

Dundana Parent Council Meeting

December 8, 2021 Virtual Teams Meeting 6:30 – 8:00 PM

In attendance:

Kristi Keery-Bishop, Naomi Foster, Sara Brown, Lisa Neidrauer, Jill T, Rebecca Pallister, Mark Brown, Sara Dow, Naomi Ives Peak, Lauren Dukas

Meeting called to order at 6:34pm

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

2. Approval of December 8th, 2021 Agenda

- Motioned by Mark, seconded by Naomi.

3. Approval of October 6th Minutes

- Motioned by Naomi, seconded by Lauren.

4. Principal's Report

i) Covid Protocols

- Public Health has indicated that the Covid Calendars that parents must sign daily will begin again on January 3rd, for an unknown length of time.
- There will be no loosening of current Covid restrictions (these restrictions are an ongoing conversation between Public Health and the Board)
- Rapid Test Kits – have arrived at the school, will be sent home next Tuesday. Each child (except those in remote classes) will take home a box of 5 tests. They are voluntary, parents do not need to inform school of the results. Parents can opt-out of receiving the kits by calling the school or emailing Kristi.

ii) Special Events and extracurriculars

- PJ day, black and gold day, story train day... efforts to make school fun and special despite the restrictions.
- Extra Curriculars – Board has focused on high school and middle school (only) extra curricular sports. Gym teachers making a special effort to organize and run extra curriculars while meeting the protocols. These are voluntary efforts by staff members.
- Knitting group and a chess group are being proposed for January as extracurriculars. Information will be sent out and parental permission required to participate.

iii) Food Drive by 4/5 English Class

- So successful Salvation Army had to schedule a second pick up.
- Winter clothing drive not allowed this year as doesn't meet Covid protocols. Maybe possible for later in the year.

iv) School Planning and Learning

- Parents frequent ask "How does this year compare to others?" Staff have seen varied impacts on students, academically and socially and emotionally. Some positive, some more challenging. Educators are emphasizing problem solving, collaboration, flexibility, organization in the classroom.
- On the recent P.D. day, educators created specific profiles on each student regarding academic reading & mental health/well-being. Teachers came up with strategies to support students. Working on creating an annual plan.
- School has received board and ministry directives on lessons that must be done for each grade i.e. bullying awareness, equity and engagement. These must be integrated into lesson time. The material is important but is outside the regular curriculum and so academic learning is somewhat slower than other years but progressing well.

v) Pupil Accommodation Review

- All schools are subjected to a regular Pupil Accommodation Review by a team from the school board. Aim is to see if it is fiscally responsible to maintain a school in its current state (implications of findings can include closing schools, amalgamating schools, funding for repairs.) Province put a freeze P.A.R.s just as Dundana, Yorkview, SWO and Central were up for review. HWDSB recently sent a letter to ministry requesting that the pause be lifted so they can begin reviews again. No response yet. If Pupil Accommodation Reviews being again, Dundana will be up for review.

vi) Outdoor Learning Plan

- Commonly asked question & potential fundraising goal: "How can we make better use of our school yard, with perhaps a learning focus?"
- There is an extensive HWDSB planner you must go through prior to making any changes in school yard.
- Kristi's long-term suggestions (which could be impacted by P.A.R.)
 - o Creating a natural amphitheatre (log-bench based). Each bench is about \$925. Need 4-5 to accommodate one class. *See Fundraising Update below.
 - o Adding natural and academic elements to kindergarten zone (these are relatively small, and some will be implemented this school year)

- Phys Ed. goal of having class sets of snowshoes (primary set and junior set) for winter gym activities.
- Adding some garden elements in the raised beds on west side of school. E.g., milkweed garden (need pesticide-free milkweed). Cannot be a pollinator garden because of bees. Sarah Brown has offered her botanical skills and connections.

5. Treasurer's Report

- Nothing noteworthy to report.

6. Fundraising Update

- Bulbs fundraiser – approx. 15 orders.
- Hamilton Community Foundation can now accept donations from people who want to make donations to a specific school. Those who do will receive a tax receipt.
- Kristi can put a blurb about this in the next newsletter so parents will be aware of it.
- 3 fundraising themes/baskets: Outdoor learning. Arts and Engagement. Technology.
- *There is strong interest in the amphitheatre. Lisa Neidrauer, Rebecca Pallister and Kristi will connect about drafting up a promotion for direct fundraising through HCF.

7. PRO Grants – deadline January 28th, 2022

- Previous years: biking safety video, Jungle Sports parents' night, drum and yoga ball night.
- Proposals must meet Covid protocols.
- Kristi will send an email with a synopsis of the PRO Grant and we can narrow down the ideas.
- Interest in finding a resource/virtual presentation for parents about developing resilience in children/helping children cope in difficult times.

8. French Parent Association Update

9. Any other Business

Meeting adjourned at 8:01