

**Ancaster Meadow Elementary School
School Council Minutes
November 16, 2021**

Member Attendance:

Rawan Allouzi, Todd Kirkpatrick, Rebecca MacIsaac, Rola Chen, Karin Hewlett, Okiemute Numa, Jessica Thomas-Troian, Kristi Snary, Colleen Kaus, Reasa Diab, Mohammed Nalla, Joey Pottinger, Julie Burgess, Etido Umah, Sherri Johnston

Non-Member Attendees:

Kelly Dunford (Principal)
Kerry Manfredi (Vice Principal)
Jennifer Flewelling (Teacher Representative)

Regrets:

Nichol Vincic

Acting Secretary:

Sherri Johnston

Meeting called to order, by Reasa at 6:34pm

Welcome

Approval of November Meeting Agenda:

Motion to approve by Joey Pottinger
Seconded by Todd Kirkpatrick
Nobody opposed/Motion passed

Approval of October meeting minutes

Motion to approve by Joey Pottinger
Seconded by Todd Kirkpatrick
*Correction to minutes: Name correction – Mohammed's last name is Nalla
Nobody opposed/Motion passed

Land Acknowledgement

Students from Ms. McEwen's Grade 6/7A class put together a beautiful video for Council's land acknowledgement

Principal's Report: Kelly Dunford

Progress reports

- Paper copies of student progress reports will be sent home with all in-person learning students on Friday, November 19th, 2021. Remote students will receive an encrypted e-mail with their progress reports
- No formal day scheduled for parent/student interviews this year. The PD Day is designated for staff learning

- Communication should be ongoing throughout the year and parents should reach out to classroom teachers at any point with any questions or concerns at anytime

Covid 19 updates

- Cohorts, distancing, mask wearing, hand washing, etc. are all in place
- Hamilton Spectator article noted that Ancaster Meadow fell in the bottom 50 schools (re: students who are qualified to be vaccinated). - 59.1% of Ancaster Meadow students are currently vaccinated who are eligible

PD day – Focus will be on working on HWDSB Board Goals

- 1) Improving wellbeing of students and staff and closing gap for those currently and historically who have been underserved (This is a new focus for the entire board)
- 2) Graduation - work towards improving graduation outcome for all students. We know this begins in elementary school. We want to be sure we are closing gaps and setting students up for success. Focused on those who are currently and historically underserved
- 3) Reading – improve reading achievement for all students for all students and to close the gap for those who are currently and historically underserved
- 4) School goals – Building consensus using the data we have in the building and data we are planning on obtaining
 - a. Heavily focused on wellbeing and knowing our learning
 - b. Eliminating barriers of those that are historically underserved

Equity Action Committee: Kerry Manfredi

- School is supporting this initiative by forming an Equity Action Committee
- Bringing staff together to look at previous data from school along with new goals that the Board has set out – to improve around wellness and sense of belonging in our school building. Specifically looking at our historically underserved and looking at what we are doing well/where we can improve/growth
- Start with adults in building – so they can support the classroom. Action Committee is also bringing in student voices. Currently working on an opportunity to get feedback from students, likely in survey format. With the younger students, conversation style – what does it mean to belong? What does it look like to belong? What does it feel like? Etc. Then, exploring more specific questions for older students
- Will take this data to build further plans and action items to improve the learning in the building, and bring in new resources from the Board
- Currently in the early stages, but is an exciting task at hand – great things in the works right now
- It's an opportunity to mobilize our student leaders – students are craving opportunities like this. Have been blocked by Covid for so long, but it is great to move forwards
- Yesterday, students worked on a display in foyer for Transgender Awareness Week – it's important work that they are doing

Athletics Update

- Gym is back to busy schedule from 8am – 5pm
- Grade 8 intramurals have started – indoor soccer
- 4 volleyball teams – doing amazing – impressed by student commitment to teams and interest in improving game
- Keen senior students are volunteering to score keep and assist in gym
- Basketball tryouts will be before Christmas break – and season to commence after holidays

- Phys Ed department is trying to replenish DPA (Daily Physical Activity) equipment for all classrooms
- Poinsettia fundraiser – proceeds to supplement equipment in gym and will benefit all students

Grade 4 gifted screening tests

- will take place this week and next

School Picture Day

- Will take place on Dec. 2, 2021, for in-person students. Remote learners will be done between 3:30 and 5pm that day. Proofs will be ready before the holidays. Picture Retakes will be scheduled in January.

Playground Fence

- Approx. eight sections of the top of the playground fence (that divides the school property to the public park at back of school) came off. Fortunately, nobody was hurt, and the fencing company came in to fix the fence yesterday (Nov. 15)

No Dogs on Property

- Reminder: Dogs are not allowed on school premises.
- Remains a bit of an issue still. Some community members do not realize that they may be walking from park onto school property during school day
- Looking to have new signage added at the back of property and on gates

Prayer Room

- Students have advocated for a prayer room to be added into the school. We are glad to share that this was implemented last week.
- Many students are showing interest and it is amazing to see this grow and become part of our establishment. Students come down, quickly say their prayers, and head back to class.
- Contact tracing is being done.

Questions:

Joey – Minister Lecce started a program for rapid testing in schools if there were positive Covid cases. I know it's not happening yet, but can you talk more about that process – can we anticipate that happening?

- All decisions and direction come from our local Public Health Unit (which is guiding HWDSB); beyond school decision making.
- As of now, no rapid testing opportunities will be approved as valid and recognized with the Board.
- Protocols are often changing, so any updates will be on school website and school messaging.

Julie – Can you share any insight as to why the school board chose not to allocate interview times. After 2 years of learning on and off and major gaps with learning for many children – seems somewhat irresponsible that time isn't being set aside for teachers to talk to parents (even though communication should be ongoing).

- Kelly recognizes how important these days are. It's something new this year, and unfortunately, I don't have the answer and can't speak to the why. She would like to send feedback to the Board on behalf of parents of Council for follow up about this raised concern.
- Majority of council members indicated support of this and would like feedback please

New Business

Cold Weather protocol with covid restrictions

- If below -15C, what is the procedure before school or during nutrition breaks?
- If the temperature is -15C or below, students can come indoors up to 15 minutes prior to the morning bell - similar to if it is pouring rain outside. Students are to come in and go straight to their classrooms (teacher supervision is provided the same way as Nutrition Breaks)

School Communications

School Messenger

- Families will only get emails from school messenger if they subscribe to school website – highly encourage all families to do this – it is a valuable tool

School Twitter

- Twitter has been quite active – congratulations on that! (Mohammed)

We should be cognizant to ensure that communication is frequent and consistent across all channels (Mohammed) to ensure our communication is effective. Families don't utilize all platforms regularly (or have access to it)

Meeting Adjourned:

Motion to adjourn – Mohammed Nalla

Seconded by Jessica Thomas-Troian

Nobody Opposed/Motion Passed at 7:10pm