

MINUTES

Lyn Public School Parent Council

Date | time September 28, 2021 7:05pm Adjournment 7:52 pm | *Meeting called to order by Allison via TEAMS*

In Attendance

Allison Myre, Sally Bell, Brandy Smith, Teresa Polite, Elizabeth Lyon, Lindsay Davidson, Chris Waite, Mandy Fletcher, Lindsay Dowdall

Regrets: Christina Eady, Mattea Steacy, Cathy Russell

Principal Update

Monthly review:

School startup was very successful this year. Junior kindergarten did a staggered start, and this made for a smooth transition.

Currently at capacity:

- 184 in person learners
- 2 remote learners

Each class is close to, or at, capacity this year, from JK – Grade 6

Kinder A – Hannah/Roy – 27

(Mrs. MacArthur is currently replacing Mrs. Hanna who is on a leave.)

Kinder B – Crotty/Stadig – 26

McNish – 19

Shupe – 18

Synnott -20

McElrea -21

Bradford -27

Cross – 28

Returning staff: Ms. Johnson (SET), Mme. Hunt & Mlle. Walker (French), Mrs. Vandermeer & Mrs. Fleming (EAs), Mrs. Miller (OA), Mrs. Roy and Ms. Stadig (ECEs), and Betty & Miranda (Custodians)

Currently an Emergency EA is in the building – hoping for an additional 0.5 EA position to support student needs in the school.

Learning Commons Informationist, and Financial Assistant position are currently vacant.

Facilities: air conditioning and ventilation system was installed over the summer. This project was just over \$1,000,000. Currently the primary wing is finished, and the north wing including staff room will be completed over the Thanksgiving weekend. Lyn was extremely fortunate to be selected as one of the schools to receive the ventilation system, and AC. This was covered under ministry funding.

Policies and procedures: Nothing has really changed surrounding covid policies and procedures. We currently do not have to do the paper confirmation of screening each day, but parents are supposed to be still

following the screener online. After thanksgiving the paper confirmation of screening will reoccur, for about 2 weeks.

Isolation room is still in place. If a student is displaying symptoms, a parent/ guardian will be called, and they will be brought to the isolation room to wait for a parent. Parents are asked to follow the screener, usually when a student displays a symptom, they will either need a negative covid test – or approval/diagnosis from a doctor to return.

Managing a positive case: Last year if there was a positive in the class or school, and students and staff who were considered a high-risk contact had to self-isolate and/or get tested. The students still need to follow this, however, now with teachers being double vaccinated they do not have to isolate if they do not show symptoms.

Immunization disclosure procedure: There is an Immunization Disclosure policy that requires Board employees to disclose if they have been vaccinated or not and show proof of two vaccinations. Visitors to the school must show proof to enter the building that they have both vaccinations. If they have not been vaccinated, they must show a negative result from a COVID test regularly.

Extra curriculars: These are allowed in schools but school teams are not being permitted to play against other schools. However, intramurals are able to continue, with masks, if students are not able to be social distanced. Staff is looking into cross country, where kids can participate outside without masks. It would be the same for Soccer.

Field trips: Are currently on hold in UCDSB

Hot lunch/ fund raising/volunteers: At this time, the school can't collect money, without a Financial Assistant, but the principal is hoping to be able to offer some type of hot lunch if possible, even once a month. Volunteers are still not allowed into the building yet but hoping volunteers will be welcomed back soon.

Student achievement and Wellness Goals: Staff discussions have happened around professional learning based on our current student needs, but we have not created our formal School Improvement goals yet.

Wellness: Focusing on self-regulation techniques to assist students, especially surrounding the students' mental health with the disruptions with covid and uncertainty. This is a whole school approach, and it's to help students develop a tool kit. Mental Health Ontario has provided a kit (which is also all online), and when building students personal toolbox with strategies, each morning on announcements techniques are shared and then follow up occurs in the classroom for practice. 8 weeks of strategies to help - not just the students, but everyone. Some examples: lazy 8 breathing, smelling the flower/blowing out the candle, belly breathing.

Literacy and numeracy: Focusing on phonics using the Heggerty program and staff are learning about the science of reading, in primary classrooms. They are learning specific phonics skills early on for reading and writing. Heggerty is helping with sound-based skills, syllables. Staff are noticing the daily lessons are having a huge positive impact. This is shifting the students from guessing words when reading, to having a built in systematic skill based knowledge of letters and sounds – decoding when reading, spelling words when writing. The board has purchased licenses for the Math Up program. This program was created in Ontario by leading experts in the field. It is based on the new math curriculum, and licenses have been purchased for grades 1-6. Classroom teachers will be learning about the program and the instructional practices that are used to deliver this new research-based program.

Kinder: There is a fairly new kinder team of teachers, but extremely experienced ECEs – Mrs. Roy and Mrs. Stadig have a wealth of knowledge in early childhood education. Mrs. Crotty was new to kinder last year. Mrs. Hanna is currently on leave, but she and Mrs. McArthur (who is currently covering the leave) are new to the team. Lots of professional learning is happening with this team. The teachers roles are to incorporate concepts taught in the explicit instruction of phonics, literacy and numeracy into the play-based curriculum. A focus on

planning for open-ended learning experiences using intentional literacy and math materials in the centres for play.

Carpets back into the classroom this year, and many materials are being used again with all students. A huge focus is on hand washing and hand sanitizing.

Terry Fox run: The kids had such a great time getting outside all at the same time for this whole school event. The school raised over \$1500, and the goal was \$500! Mr. Cross organized it and provided the Grade 6's with a really neat opportunity - they met with Fred Fox (Terry's brother) virtually.

Upcoming Events:

- Orange shirt day Sept 30
- School photos October 18 (no retakes at the school this year)
- IEP go home on October 19
- Progress reports go home on November 10

Finance Update

We have not been doing a whole lot with our budget. Pre covid we had voted and approved the purchase of a new swing set, but with covid that project was put on hold.

-some teachers took advantage of the \$150 last year, but not all used the allotted amount.

Approved Expenses last year:

- Grade 6 graduation shirts
- Book binding (Gr. 2 class)
- Outdoor play equipment

The committee needs to vote if we will allow the teachers the usual allotted \$150 for school materials per classroom.

Start up amount in our school council account: \$9,051.29

New Business

If anyone would like to self-nominate for one of the executive roles (Treasurer, Secretary, Chair, Vice Chair), send Teresa an email with your name and which role you are interest in. If there are multiple people interested, we would vote as a committee.

Fundraising: Possibly connecting with local businesses to see if they would be willing to donate a portion of the proceeds, and we would be able to fundraise without handling the money. If anyone has any fundraising ideas, either bring the ideas to the next meeting, or email Allison, Sally and Teresa.

Swing set: Last year the committee voted, and approved spending funds on a new swing set. This was put on hold due to covid. However, at this time, it would be ok to proceed. Allison is looking into quotes. If parent council can't afford to buy a swing set at this time, we could create a fundraising goal to work towards the cost.

Next Meeting

Continuing virtually. Invites will be sent out to members. Any new parents/guardians who would like to attend should contact the school so they can receive the Microsoft Teams invite.

October 19, 2021 at 7:00pm