

School Council Meeting
Grand Valley & District Public School
Tuesday, October 6th, 2020
6:30pm – 8:00pm
Location: 120 Main St N, Grand Valley, ON

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Introductions

It has been a great start to the school year considering all that has happened over the last couple of months. School Council will look differently and be conducted virtually for now. (2020/21 school year).

There will also be no fundraising efforts for the year.

In attendance (*ALPHABETICAL*) : Dan Ardis (Principal), Krista Buchta (Teacher Rep), Sam Evans, Lindsay Gibson, Mark Marten, Nina Mirabelli-Martin, Jean Omuruli, Joanne Stevenson, Meaghan Ulla, Jess Walt,

2. Parent Council Executive election process

- Dan Ardis (Principal) is facilitating today's meeting and voting proceedings
- This year, voting will be done virtually during this meeting
- All nominations need a second, and a vote
 - These will be done through the Google Meeting chat box

QUESTION – What is the process for call in voting (a few dial-ins)?

ANSWER – Vote response via email (provided in chat) to Dan to be registered

- Roles that need to be filled include: Chair/Co-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Community Representative
 - CHAIR
 - Role:
 - Consult with Principal and set meeting agenda
 - Navigate dialogue with Council members
 - Focus on communication and how to effectively get information out to the community
 - Principal's vow: to help facilitate and support the Chair in any way he can to ensure the above notes
 - CO-CHAIR
 - TREASURER
 - Role:
 - Work with Dan (Principal), Dianne (Office Co-ordinator) and Chair to track School Council finances – create transparency
 - What funds are coming in, what's going out, and fund allocations
 - This year will be different with no fundraisers (funds coming in), just what's going out

- SECRETARY

- Role

- Record all meeting minutes

Elections

- Nomination for Nina for Community Representative. Second by Jess. All in favour
- Re-nomination by Mark for Nina as Chair. Second by Jess. All in favour
 - Point of clarification:
 - Can Nina serve in both roles (Community Rep and Chair)?
 - Answer: No. Nina must resign from role of Community Rep in order to serve as Chair
- Nina resigns her role as Community Rep and accepts/is appointed Chair
- Jess nominates herself as Co-Chair. Second by Nina. All in favour
- Lindsay nominates herself for Treasurer. Second by Meaghan. All in favour
- Nina nominates Jean as Secretary. Seconded by Mark. All in favour
- Joanne nominated by Jess as Community Representative. Second by Mark. All in favour

2020/2021 School Council Members

Chair: Nina Mirabelli Martin

Co-Chair: Jessica Walt

Secretary: Jean Omuruli

Treasurer: Lindsay Gibson

Community Representative: Joanne Stevenson

3. Financial Report

- Currently still waiting on 2020 budget from board, once available, it will be shared with council to help determine fund allocation suggestions
- Should be available during next school council meeting
- Fundraiser Misc. – Total includes money collected in the spring (of previous school year) up until school shutdown
 - This does not include money raised from pizza days
 - This total is not included in the General account
- Milk – Surplus was discussion/motioned in previous year to be put into school “equity” program for this year (2020/2021)
 - Note: milk program is NOT a fundraising program and some of that surplus must remain in the account to pay Crown Dairy

- Pizza – There will not be a pizza program this year
- When budgeting, School council must allocate 10% of total funds to help support playground repairs – ex. Climber and swings (once the school is allowed to reopen the structures to students)

QUESTION: Can fund allocations for the playground be decided upon before they are able to open?

ANSWER: Yes. The climbers are open seasonally and as of right now the children can't use them (board regulations). They usually close in the winter and because we (the school/board) are constantly pivoting, we do not know if they will be accessible in the spring. If we get updated instruction from government or ministry, it could change. Currently there is no direction of it changing, but also could. With the current context they may not open soon.

QUESTION: Has the board decided against fundraisers for the school year or calendar year?

ANSWER: *Fundraising has been put on hold indefinitely. We don't know when we might be able to start up again. While COVID protocols are in place for schools, we will not be fundraising.*

QUESTION: Is that a "float" balance from pizza

ANSWER: It's up to Council to decide. Theoretically we can pull it all back and decide what we want to/not to carry out.

4. Admin Report

- \$2000 spent on school yard to be painted (this includes number lines etc)
 - unfortunately, not all of the new features can be used by students because of social distance protocols
 - Kinder side was only section left to finish
 - We held off with contractor painting because of grading issues but that has been resolved and painted (scooter track) as of Oct 6th
 - Kinder classes will have access too scooter track
 - Fence has gone up trees etc. on other side
- Chrome Books
 - School will receive new Chrome Books this year
 - 10 more Chrome Book purchased in August but haven't arrived yet
 - The Board is prioritizing to support virtual learning first
 - Currently have reduced numbers of Chrome Books available for students in the classroom because they are being provided to students doing virtual learning
 - 4 in repair

- Overall, school needs more Chrome Books – Suggested area for assistance from Council
- There are currently 328 students enrolled in school
 - 256 In person (as of next week)
 - 72 virtually
 - 41 of these students have Chrome Books provided for them by school to help facilitate online learning
- In Person/Virtual learning deadline to switch
 - Survey will be going to parents about switching from virtual to in person
 - Asking families what they plan on doing based on needs for the next term
 - Through the month of November data will be reviewed to help plan for next term (ex. staffing)
 - Next opportunity to switch type of enrolment is end Nov.
- Teachers working on IEPs
- Progress report
 - November 20th
 - Information about conference with student's teacher will be provided at this time
- Virtual open house
 - Teachers have been working on concept – putting together images/collaborative slide show that will introduce staff and showcase school
 - Should be available to parents within the next week
 - Access information will be sent through Google Classroom and school website
- We are hoping everyone is feeling connected during this time (parents with teachers and staff)
 - Note that Google Classroom and School *Messenger app* are the main ways to communicate
 - Staff can also be reached by phone – all staff should be receiving their voicemail
- We (the school) is trying to keep community connected through email
 - All updates and information, notifications will be pushed via email as well
- French LTO
 - Teacher is going to virtual distance learning
 - We are currently hiring a core French teacher for grades 4-8 (
 - We have someone covering until that position is filled
- Compass Run

- 10 students participating – keeping kids active
- Compass Run helps Generate quite a bit of money for Food and Friends program
- Spirit wear
 - Information has been sent out
 - This used to be a fundraiser in the past but isn't this year (therefore cheaper on families if interested)
 - Deadline October 30th
 - They can either ship to school (to be distributed with kids/after some sit time) or delivered to your home
- School Parking
 - Currently have some issues with parking – not enough space
 - School is asking families not to clog bus route when picking up their children, we understand that some families need to drive their children to school
 - We are currently unclear with town on parking areas for parents
 - Suggestions have been offered from the school to the town and we are trying to come up with plan for drop off
- Yard supervisors
 - Currently in need of more yard supervisors
 - Covid health and safety training is provided
 - Email Dan Ardis if interested or know of someone who is
- Covid Case Update
 - *No cases reported at Grand Valley. There have been cases reported at Glenbrook in Shelburne and Princess Elizabeth in Orangeville*
 - All reports are notified to public health – work with Superintendent and Principal to notify parents that may be affected

QUESTION: Have we heard any feedback from teachers and staff on how they are feeling being in the classroom / is there or anything we (Parents) can do better / additional support parents can do to help teachers

ANSWER: If anything, make sure to screen kids every morning before school (link on the website). We will continue to push the message to parents. We believe parents are doing their best (based on attendance records, families are being very careful)

QUESTION: In regard to the recent updated mask policy (masks on during recess) –was this a school or board decision? Rational?

ANSWER: School Decision. Logistically, it is the only way we (the school) can ensure the safety of our students (surrounding proper mask care while following social distancing measures) based on the different directives provided to us. We Understand that not

everyone is in agreement about it but encourage families to reach out to the principal for further clarification/question.

QUESTION: Mask during physical education or exertion is not recommended, how are you ensuring students aren't running etc.

ANSWER: Kids can and will still run during recess (that can't be helped). We do have safety measures for those with asthma, breathing issues etc. During recess, yard supervisors encourage distancing and appropriate play. Staff are able to take class outside and take off masks (while maintaining social distance protocols). And during these times, kids can and do participate in vigorous activity. Kids are still able to get lots of mask breaks aside from just lunch. We are having check in times - go outside allow them to take masks off and take a break if they need it while adhering to social distance rules, under the supervision of classroom teacher.

In regards for gym – gym is looking very different this year than before in regard to type of activities they are doing inside gymnasium.

5. Next Meeting Date:

Thursday November 5th 2020 7:00 – 8:00

Link will be provided

End