

# Metcalfe Public School Council Agenda

## Tuesday, November 10, 2020

In attendance: Todd Thompson, Cherie Stanley, Paula Paquette, Erin Jones Farmer, Chandra Copeland, Sylvia Chapman, Amanda Bradford-Janke, Kilmeny West, Tatjana Letunica, Katie McCarlie, Vickie Taylor, Lisa McLeod, Jen Therrien, Lisa Hyslop, Joanna Larmour, Sylvia R.

Regrets: Emily Greenlaw

### 1. Approval of agenda

Approved.

### 2. Approval of minutes – October 2020

Approved. Will be posted to the website.

### 3. Principals' report

Todd presented his Principal's Report. He noted that he had to leave after his report to celebrate his mother's birthday.

#### 1. Curriculum

##### a. Our Umbrella

##### i. Third Path – Activity

There was a staff meeting this afternoon. They do a professional development piece at the start of every staff meeting. They did a piece on social emotional learning. They did a true/false Kahoot on regulation. They are working on disregulation. Behaviour is a physiological response, often it is stressed behavior. If you work on strengthening the relationship with kids then it results in kids being better able to regulate their emotions. The aim is to create environments where teachers and students work together to regulate behaviour. The idea of the Kahoot was to work through where behaviour comes from and demonstrate that people react differently to stress.

##### ii. Equity

Educational Leadership article: "Antiracist" Grading Starts with You. This article discussed the goal of equitable grading. While no one on staff demonstrates an outward bias, this article guided a discussion about examining practices and biases that may be built in to some practices. For example, the practice of going down the

rows to collect homework. This calls out students who have not done their homework without thinking about why they might not have done their homework. It possibly degrades a student who has a reason for not completing their homework, reasons which may have built in bias.

### iii. Looking at OCDSB's Strategic Plan

The plan has 3 parts: i) culture of innovation; ii) culture of caring, iii) culture of social responsibility. Under each of these three pillars there are goals, strategies, desired outcomes and key measurable set out.

- The staff will be designing a plan together for what they think this looks like at Metcalfe Public.

Question: a lot of the focus on equity seems to be on the efforts of teachers, will we see differences for our learners?

Answer: Ms. Redmond has taken on the role of Equity lead. There will be some discussion and thought about how to approach these topics with the kids at the various age appropriate levels. There is the hope this will filter down to learners.

- Some examples were highlighted of initiatives taken that learners may have mentioned. Some discussions with learners around Truth and Reconciliation surrounding orange shirt day activities. Some examination of treaties and discussion of the objectives and whether they are met through treaties implemented. Marking Treaty Week is within the focus on equity and inclusion in our society.

## 2. Covid Safety Measures

- The kids are doing great. The school continues to make physical distancing a priority. There is a lot of focus being put on physical space and what that looks like in line up, at recess and so forth; they will keep working on this.
- Lots of students choosing to wear masks at recess outside because they know they forget and in playing may get too close.
- As more is learned, the processes at the school continue to be adjusted and adapted.
- They are starting to release more areas of the school as practices are put in place to permit this.
- Physical education equipment is now being made available through a process of signing out materials for a week and having them cleaned before and after before going back into circulation.
- They will be moving into use of the gym as winter approaches and are working through how this works while respecting distance, cleaning and safety protocols. Ideas like in one door and out another so that no groups are crossing paths and discussion of whether there can be different groups on different sides of the divider or not and with use of masks inside as is required.

- They have begun using lockers with a colour coding system so that only half of the students are out at the time for spacing and distancing reasons. Also this will not be ordinary use of lockers, simply for storage of coats, mitts, hats etc. so that they are not cluttering the classroom spaces.

### 3. Virtual Remembrance Day Ceremony:

- Will take place tomorrow
- Student led by 2 students (Jacob & Duncan, grade 7 and 8 students). Duncan's parents are both in military and will be involved in the ceremony as well.
- There will be lots of student involvement.
- All students created a poppy to "plant" in the ground in front of the school. They will have a name of a veteran or someone in service attached that they researched. Keep an eye out for the poppies if you are driving by the school tomorrow.

### 4. Report Cards and Parent/Teacher Interviews:

- Report Cards will be out November 20th and will be in an electronic format like at the end of the last school year.
- There will be an option to sign up for Parent/Teacher interviews. They will be 15 minute sessions, done virtually either through google meet or by telephone. Details will be sent out soon.

### 5. Cherie Stanley gave a Teacher Report:

- Things are quieter at the school without the sports teams and all of the activities that are usually going on. However, it is nice to see the quieter things that are going on in the school.
- The front bulletin board has a lovely art display.
- Ms. Shim and the kinders created a lovely piece of artwork for Russell Meadows.
- Things are different but the more structured environment is also positive for some kids that thrive in this environment.
- The resilience, growth and maturity of the kids is really shining through. The kids are smiling, happy and enjoying being there.
- Todd echoed this sentiment and said that the kids are doing amazing and that positive energy in turn drives the educators.

### 6. Banking:

- The decision was made to move all the banking to the school. Nothing changes for parent's council. School council will be a line in the schools' finance management system. The Board is moving in this direction. It provides access to online payment.
- There will be no more having to go to the bank to do deposits. It will be paperless with no money changing hands.
- Some additional benefits discussed are Mirror netting, GST rebate and greater security (examples of funds misappropriated at Rockcliffe Elementary and Richmond Public).

- This will take effect moving forward this year.

Comments:

- Nice to see pictures posted of inside the school. This is something missing for parents who are used to being in the school and are much appreciated.
- Todd says he is trying to include pictures of the school more regularly in his twitter posts and is encouraging teachers to do the same.

#### 4. Treasurer's report/financial requests

- As of today, all money has been deposited. Including \$198.55 from hot lunches and \$792.45 from popcorn sales and the movie night.

Expenses still showing are \$604 to donate to Enniskerry food cupboard; \$4,548.50 to refund to families for hot lunches; \$425.15 for Mariane McEwen Memorial; \$1000 for forest of reading from last year – it won't be the full amount but awaiting receipts to do the adjustments; \$150 approved for pumpkins but only \$60 spent so that is reflected; \$300 for emergency funds to be distributed by school to families in need.

- Leaves a balance of \$10,198.04

- Paula will pass over the accounting to Chandra in the next couple of weeks.

- Requests:

- o \$346.48 from Marilyn Acres for Forest of Reading. This is comprised of \$155.88+tax for Blue Spruce books and \$157.24+tax for French picture books. Note that it is not the full set because there is not enough time to circulate, quarantine and re-circulate all of the books, so it will just be the younger grades where teachers read the books to the class.
  - Approved
- o Reserve for future request. Brain Pop account that is used by Ms. Stanley and Ms. Bailey has automatically renewed its membership. It is around \$200 and once amount confirmed by invoice it will be brought to council.
  - Council is supportive of this request and looks forward to receiving it at a future meeting.

#### 5. Overview of Committees

- o Hot lunches

Paula will send out an email for families who had not previously responded regarding the hot lunch funds held for last year. They will be given the amount in question and given options to i) leave the money with parent's council, ii) receive a refund, or iii) donate to Enniskerry food cupboard.

- **Communication**  
Jen continues to look after this
- **Bag2school**  
Erin is still waiting to hear back and takes this to mean it is not happening for now. Will remove from agenda for now and revisit in the spring.
- **Cakewalk**  
Too early to tell if we can do this. Will re-evaluate closer to May.
- **Jingle Bell Bazaar**  
Normally we are starting to organize and collect donations. Not sure if we can do this year or how we would do it. Some discussion of suggestions made by Todd, including possibly doing it online with a catalogue of items. Note that we are allowed to collect offsite. Also because Paula and Erin are both at the school, they could take some kids to look through online catalogue.  
Discussion of whether an online auction is an alternative; no one had experience with online auction.  
Discussion of various options:
  - Set up in gym and take small groups through
  - Do it within the class as a smaller contained group
  - Having a portable cart that students don't touch and that way no need to go through the gym
  - Toonie contribution and small items bought from dollar store (less selection, but avoids items crossing between households)
 Everyone agreed the focus of this is on the experience and the joy of the kids, not about making money this year.
  - Decision: Erin and Paula will discuss further with Todd to see if an option would work that is not too labour intensive but keeps the event alive this year.
  - If anyone has any ideas, email them to Erin/Paula.
- **Website**  
Nothing new to add
- **OCASC**  
No one read any of the materials or attended since our last meeting
- **Little Caesars**  
To revisit at a later date. It is usually March. Possible to be done with online order and drive through pick up.

## 6. Mail/correspondence

- Something received about distanced fundraising. Paula will look at and share anything of interest with council

## 7. Other/new business

### o Mabels Labels

Katie discussed this other fundraising idea. Other schools use it. It is not labour intensive and doesn't ask anyone to spend on anything they are not already doing. How it works is that as people buy labels throughout the year, they can select their school at checkout and a percentage of proceeds go to the school

- Discussed whether there was any concern of impeding other local schools fundraising this way. Was determined that it was unlikely people would select for a school rather than their own, so this is likely not an issue.
- Katie will set it up and Jen will post on Facebook and ask Todd to share the details in his emails.

### o FlipGive

Katie discussed this other fundraising idea. Her brother used it for his hockey team. How it works is that people order things via online shopping that they would otherwise have ordered, but they either login or use the app to access and then a percentage of sales go to the school.

Have to first earn \$100 to get a cheque or e-transfer. Again not asking people to spend extra money, just sign in through this app to do shopping they would otherwise do.

Some labour involved as someone has to add or invite people to the account and monitor it.

- Discussion about concerns including quotas, shipping costs to be looked into. Also issue raised about whether the app would be collecting, mining and selling data and whether we would want to promote something that may compromise user's data.
- Council is interested but wants to investigate further before promoting widely. Katie will look into this further and see what is involved in starting up an account, look at the privacy information etc. Council may do a trial of the app as a test group before expanding further.

### o Wreaths

Jen had an idea about whether we might do a fundraiser with wreaths for Christmas. Possibly through Mr. Mageau who sells Christmas trees and makes wreaths at the tree farm on Anderson Road.

- Discussion about how this might work. Whether online ordering and drive through pick up at the school, or alternative exterior pick up would work.
  - Jen will ask Todd if this is possible. If so, she will see if Mr. Mageau is interested. If so would need to set up online ordering, get word out and get volunteers for curb side pick-up option.
  - Vickie volunteered to help do a shift of curb-side delivery.
- o Popcorn Idea
- Follow up from the idea presented at last meeting. It was not possible because it is food delivery and this is not presently permitted.
- Discussion of whether could sell the bags of popcorn, but they are hard to make without proper machine. If people were going to borrow the machine for personal use, they would need to know how to use the machine. Lots of considerations make this not feasible for now.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting: December 8, 2020 at 6:30pm

