

Member Attendees:

Colleen Kaus, Rawan Al Louzi, Julie Burgess-Nichols, Andrea Colbert-DeGeit, Reasa Diab, Karin Hewlett, Sherri Johnston, Todd Kirkpatrick, Mohammed Nalla, Okiemute Numa, Joey Pottinger, Kristi Snary, Jessica Thomas-Troian, Eti Umah, Adrienne Van Dam, Sandra Wohl, Nicole Vincic

Non-Member Attendees:

Ria McNicholls-Ramrattan (Vice-Principal)
Jennifer Flewelling (Teacher Representative)

Regrets:

Kelly Dunford (Principal)

Secretary:

Nicole Vincic

Welcome

Meeting called to order, by Colleen @ 6:32 pm.

Land Acknowledgment

Read by Reasa Diab.

Approval of April Agenda:

Motion to approve, Reasa Diab. Second, Mohammed Nalla. Motion passed.

Approval of March Minutes:

Motion to approve, Mohammed Nalla. Second, Reasa Diab. Motion passed.

May 25 Meeting Location:

Our last meeting for the school year will be held May 25 and it will be held in-person and off-site. Past practice has been to reserve a room at Southcote 53. Motion to approve the May 25 meeting will take place at Southcote 53, Joey Pottinger. Second by Todd Kirkpatrick. Vote put out to council. No one opposed. Motion carried. Our May meeting will take place May 25 at Southcote 53 at 6:30 pm.

Principal's Report – Ria McNicholls-Ramrattan:

Ramadan:

The library is available for students who are fasting during nutrition break. Supervision is provided by the staff.

EQAO:

Preparations will soon begin for grades 3 and 6 EQAO assessments that will be held during the end of May/ beginning of June. The final dates will be finalized shortly. The assessments this year will be digital for all students. Remote grades 3 and 6 students will not participate in the assessment.

Volunteers:

As teachers begin their class trip planning, it is important that all volunteers complete their required paperwork including the vulnerable sector screening. Any parents interested in volunteering must submit their own request for vulnerable sector screening to the Hamilton Police. Here is information about how to apply: <https://hamiltonpolice.on.ca/how-to/get-background-check>

Applications can be submitted online or in-person:

- In Person: Central Station, 155 King William Street)
- Online: <https://www.policiesolutions.ca/checks/services/hamilton/>
*There is an additional \$9.95 processing fee for this service

Grade 8 Graduation Update:

Graduation will now be being referred to “Commencement”. Grad photos are scheduled to take place on Thursday, April 21st. Students are to wear a white collared shirt for the photo. The next in-school graduation meeting is scheduled for May 31 and information will be shared following the meeting.

Covid Update:

All classrooms are now equipped with one air purifier. Majority of staff and students continue to wear masks. Absenteeism rates (for both staff and students) for the month of April were between 9%-16% (with the average of 11%). This is very good news!

Parking Lot Update:

The parking lot continues to be monitored and the situation is improving. Parking passes have been issued to qualified cars. Principal Dunford and Vice-Principal McNicholls-Ramattan have also connected with the Umbrella Family partners to also share information with their families regarding parking lot safety.

2022/2023 School Organization:

For the 2022/2023 school year there will be 25 classes. The school will no longer be remote classes. There will be 32 teachers, in total. Bell times (start and end times) will remain the same. Periods three and four will be altered to 60 minutes and 40 minutes.

Here is a breakdown of the classes:

Kindergarten – 4 classes

Grade 1 – 2 classes

Grades 1/2 (split) – 1 class

Grade 2 – 2 classes

Grades 2/3 (split) – 1 class
Grade 3 – 1 class
Grades 3/4 (split) – 2 classes
Grade 4 – 1 class
Grades 4/5 (split) – 1 class
Grade 5 – 2 classes
Grade 6 – 2 classes
Grades 6/7 (split) – 1 class
Grade 7 – 2 classes
Grade 8 – 3 classes

Emergency Planning:

The school will have a fire drill Friday, April 22. Over the next month, there will also be a few Secure School Drills: bomb threat drill, shelter in place drill, lockdown drill, and hold and security drill.

School News:

The school is recognizing Sikh Heritage Month. For both Ramadan and Sikh Heritage Month there are beautiful displays in the school foyer. The school has been tweeting these displays so families can see the wonderful work.

Question: Will AMES send out a request to parents for feedback about student information for potential class placement for the upcoming school year?

Answer: This will be brought forward to Principal Dunford.

Question: What is the expectation for getting kindergarten meetings set up for families?

Answer: The target date is the end of May sometime. A final date(s) is to be finalized (either May 19 or just after). As soon as the date is finalized, correspondence will be sent out.

Question: How is it determined if student is in a full grade class or a split class?

Answer: Teachers are consulted to give recommendations on where they feel a student will be succeed in terms of dynamics and teaching style. The school is doing their best to consider the recommendations made by teachers and parents.

Question: Regarding school photos, what is the timeline for service providers to submit their proposals to the school for consideration?

Answer: This question will be taken back to Principal Dunford for this information.

Question: Why are periods 3 and 4 being changed to 60 minutes and 40 minutes (from 50 minutes each)?

Answer: The decision to change these period times has to do with staff scheduling in terms of duty, and time needed for mathematics and language classes etc.

New Business:

PRO Grant 2021/2022:

It is official the \$1,000 has been received. It was previously decided that the money would be used toward focusing on an event that will engage our parent community and their families on the topic of multiculturalism. The event/ activity is intended to promote awareness and inclusivity. Anyone interested in leading this sub-committee should contact Colleen or Reasa.

Taste Buds Snack Program:

Update provided by Reasa:

The Taste Buds Snack Program continues Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays (three days per week). Snacks are provided to all 26 classrooms. Clementines, apples, granola bars continue to be popular choices!

Parking Lot Concerns:

The parking lot update was provided in the Principal's Report. The situation is improving. Ria continues to wear the bright vest while monitoring the lot each day. Parents have been respectful and there does not appear to be any issues (the situation is trending in the right direction!)

The parking lot continues to be top priority.

Question: Was it police or by-law recently present at the school?

Answer: By-law was recently present and noted that our situation was better than other schools. No tickets were given. Police have monitored but no reports were given to the school at this point.

Final Questions:

Question: Can you provide us with some insight about the teacher numbers? Is the school losing two teachers?

Answer: The school will no longer offer remote learning. There are also some teachers that are reducing their full-time status to part time (for example, 0.6 and 0.4). The formula for teacher count to the school is calculated by the board based on these factors and student projection numbers.

Meeting Adjourned:

Motioned by Joey Pottinger. Second by Eti Umah. Motion passed @ 7:15 pm.

