

SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday October 6, 2020

MS Teams Meeting @ 7 p.m.

Attendance List: Cara Carrothers, Christine Elson, Cindy Stranak, David Thorne (P), Fleur McGeoch, Geoffery Cameron, Haider Saeed, Jacquie Books, Jane McNally, Jen Matthews (staff), Jennifer Walsom, Kait Kenel, Kathrin Milley, Kimberly Piper, Kristin Evans, Laura Rudolph, Laura Van Alphen, Lesley Yip, Ligia Cordovani, Lisa Baetz, Lori Prevec (staff), Megan Lessard, Megan Evans, Melissa Neil, Michelle Woods, Nancy Kucic (VP), Natacha daSilva, Penny McKay, Steven Wong, Tanya Varasso, Tara Scime and Warren Pyper

PRESENTER	AGENDA ITEM	INFORMATION	ACTION REQUIRED
Cindy Stranak	Welcome, Meeting Agenda and Minutes	Review and approval of October Agenda – Approve: Kathrin Milley Second: Jane McNally Approval of September Minutes – Approve: Jennifer Matthews Second: Kait Kenel	
Cindy Stranak	Annual General Meeting	<p>Annual Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report is attached to these minutes <p>Review School Council Membership and Roles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are 2 types of council representatives, Voting and Non-voting. - Voting members are expected to attend 4-5 council meetings - In the event of a vote 60% of the voting members need to be present for Quorum. - All voices are valued and heard at Council. - Cindy read the responsibilities of Council Members from the by-laws and explained there can be no more than 20 voting members. - There was a review of the 3 Executive Positions: Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. <p>Sign Up Procedure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 ideas were presented. - Cindy asked for feedback on how to choose 20 voting members. - It was identified that anyone who wants to be a voting member type “I” into the chat function. 	Cindy to share more information about the Secretary Position with the Parent Council

		<p>Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 16 people volunteered to be voting members of School Council, they were acclaimed.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lisa Baetz- Geoffy Cameron- Natacha daSilva- Christine Elson- Megan Evans- Kait Kenel- Megan Lessard- Fleur McGeoch- Jane McNally- Kathrin Milley- Melissa Neil- Laura Rudolph- Cindy Stranak- Laura VanAlphen- Jennifer Walsom- Steven Wong- Cindy asked if anyone wants to put their name forward for the Chair position and identified she is seeking a 2nd term.- Kait identified she is seeking a 2nd term for the co-chair position.- A Secretary is needed, no volunteers came forward at the meeting.- Nomination for Chair: Laura VanAlphen Seconded: Jennifer Walsom- Nomination for Co-Chair: Lisa Baetz Seconded: Jennifer Walsom	
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<p>David Thorne</p>	<p>Principal's Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reorganization is being delayed until November. - Tuesday, November 3rd is the 'switch date' (new classes potentially start) between online and in-class. Please watch for more details on the HWDSB website and in the Parent Portal. - David shared photos of the new library and learning commons. - Public health protocols are constantly changing and School is working to implement changes where and when needed. - 2 additional hydration stations (water bottle filling stations) are being installed. Now every student has access to a station on their floor. - David is encouraging all adults to wear masks at drop off and pick up and reminds parents masks are to be worn on school property at all times. If you do not have a mask, the school can supply a parent with a mask. - Follow up to the last meeting, the outdoor pods have now been expanded to larger areas on the asphalt. 	
<p>David Thorne</p>	<p>Questions</p>	<p>Q1: What about the walking trips? David requested walking trips from the Superintendent. He was told, absolutely not. He has been told by parents other schools are able to do walking trips, he has no idea how they are doing it.</p> <p>Q2: Is there anything that can be done about the congestion at pickup and drop off? The school is encouraging parents to model good behavior by wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. The sidewalk is city property. If parents are on the front lawn, it is school property (masks are required on all school property)</p> <p>Q3: Will dismissal be the same in winter? Yes, classes will continue to be dismissed as they are now.</p> <p>Q4: What about homework / education for the kids who must isolate while waiting for Covid tests? Teacher share work for students who are ill (has always been the case) ... under the circumstances, work being sent home will likely be via electronic communication.</p>	<p>David to inquire if signs on the school fence are possible to advertise mask wearing and social distancing to parents</p>

		<p>Q5: Is outdoor learning possible? CBC article showed a Dundas school was doing outdoor learning. There are 24 classes at the school. Space is a challenge. There is not enough room for everyone and now with the expanded pod space, teachers need to sign up for outdoor time outside of the lunch breaks. The front of the school is not an option due to traffic on Dundurn. Choosing to teach/learn outside is a teacher decision.</p> <p>Q6: Can parents opt into contact info sharing within classes? Unfortunately, due to privacy issues, the school cannot facilitate that.</p> <p>Q7: Is the school aware of forest schools? Yes, we are aware some EK families are participating in this. This is considered 'home schooling'.</p> <p>Q8: Are there plans in place if the school shuts down or an entire class needs to quarantine? There is nothing formal at this time. Worst case scenario if Ontario shut down in-person learning, teachers would be able to setup online learning faster this time around.</p> <p>Q9: What is the process if a child tests positive? There are several protocols in place that were setup in partnership with Public Health. We follow the protocols, contact PH, and follow their direction.</p> <p>Q10: What about the ventilation system? It was done over the summer and records are available here: https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/covid19/enhanced-public-health-measures/</p>	
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<p>Jen Mathews</p>	<p>Staff Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Last week was the Terry Fox Run. Each teacher did their own Terry Fox Event. When you combine the class totals, it shows that EK Staff and students walked for 900,000 steps! Way to go EK! - It is a challenging year for teachers. They are working hard to stick to the new health and safety protocols. It is tough to keep kids apart. - The Caretakers are working extra hard including wiping down every desk in the school after the kids eat lunch. <p>Q1: What can parents do to help support the teachers? Keep supporting the kids and kindly make sure the re-useable masks are washed daily.</p>	
<p>Cindy Stranak</p>	<p>Closing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A parent in the school community would like all parents to consider downloading the Covid-Alert Application. The more people who download the app, the better it is. More information is available here: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/covid-alert.html - The School Board is seeking volunteers for Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) until October 13. More information can be found on the website: https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/elementary/get-involved/pic/ 	<p>Cindy to share both links in an email to the Parent Council</p>

School Council Annual Report for the 2019-2020 School Year

Dear Parents and School Community;

Welcome back to the start of a new school year! A warm welcome to those families joining the Earl Kitchener Parent Community for the first time. Last year was both a challenging and rewarding year. It started with job action by the teachers union and ended with the Pandemic. Throughout it all, education kept moving forward and we got through it together as a community.

It was my honour to Chair 5 Parent Council Meetings that were held in the 2019-2020 school year. These meetings were open to all members of the school community. It is important to me that every parent or caregiver's voice is welcome and heard at Council.

The purpose of the School Council is "through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents." School Councils are advisory organizations. A school council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations to the principal of the school and where appropriate, the school board.

Accordingly, the Earl Kitchener school council offered recommendations in several ways: council members participated in discussions about the EQAO results and the School's Improvement Plan, Active and Sustainable School Travel, Traffic Safety (including anti-idling) and French as a Second Language Advisory Committee.

Fundraising activities were also conducted by the Earl Kitchener Home and School Association. The school council advised and participated in discussions with the Home and School Association and School Administration on ways to use these funds in order to enrich the students at Earl Kitchener. This included specialized programs such as Ride Smart - the New Hope Community Bike Program and the Telling Tales Family Literacy Event (both were in the early planning stages prior to the lengthy March Break shutdown). As well as school resources such as the EK Team Jerseys and technology for EK Classrooms.

There has never been a time more important that we all work together to build great parent/caregiver, teacher and school partnerships. I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the many individuals who volunteered their time to contribute to the success of the school council last year. Special thanks to Vice-chair Kait Kenel, Secretary Danielle Nunn, Home and School Association Representative Lisa Baetz, as well as all members of the School Council.

Warm regards,

Cindy Stranak, Chair