

Ancaster Meadow School Council

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

Member Attendees:

Julie Burgess-Nichols, Reasa Diab, Carolyn Golden, Colleen Kaus, Todd Kirkpatrick, Mohammed Nalla, Kristi Snary, Jessica Thomas Troian, Eti Umah, Nicole Vincic

Non-Member Attendees:

Kelly Dunford (Principal)

Jennifer Flewelling (Teacher Representative)

Regrets:

Sandra Wohl

Secretary:

Nicole Vincic

Welcome:

Meeting called to order, by Colleen Kaus at 6:38 pm.

Land Acknowledgement:

Read by Reasa Diab.

May Meeting Agenda Approval:

Motion to approve, by Reasa. Second by Todd. Motion passed.

March Meeting Minutes Approval:

Motion to approve, by Reasa. Second by Julie. Motion passed.

Principal's Report: Kelly Dunford

Staff Report/ Class Updates:

School organization – status quo at this point with grades

The following is a breakdown of the number of classes by grade:

4 Kindergarten classes

2 Grade 1 classes

1 Grade 1/2 class

2 Grade 2 classes

1 Grade 2/3 class

1 Grade 3 class

2 Grade 3/4 classes

1 Grade 4 class

1 Grade 4/5 class

2 Grade 5 classes

2 Grade 6 classes
1 Grade 6/7 class
1 Grade 7 class
2 Grade 7/8 classes
1 Grade 8 class

Staffing updates:

Class announcement of teachers will not be released at this time.

We will have 2 full time Physical Education teachers and 1.5 Learning Resource teachers.

Music will be taught by the classroom teacher up to grade 7. We have 1 music teacher teaching instrumental for grade 7 and 8 students. Intermediate music must be taught by an instrumentally qualified teacher.

EA allocation – Final number to be determined by mid June (we currently are at 6.5 EAs).

In the process of class building. Classroom placement will be now announced at the end of the summer, through Parent Portal.

*There may be some case by case situations where some students may find out earlier.

Librarian – This role no longer exists. Library work will fall under a teacher responsibility 60 minutes per week (includes management/ maintenance of the library, book check out, scheduling class visits).

Commencement/ Graduation Details:

Invitation was created by Mrs. Mancini. This has been sent out to families.

Graduation date is Tuesday, June 20 @ 4:30 pm (up to 4 family members are invited to attend).

Student Dinner/ Dance will take place at Marquis Gardens in Ancaster 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm.

Students must be picked up by parent/ guardian at the end of the dance.

Playground Update:

Quotes for the playground removal have been sent out.

Wood-chips will be used to replace the area.

Q and A:

Q - What is happening with the area where the portals were?

A - The area is getting paved on the PA Day (June 2). Some of the holes are also being filled. A fence has also been added between the dumpster and the neighbours' fences.

New Business: Colleen Kaus

PRO Grant 2022/2023 Update:

Math Night – Jump2Math was a very successful event held during the open house on May 17.

There was approximately over 100 people that attended the event.

We had Grade 7 and 8 volunteers that were very helpful. We also had some Ancaster High student volunteers that came out and they were helpful as well.

Volunteer Recruitment:

Limited success at Open House (people seemed to be more interested in the events that were taking place). Todd and Colleen set up another recruitment effort during the kindergarten night which was much more successful in getting sign up. Looking forward to the 2023/ 2024 potential for new volunteers joining!

The parent engagement funds can be helpful to cover the cost for volunteer screening (vulnerable sector clearance). However, we would like to have an opportunity to thank volunteers who commit their time consistently to Pizza Days (4 volunteers), Nutrition/ Snack Program (5 volunteers), Reading (1 volunteer). Total = 9 volunteers.

We have approximately \$475 left in the engagement funds

The suggestion is to purchase gift cards and have students create thank you cards. Jennifer Flewelling has volunteered that her class will create the thank you cards

Motion to approve the purchase gift cards (i.e. Starbucks, Tim Hortons,) using the remaining money in the parent engagement funds, by Kristi. Second by Todd. All in favour. Motion passed.

First meeting of the 2023/2024:

Wednesday October 4 @ 6:30 pm – first meeting date for the new school year.

Motion by Karin. Second by Reasa. No one opposed. Motion passed.

Snack Program Update: Reasa Diab

Reasa announced that the school received approval for the next school year for the amount of \$15,000 from PCCC (President's Choice Children's Charity). This is an increase from this past year where we received \$10,000.

She is still waiting to hear back from Taste Buds for the funding amount. This past year the school received \$7,000.

Reasa Proud of student leaders who help distribute the bins to the classrooms each day

Q: What is the feedback from our students/ parent? Is there are continued need?

A: Yes, this is valuable for all students. No barriers. Any child can get food/ snack.

Meet the Teacher Night:

Meet the Teacher night will be held during the 2nd or 3rd week of school. Kelly mentioned that feedback from parents and staff is that they prefer to set the meet and greet as early as we can. Julie – Request to consider waiting until class re-organization. Opportunity for face-to-face interaction/ connection with the teacher

Colleen – Can we consider a letter introducing the new teacher and invite the parent to connect with the teacher? However, it may not be feasible to coordinate additional meeting times.

Kelly suggested that she can take this back to her staff to discuss this date.

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn by Mohammed. Second by Reasa @ 7:39 pm. Motion passed.