

Ancaster Meadow Elementary School
School Council Minutes
October 19, 2021

Member Attendees:

Colleen Kaus, Rawan Al Louzi, Julie Burgess-Nichols, Andrea Colbert-DeGeit, Reasa Diab, Nicole Elder, Andrea Gamberg, Karin Hewlett, Sherri Johnston, Charlene Lalonde, Todd Kirkpatrick, Rebecca MacIsaac, Mohammed Nalla, Amy Meng, Oklemute Numa, Bhavi Patel, Joey Pottinger, Kristi Snary, Jessica Thomas-Troain, Etido Umah, Adrienne Van Dam, Sandra Wohl, Nicole Vincic

Non-Member Attendees:

Kelly Dunford (Principal)
Jennifer Flewelling (Teacher Representative)

Secretary:

Nicole Vincic

Meeting called to order, by Colleen @ 6:35 pm.

Approval of October Agenda:

Request to add HWDSB Dress Code announcement and school soap update
Motion to approve, Kristi Snary. Second, Reasa Diab. Motion passed.

Land Acknowledgment

Welcome and quick recap of some key meeting items:
School Council @ 6:30 pm
Home and School @ 7:30 pm

All meetings will continue to be held via MS Teams until further notice.

Attendees can register for voting rights via the Google forms that was sent out as part of the October 18th email.

Approval of September Minutes:

Motion to approve, Jerry Pottinger. Second, Reasa Diab. Motion passed.

Principal Report – Kelly Dunford:

School Update and Reorganization

School reorganization was successful. The school has a new half Kindergarten class, which includes 15 students (with no DECE).

The Junior/ Intermediate classes are full. The school is closed to out-of-catchment.

The school has welcomed three new staff members:
Justine Plant – Grade 5 remote

Michael Bottosso – Grade 7/8 remote

Gregory Kendall – Grade 4 (0.4) with teaching partners Emily Munzar and Victoria Roud

The total current school population is 634 students (this includes 57 remote students).

Grad Wear

Paola Mancini organized grad wear for grade 8 students (including the remote students).

Spirit Wear

School spirit wear is being organized by Scott Wlodarczyk. It will not be conducted as a school fundraiser, as it has in the past.

Niko Apparel Systems is the provider. Families will have the option to purchase from a variety of items, which include hoodies, t-shirts, sweat pants, shorts, baseball caps, and toques, etc. The items will all have the AMES logo. The colours will include forest green, black, white, and grey.

Families will be able to place their orders online directly to the company. Questions about the apparel will be directed to Niko Apparel (not the school).

Once the ordering system is available, an announcement will be made.

Painted Lines

Lines have been painted outside in the back of the school to help maintain the boundaries between the cohorts.

Orange paint has been used on the tarmac to help maintain the boundaries when breaks are “walk and talk” (due to muddy grass conditions).

Athletics

Sports are back!

Three-pitch baseball started during the first week back to school. Teams competed in one-day tournaments during the week of September 20th. The junior boys and senior girls teams each earned silver medals. The teams were coached by Mrs. Mataseje, Mr. Wlodarczyk, and Mr. Troisi.

Volleyball teams have been practicing and their league begins week of October 18th. Spectators are still not permitted at this time.

Senior Girls – coached by Mr. Steiner

Junior Girls – coached by Mrs. Mataseje

Senior Boys – coached by Mr. Wlodarczyk

Junior Boys – coached by Mr. Troisi

Practice clinics during breaks are being coordinated by Mr. Trikoupis

Cross Country for grades 6, 7, and 8 was run by Mrs. Mataseje and Mr. Wlodarczyk. There was a total of 50 student athletes that competed in the one-day event at Christie Conservation Area on October 12th against other schools.

Cross Country for grades 3, 4, and 5 will be run individually by schools. Mr. Forrester, Mr. Pasian, and Ms. Nowacki and senior helping team are coordinating this. October 19th was the first day for this and there were 120 students that participated.

Terry Fox

The Terry Fox Event was held on October 8th. It was a huge success. There was tremendous support. The school raised \$1879.

Picture Day

Picture Day is scheduled for Thursday, December 2nd. Remote students will be able to take school photos on the same day from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.

The picture proofs will be available before Christmas for families to place their orders in time for gifts. Picture re-take day will be sometime in January.

Buses and Courtesy Bussing

Courtesy bussing is being managed by Mrs. Manfredi. There are some seats available on all the buses.

Coop and Student Teachers

There is a coop student from Ancaster Senior. There are many restrictions on coop students. The board is only allowing coop students if there is no other option for the students.

Mr. Trikoupis will have a student teacher from Redeemer University starting in November. AMES is tentatively accepting two more student teachers.

Volunteer and Visitor Updates

The schools are continuing to limit visitors, including parents. Supports should be provided remotely, where possible. Visitors to schools should only include supports for essential service programs, extracurricular activities, mail deliveries, service people, and board support staff. Only volunteers that support essential service programs or events will be permitted. Volunteers must be fully vaccinated according to the Ministry of Education Policy.

Progress Reports

Progress reports will be sent home on November 19th. Progress reports will be given in hard copy.

Early Excusals

There has been a significant number of early excusals, with no advance notice from families. Understandably, sometimes this is necessary. However, a high number of early excusals can create significant disruption. Many of the requests recently appeared to be parking related. Parents are encouraged to use the School Messenger app to report early excusals ahead of time. Mrs. Dunford asked the council for some input/ suggestions on how the school might best manage these situations that respect family needs and support school processes.

In the past, the school had a policy that students who needed to be dismissed early were dismissed during transition times between class periods to minimize disruptions. It was recommended that this policy be reintroduced.

School Soap Update

There is some information about a soap shortage in the girl's bathroom on the first level. Council asked for an update on the school's soap status.

Mrs. Dunford replied that Head Caretaker, Paul Reynolds, has been vigilant in managing the soap distribution throughout the school bathrooms. The HWSDB has been managing the soap deliveries to the schools. Additional soap supply has been received and the school will be receiving another shipment by the end of the week. There should not be a shortage as the

school has enough supply. There is hand sanitizer throughout the building to further support hygiene.

Question: Can soap be donated?

Answer: There are some rules about soap used in the school (i.e., soap needs to be scent-free, paraben-free etc.). Mrs. Dunford indicated that she will need to contact Health and Safety to find out more information on whether soap can be donated.

Question: On the topic of diversity, does the school recognize various heritage months?

Answer: Yes, the school board does recognize various heritage months. This month is Islamic Heritage Month. The teachers have received a lot of information to share with their classes. There is a beautiful display, created by five grade 8 students, in the school's main lobby. Pictures and student work will be displayed throughout the classrooms.

New Business:

Lending Library:

The question was presented to the council about if the Lending Library should be available to parents with the easing of Covid restrictions. Colleen asked for input via email.

Property Protocol

It was noticed that some parents/ guardians have not been wearing face masks while on school property. Also, some have been bringing dogs on the property when dropping off/ picking up their children. All visitors on school property should be wearing a mask and there are no dogs permitted on the property during school hours. It was asked that a reminder be sent out to families about HWDSB property protocol during school hours.

Updated HWDSB Dress Code

The HWDSB sent out an updated dress code announcement.

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/student-dress-code-guidelines-and-next-steps/>

There have not been issues with dress code in the past at AMES.

Meeting Adjourned:

Motioned by Mohammed Nalla. Second by Sandra Wohl. Motion passed @ 7:33 pm.