

John Black Public School - School Council Minutes

Date: Monday, October 18th, 2021

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Zoom Meeting (Virtual)

Chair: Melissa Mulligan & Carrie-Ann Nind

Treasurer: Catherine Shelton-Galdes

Secretary: Margaret Beacock

Principal: Sarah Schoettler

School Members Present: Sarah Schoettler, Luke Kordupel

Council Members Present: Melissa Mulligan, Carrie-Ann Nind, Margaret Beacock, Natalie Dorie, Sarah deLange, Catherine Shelton-Galdes, Rami Kridli, Stephanie Jones, Mario Gonsalves

Regrets:

Minutes	Action Items
<p>1. Welcome, Introductions and Regrets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. New voting members, Carrie-Ann Nind: Welcomed new members and Margaret Beacock as Secretary. b. Community representative, Sarah Schoettler: Welcomed Mario Gonsalves as Community Representative. 	
<p>2. Review and Approval of September 2021 Meeting Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. October meeting agenda: Approved by Carrie-Ann Nind, seconded by Stephanie Jones. b. September meeting minutes: Approved by Melissa Mulligan, seconded by Natalie Dorie. 	
<p>3. Principal's Report, Sarah Schoettler</p> <p>Land Acknowledgement:</p> <p>For our daily announcements, we are incorporating land acknowledgements from our students who are learning about showing gratitude for the indigenous ancestral land on which our school resides and on which they live. Today's land acknowledgement is from Mrs. Mooney's grade 4 class:</p> <p>We would like to acknowledge the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation of the Anishinaabek Peoples on whose ancestral lands we live, teach and learn. We are grateful for the flowing Grand River and the variety of fascinating species it sustains like deer, great blue heron, beavers, owls, the brown trout, Coho salmon, crayfish, Monarch butterflies, Cecropia moths and many more. There are actually over 5 000 species in the Grand River watershed, including insects, fish, reptiles, amphibians, plants and animals. We are thankful for the trees that canopy overhead so we can explore, climb and play games amidst the lush forest. We know that the First Nations peoples used the trees for shelter, warmth, food, transportation and clothing. Our Indigenous ancestors took care of this beautiful land so that we might enjoy it today. Together we hope everyone will appreciate and care for the land so that future generations can be as fortunate as us. We believe everyone should use reusable water bottles and pick up garbage whenever they can to protect the land and animals that we are so thankful for.</p> <p>Staffing Update: Mr. Reid who was our intermediate French teacher, has taken a position at another school and we welcomed Ms. Chelsey Lauzon who will be with us until Ms. Angst returns from her maternity leave.</p>	

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Grade 7/8 Vaccinations went very smoothly. This group of nurses are excellent and know how to support students who are anxious about needles. Mr. Hirst also picked up some juice and packaged treats for the kids for them to enjoy after receiving their vaccination.

Photo Day: Staff and students have had their photos taken. Grad photos will happen sometime in February and Class photos outdoors in the spring.

Spirit Days Document: [Link to Document](#)

As a board we are being intentional with centering the identities of our communities and one way of doing this is through the school-wide activities we plan to engage in. One of the most common school-wide activities that takes place are Spirit Days. Ultimately the intent of spirit days is to build community spirit through fun ways of connecting together. Spirit days are commonly days like beach day, jersey day, pajama day etc. However, these days can automatically exclude students by virtue of the theme of the day. For example, on jersey day there are students and staff who do not participate in sports or own a sports jersey which excludes them from the participation of the day. And those who do, come to school wearing it and connect with others who are too. This causes us to consider, **is it truly building spirit if we are automatically excluding a percentage of our community as a result of the theme day?**

- The board has developed a thinking tool to support schools with rethinking spirit days to ensure that they are as inclusive and accessible as possible for all students, staff and families.
- A current past example was on National Truth and Reconciliation Day where students were invited to show their support by wearing an orange shirt. To make this day accessible for all, our equity committee also offered the opportunity for students to take a blank name tag and draw an orange shirt or symbol or write words that allowed them to participate and show their support if they did not have an orange shirt to wear. Students really appreciated this option.

Student Council: Ms. Mooney and Ms. Matheson are now running our **student council** with a great turn out and their current project is working with students to choose spirit days using the criteria shared in the thinking tool as they consider the members of our community and decide on ways that build school spirit that are as inclusive and accessible as possible.

- When student council decides on spirit days, we will have them share with council! We look forward to our students planning future events such as virtual assemblies, and grade 8 grad, and bringing their voice and advice to help make school-wide decisions this year!

Halloween is a day of significance that is closely approaching and also a day where we need to be mindful of the people in our community who do and do not celebrate. Our equity committee met last week and we determined that a few options will be shared to be as inclusive as possible and at the same time let our students know that it is a choice to participate or not. With this, we have given the options of wearing orange and black, an appropriate and comfortable costume if students wish to wear one, comfy clothes or everyday wear. With this the students in our Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) are putting together a video to promote the options for the day and share about the importance of not dressing in cultural garments, as a person's identity or in a costume that jokes about situations that have caused harm (i.e., COVID pandemic).

Birchbark Canoe: Mr. Shannon reconnected with a previous John Black student Avaline, who identifies as Métis. She participated in the building of a birchbark canoe over the summer with a select group of students led by a master indigenous canoe maker. Mr. Shannon invited Avaline and Malika also a previous student to talk about the experience and answer any questions. We had the canoe on our tarmac in the outdoor classroom area where our intermediate and junior students

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<p>had the opportunity to see their presentation. It was such a wonderful opportunity and learning experience for our students and staff!</p> <p>Sarah Schoettler mentioned after her report that the person responsible for the placement of the Richard Pierpoint Plaque at the school got in contact to point out the plaque had become obscured by bushes growing in front of it. Sarah Schoettler put in a work order to have bushes removed and the rock moved to the front of the garden so that the plaque was more visible.</p>	
<p>4. Teacher’s Report, Luke Kordupel</p> <p>Let me begin with the staff’s most sincere gratitude for the treats and kind words which were shared on World Teacher’s Day. The snacks, the announcements, and the notes we received from students in the morning were lovely and we thank you for them and the time you spent on us. Thank you!</p> <p>The month of October has been busy for the students at John Black. I am happy to share some of the extracurriculars and clubs that are continuing and some of those which have started.</p> <p>In intermediate, GSA has begun and over 30 students came to the first meeting. GSA is led by Mrs. Roberts, Mr. Shannon, and Mrs. Scoular. It is an opportunity for students to meet and share about how they can create an inclusive community for all the people in our school. The GSA group allows for an inclusive school to be created by educating others and creating public service announcements for the school.</p> <p>In intermediate, Rock Band and Music Club has begun. Over 50 students arrived and have shown interest. Rock Band which includes a variety of instruments including guitars and drums etc. Music Club which includes ukuleles and vocals is led by Mrs. Roberts and Mr. Shannon.</p> <p>Furthermore, School Council is led by Mrs. Mooney, Mrs. Matheson and Mrs. Olszewski. It was beyond exciting to see over 30 students apply for the positions and share a variety of ideas on what type of ideas they are hoping to implement in the school to make it even more of an inclusive and engaging place for all. Many of the students included in their application that they were hoping to have student voice included in the makeup of the school.</p> <p>In Junior, the teachers are leading clubs based on student voice. For example, this month they started the students rubik's cube club.</p> <p>In Primary, many of the teachers are beginning a home reading program and are excited to see the progress that the students are going to make.</p>	
<p>5. Financial Report, Catherine Shelton-Galdes:</p>	

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BANKING ACTIVITY:			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Opening book balance May 28, 2021			\$ 7,706.77
Phys Ed Equipment (Gatorskin balls/floor/hockey)	\$ 459.95		
Retirement Plaque for Principal Oosling-Spears	\$ 14.05		
Chromabooks for Learning Commons	\$ 2,082.00		
Totals:	\$ -	\$ 2,437.00	
Balance as of October 18, 2021			\$ 5,049.97

FORECASTED INCOME & EXPENSES:			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Balance as of October 18, 2021			\$ 5,049.97
Contingency Fund (hold until needed-playground repairs etc.)	\$ 1,000.00		
Community Fund (hold until needed)	\$ 500.00		
Parent Involvement Funding	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Totals:	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,000.00	
FORECASTED BALANCE			\$ 4,849.97

There has been no activity since the last meeting, other than the Parent Involvement Funding (see item 7b for details).

6. Community Report

- a. School speed zone, Mario Gonsalves: Mario would like to propose to Centre-Wellington council a reduction in speed limit during the times when kids travel to and from school for the region of St. Andrew St East between Tom St. and 100 m past Lamond St. and have it marked as a school zone. He would like support from school council on this. Luke Kordupel mentioned that there was a similar application made in the past resulting in a larger sign and posts along Lamond St that tend to fall down. Council members agreed that it is past time that this was brought to the attention of town council. Sarah Schoettler offered support from John Black PS. Mario Gonsalves is going to research what would be required to put this before council and get back to school council with any needs that come up.
- b. Road Master Action Plan (RMAP), Carrie-Ann Nind: The proposed bridge over the Grand River that would take away the green space near the Grand River that the school enjoys. She contacted an RMAP representative who said it was more likely to be a by-pass and that it was not expected to happen within the next 10 years. Melissa Mulligan mentioned that the reason the project was going ahead was because there was no objection when it was first proposed. There is a community meeting that includes the federal Liberal representative Melanie Lang and 30 members of the community who are against this project. Stephanie Jones mentioned that the park near the Grand River is the best place to meet the school's treaty partner, Six Nations of the Grand River. It would not make sense to lose that space for a meeting with our treaty partner. There were a few on council who agreed to reach out to friends about updates.
- c. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), Carrie-Ann Nind: PIC is a connection between school council and the school Board (UGDSB). From the UGDSB website:

The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is a group made up of parents, trustees, principals and the director of education for this Board. As mandated by the Ministry of Education our role is to support, encourage and enhance meaningful family involvement in their

Mario Gonsalves to research requirements to propose speed reduction to the town council.

School council members to reach out to community member for RMAP updates.

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<p><i>child(ren)'s education. In particular, PIC focuses on families who find this more challenging because of socio-economic, time and/or language barriers. They do this by providing support, guidance and resources for school councils. PIC also acts as a link, providing feedback from parents and school councils to the Board. PIC also reviews and advises on Board plans that relate to parent, family and community engagement. PIC is always recruiting interested parents from throughout the District who are willing to make commitment to the Committee. If you have School Council experience (a bit, some or a lot), PIC wants you! If not, this could be a great committee to gain hands-on experience and valuable skills. For more info: https://www.ugdsb.ca/pic/</i></p> <p>The next meeting is Monday, October 25 at 7 pm virtually. There will be a presentation from Jenny Marino, UGDSB Mental Health Lead regarding supports and programs for students. PIC would like a volunteer from our council.</p>	
<p>7. School Council Plan for the Year</p> <p>a. Fundraising, Melissa Mulligan: Fall fundraiser is a call for online donations through School Cash Online, https://schoolcashionline.com/. This was launched on Tuesday October 12, and so far has raised \$1380. Classrooms who raise more than \$100 will earn ice cream sandwiches. This fundraiser runs till October 25, 2021.</p> <p>b. Student/School Day Enrichment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -School based funding/Parent Involvement Fund, Carrie-Ann Nind: \$500 has been offered to school council to advance parent involvement, because students do better when their parents are involved with the school. We need to decide how to spend the \$500; either during the period of virtual meetings or wait until in-person meetings resume (eg. seminars, milk and cookies at meetings, baby sitting for parents who attend meetings, etc.) -Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant, Melissa Mulligan: This grant is for \$1000. In the past it was used for seminars for parents on internet safety as well as mental health and wellness. Council should look over options and information provided and then email suggestions on what we want to see done. -Facebook, Melissa Mulligan: Council has taken over the Facebook page as a way to connect to the community. Sarah deLange will manage the page going forward. So far, she has posted about Halloween celebrations today (October 18) and will post about the Mabel's Labels fundraiser that is ongoing as well as anything included in the school newsletter. She will also keep an eye on communications from parents on the Facebook page and respond to those she can. Those questions she does not know the answer to, she will forward to John Black PS staff. <p>c. Social Events, Carrie-Ann Nind: Still on hold.</p> <p>d. Recruitment and By-laws, Carrie-Ann Nind: These should be updated, as they are from 2018 and likely out of date. Please look them over and suggest changes over email.</p>	<p><i>School Council members to look over info provided and email ideas on how to use PIC grant money.</i></p> <p><i>Council to look over by-laws and suggest changes.</i></p>
<p>8. New Business (Round Table Input)</p> <p>a. Roster of council members, Carrie-Ann Nind: Margaret Beacock will compile a roster of school council members and email addresses.</p>	<p><i>Margaret Beacock to compile roster.</i></p>
<p>9. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Next Meeting – Monday, November 15th 2021</p>	

