

# MINUTES

## Lyn Public School Parent Council

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*Date | time November 16, 2021 7:00pm* Adjournment 8:14pm | *Meeting called to order by* Allison via TEAMS

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### In Attendance

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Allison Myre, Brandy Smith, Teresa Polite, Chris Waite, Lindsay Davidson, Catherine Russell, Elinor Chen, Mark Primeau, Natasha Hewitt, Christina Eady, Lindsay Zyta

**Regrets:** Mattea Steacy, Sally Bell

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### Approval of September Minutes (Secretary/Chair)

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Approved: Chris Waite

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mandy

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### Board Elections (Group)

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Chair: Allison/Sally

Secretary: Brandy

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### Principal Update (Teresa)

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Monthly review:

- Class sizes are pretty much the same as they were in September. Lyn currently has 184 students enrolled, with 2 remote learners and 182 in person
- Teresa is currently going through the process of hiring a .5 permanent Educational Assistant
- Lindsay Van Hoek has been taking on the temporary Librarian role. She is coming into the school twice a week for half of the day.
- Lyn has a new Financial Assistant. Julie will be working with Allison and the school council with the financial aspect
- The new AC/Ventilation systems are up and working at this point. The finishing touches are almost done (trim work etc.)
- A load of sand has been delivered for the playground
- Volunteers are still on hold, as they are not able to enter the building yet
- Hot lunch program is back in progress. Teachers, students, and other staff are helping with distribution (while following covid protocols). The milk program started yesterday. Subs starting Wednesday November 17, and pizza on Friday November 19.
- Green light has been given for fundraising. We can now start selecting which fundraisers we want to take on
- Inclement weather policies have changed this year on snow days schools will remain open, but there will not be an online teaching portion. Teachers are required to plan learning for these days. Students

will either have a folder for snow days or will be able to log into TEAMS to retrieve work and do it during the snow day if they are not attending school.

- If students are attending school on a snow day, there is a possibility there may be mixed cohorts. Teachers are sometimes unable to drive to school due to the bad weather, so classes may have to be mixed provided they maintain 2m of social distancing between cohorts. E.g., in the learning commons the room would be divided in half and the classes will be separated into two groups.
- Intramurals have started for the Grade 2,3,4's – they are currently doing soccer baseball outside
- Indoor club has started also, and this happens once a week. A different class gets a chance to attend each week. These clubs have been: colouring club, Lego club and computer club
- The grade 4,5,6's did an amazing job with the virtual Remembrance Day ceremony. Lots of singing with masks on. It's a nice way to pick up the spirits in staff and students.
- Field trips can start happening again. Staff are beginning to come up with ideas and prepare. In a regular year, not many field trips happen between now and the springtime. Most Lyn staff like to have field trips between spring (April) and summer (June)
- Jennifer Perry, the acting Superintendent of Schools, visited Lyn this week, and she was able to give lots of good feedback. She noted our work on self-regulation and coping with stress.
- Superintendent Perry is responsible for the Student Health and Wellness and Student Voice
- Ms. Johnson is a Mental health Champion in Lyn Public
- We have been really trying to use calming techniques such as the breathing technique "smelling the flower and blowing out the candle". This is really helping students to regulate back to their calm state. Teachers are promoting self-regulation in the classes – breathing, relaxing, and "finding their calm"
- Last Friday was PJ day
- This week is Kindness week, and each day focusing on choosing kindness. Classes are each trying something different. Wednesday November 17 – the students are going to be trying to give out compliments.
- Friday November 19 is Rainbow day. This is helping to promote inclusion and diversity
- Thursday November 25 is Jersey Day
- Friday November 26 is a PA Day. The agenda for staff is to meet virtually (still unable to meet as a whole group). They will be discussing bullying, anti sex trafficking etc. and learn more about the strategic direction of the board
- Upcoming event: Participating in the Santa Food Drive (Elizabethtown Kitley) – non-perishable items will be collected for the local food banks. When Santa comes to collect the donations, hopefully the kinders can meet him outside. As per the newsletter sent home – Santa will be following the parade route again this year on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> and Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> and collecting letters from children. A return address must be on the envelop so Santa can write back!
- Christmas concert is on hold again this year sadly. There may be the possibility of something virtually
- There will be lots of spirit days in the month of December, and activities that the kids love so much

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#### Budget update/ Approval (Treasurer/ Chair)

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- Field trip funds will stay at \$45 per student at this point, and we can reevaluate later if we have extra money
- Parent council would like to pay for the load of sand for the playground \$169.50
- This year we do not need to funds for buying new books, as the school has Scholastic credits from previous years to still use
- Parent council is going to hold off for now on getting school insurance. We mainly had this extra insurance for events such as fall fair and track and field canteen

- Classroom supplies \$150 per classroom and split for French and Spec. Ed. teachers
- Love to Groove dance program and Scientists in the Classroom can't happen right in-person right now with restrictions
- Mrs. Bradford's music program doesn't require funding at this point. All instruments are fixed, and only singing with masks and percussion can happen at this point
- Grad shirts would be something we could fund again this year
- Wish lists... nothing has been brought to our attention at this point
- Swing set – updated pricing and options have been sent to all members. Teresa has spoke to Peter Bosh, and he has mentioned that to get approval we do need to have all the money up front, as it does need to go through the financial department at the board office. We have a few extra hoops to jump through

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### Fundraising Goals (Allison)

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- The goal is to be able to purchase a new swing set

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### Fundraising Ideas/ Questions (Group)

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Options for fundraising:

- Epicure
- Fudge
- Chocolate bars

Teresa and Allison are going to review policies and procedures on School Council conflict-of-interest policies

The group voted that we would hold off on other fundraisers at this time until we have more information regarding the policies, and we will proceed with the Chocolate bar fundraiser for our fall/winter fundraiser

- Allison and Kayla will work on getting the forms sent out to families, to find out how many boxes they would like to be sent home

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### New Business

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Parent Facebook group:

- This will be a closed group, and you will need to be approved to join the group from Kayla
- Kayla and Allison will be monitoring the group
- This group will be specifically for keeping parents informed on things that may not be shared on the school site
- Teachers will not be apart of this group, but this group is not meant to be a venting outlet, or to discuss school related issues/concerns
- You will need to be a parent or guardian to be approved to use the group
- This group will allow parents to make connections, plan play dates etc.
- This will hopefully be a way that everyone can feel like they belong
- This group info will be added into the school newsletters, and Kayla will pin the link on the school Facebook page.

PRO Grant: This is a \$1000 grant that is offered each year to the school. The intent behind the grant is to work with parents to support students and their families

- An example of what this may look like; a time when people are brought for an event with food and drinks. Possibly a speaker coming to discuss specific topics, or an info session for parents
- Another example is parents coming together with their children to a celebration with live entertainment – if they plant a school garden, and in the fall, they harvest the garden and cook the vegetables to feed the families
- This grant must be used before the end of June 2022. It is not allowed to be carrier over to the next year
- January is the deadline to submit for this grant
- A plan should be put in place
- Mandy and Elinor have taken on the application process
- Instead of hosting the family picnic, what if we hosted a family BBQ instead where the food was paid for (Christina Eadys suggestion)

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## Next Meeting

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Continuing virtually

December 14, 2021 at 7:00pm