

MINUTES

Salem Public School Council

Sept 28, 2021

Virtual Attendees: Natasha Skerritt, Dhru Patel, Courtney Ecclestone, Vanessa Cordes, Thomas Samson, Vicki Scott-Reid, Colette Bayani-Thody, Ashley Watson, Lauren Selby, Johanna Hilditch, Andrea Catteau, Sherieka Fearon

Welcome

Attendance: At future meetings we will ensure we take attendance by signing into the chat bar.

Approval of Minutes: There were no minutes to approve at this time from previous meetings.

School Council Membership and Executive 2021-2022

Co-chairs, treasurer, secretary positions needed. We will have 5 full meetings this year, with small break out sessions to work on side for events such as planning, fundraising etc.as needed.

Elections:

Co-Chairs: Thomas Samson & Lauren Selby

Secretary: Vanessa Cordes

Treasurer: Courtney Ecclestone

Fundraising: Andrea Catteau & Johanna Hilditch

Yearbook: Vicki Scott-Reid

Principals Report (Natasha Skerritt)

- Welcome to all of you that have come out to School Council this evening. For those of you that I don't know well I look forward to getting to know you more. I love being the principal here at Salem and consider myself very lucky to work with an amazing staff, awesome students and a fantastic parent community. I was a student here at Salem and it holds a special place in my heart.
- Great start to the year. We did have reorganization this year and although this caused some disruption students have settled into their new classes. Because of

all the building and changing in our Salem area we will likely be looking at having reorganization every fall in our school for the next while. Next year we will be continuously reminding students and families that classes are tentative for the first two weeks of school and that we likely will be required to make changes to classes.

- Students have once again fallen quickly into the routines. At recess students may play in their own meeting trees areas without their mask or they may meet friends on the tarmac or playground with their mask on.
- We are so blessed to have to be able for each class to have a large area to play in and that we can be outside as much as we are.
- We had our first whole school assembly on September 8th. We used Google Meet. Each class joined from their own classroom. During this assembly I read a story to the whole school. This year's character education book is called "After the Fall". One of the messages shared through this book is about how we can persevere when things are tough. It is all about having a growth mindset.
- We have lots of new staff here at Salem this year and everyone seems to be settling in really well. Ms. Jones, Mrs. Wheeler, Ms. Rowe, Ms. Bibb and Ms. Snyder have all joined our team.
- We are losing two of our part time teachers who have accepted full time positions in other schools. Mr. Aiken and Ms Cruttenden will be moving on and we wish them well. These positions are currently posted and we hope to hire someone new shortly.
- We have about 270 students in the building this year.
- The School Website and UG Connect are great ways to stay connected. If you haven't downloaded the app please do so. Updates and information are posted on our website as it comes available. We are also using twitter, facebook and email as ways to communicate.
- There are lots of **amazing things** happening at Salem.
- This week we will be discussing Rowan's Law and Truth and Reconciliation.
- Picture Day is happening tomorrow.
- We hope to get going with pizza days shortly. Information will be coming home soon about this once we get the go ahead from public health. Milk will not be happening at this time. There is a lot of waste and students wouldn't be able to leave unopened containers about.
- Currently Salem Wear is available for purchase on school cash online. Orders are open until next week.

Questions/Concerns brought forward following Principal report

- Parent has noticed that mornings are a bit busier again and wondered about Crossing Guard. Natasha responded that we don't qualify for a

crossing guard. She will try to assign a staff member to a duty out front when possible to support student arrival. This person is not a crossing guard but is an extra adult to support.

- What will Halloween look like? Natasha shared this hasn't been discussed yet. She will discuss with staff and information will then be shared with parents. Potentially costumes worn during the day, treats for students, outdoor parade, orange and black.
- Fundraising - still on hold at this time, possible one big fundraiser in the new year if we get the go ahead.
- Chromebooks - checking into the need to see if this may be an area we need to raise more funds for.

Treasurer Report (Natasha Skerritt)

- Move \$1000 to playground maintenance (#1250) from playground (#6000) in case we need to complete any repairs.
- Approximately \$300 to be used from School Council (School Budget Line) to cover cost of agendas.
- Funds in SC-General and SC-Student activities to support winter craft and cookies the week before winter holiday.
- Insurance - normally we would purchase council insurance for events however as we won't be gathering at this time this is on hold. The board will let us know when this is needed.

Other / New Business

- Council would like to support staff and students the week prior to the winter break with the purchase of cookies or paying for a craft. Natasha will take this back to staff and work with them to figure out an idea for a craft.
- Making cards for a long term care facility was mentioned as something our students could do at this time as well. Request was made to see if we can get a picture or a video back from the residents that receive the cards so that the kids know who got the cards.