

Parent Council Meeting - Tuesday May 18th 2021

Meeting is being held virtually via google meet, in attendance are:

Harpreet Jhooti	Carrie Spencer
Shilpa Vallabh	Amy Brito
Chad Guyitt	Erica Eugenio
Derek Tellis	Saeed Aryaian
Priscilla Zilio	

Meeting commenced at 6:35pm

Welcome everyone to the May council meeting. The awards board is now installed and it looks great. Thank you parent council for the lovely gift for our school!

Financial Report: The school budget is sitting around \$11,000.00 and the budget in the playground maintenance fund is \$2,500.00 We had an inspection done and were told that the jeep needs to be removed. It is unfixable as the plastic panels have cracked and are now pinch points for users and that the state of the school bus is not far behind. Both the jeep and the bus can be removed for \$1,300.00 The stones and the plastic retaining walls will remain behind, to either be used as just a fun place for kids to play with their toys or as a site for possible replacements in the future. There were some old plans drawn up in the past (possibly 2014) that will be looked for and we will see if we want to go ahead with those old plans or do something new in that area going forward. Greening grants are something we could apply for, to be used for the little green space in front of the school. The school is also in need of mulch and sand, but everything was put on hold because of the pandemic. The money for the awards board came from the parent council family fun night account in the total of \$895.24 but we did need to take some additional funds from the chocolate fundraiser account as well in the total of \$587.89 for a total cost of \$1,483.13

Principals Report from Chad: Thanks to all parents and council for being so resilient and supportive of the school system during these times, especially with all the back and forth. We hope that the communication we are sending out is effective enough for families. Shilpa also uploads info onto the school Facebook page. As far as a return to school, no info has been provided as of yet regarding short term or long term. Right now only room 103 and 110 are attending in person classes, and even out of those classes, some students stayed behind to do online learning. We are excited and can't wait to welcome everyone back, whenever that may happen. In terms of September, remote learning will be an option for the next school year. The hybrid model will not be offered by UGDSB. Information and registration for remote learning for the 2021-2022 school year will start late May. If you choose for your child/ren to attend remote learning, then you will likely be required to fill out a form before the June 3rd deadline. A decision will be required during this time frame and that is what your child will be expected to follow for the entire school year, starting in September. This gives schools the summer to finalize classes and staffing. We don't know if the decision will be permanently set in stone for

the school year or if there will be an option to change later on, but as of right now we are being told the decision is for the entire school year. We are waiting for more information regarding all of this. If everyone did come back to in person learning, we would have about 550 students. Our current portable would be in use and we are looking at getting a second one as well, so that there will be room in the hub. Right now, we have about 122 students who are online.

Anti-racism discussions are still happening, we are trying to make sure everyone feels included and accepted. We have done some learning, listened to some voices, and are now working on setting goals in classrooms to ensure everyone feels welcome and included. What can we do to be better?

Graduation is going to be very similar to last year. Grads will come with their parents to the front of the school, everyone will be clapping, there will be photo opps, awards, and certificates presented. Balloons and candy bags will also be included as they were last year, and Shilpa will be handling those details. No date for graduation yet, but we are thinking sometime around the last week of June perhaps? We should have a date by the end of May.

We will have a new director of education as Martha Rogers is leaving. Peter Sovereign from Hamilton will be her replacement.

Police presence in schools - what is everyone's feedback? There were 7 recommendations that were made. Did you know that our school is on Colonial Drive, isn't that interesting? We had our staff look up Sir Isaac Brock just to be sure we are sending a good message, and thankfully he seems to check out!

There is a great book called *Calm Within The Storm* by Dr. Robyne Hanley-Dafoe that we have 4 or 5 copies of in our school library. If parents would like to read it, it can be delivered to you by Chad. The book is about resiliency and if we win the morning, we will be ok.

Report cards will be digital this year. There will be a time frame of a couple of weeks during which parents can log on and access them. We are still grading and evaluating students which means all of their work continues to be graded and evaluated. No one asked for remote learning, it's been tough for everyone and know that all of this is being taken into consideration when being graded. There have been lots of changes aside from the pandemic, like the math mark being changed to one mark. As always, if you feel something isn't working for you, please reach out to Chad or Derek and they will help however they possibly can.

During a previous meeting, parent council had approved \$50 to go to each classroom for supplies, but it was never decided from which account these funds should be withdrawn? Parent council has voted on and everyone has agreed to this money, being withdrawn from the chocolate fundraiser account, as it is currently parent councils largest account with a balance of around \$7,500.00

There was also \$500 in funding for parent involvement that was unfortunately not used this year. Maybe next year we can do something with that money?

Next year perhaps, we can also do our Family Fun Night types of activities around the same time as the school open house? This will of course be pending on whether or not that will be permitted, due to the pandemic and any restrictions at that time.

There will likely be no meeting next month. In September, we will figure out when our next council meeting will be and assign new positions as well.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm