what the fundraising target will need to be for the play structure.

**9. Other Business** (Alison) - Alison N. to purchase a book for the resource centre in memory of Mrs. Stelter's father.

**10. Next Meeting Date** - The fundraising committee will need to meet a few times before the holidays. Curt & Dawn will review possible dates for future parent council meetings. Date suggestions to be forwarded via email for discussion.