

SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday November 17, 2020

MS Teams Meeting @ 7 p.m.

Attendance List: Christi Hodgson, Cindy Stranak, David Thorne, Fleur McGeoch, Geoffrey Cameron, Jane McNally, Jennifer Matthews, Jennifer Mule, Jennifer Walsom, Kathrin Milley, Laura Rudolph, Laura VanAlphen, Lisa Donegan Baetz, Lori Prevec, Martin Lessard, Megan Evans, Megan Lessard, Nancy Kucic, Natacha daSilva, Steven Wong, Tara Scime and Vanessa Scanga

PRESENTER	AGENDA ITEM	INFORMATION	ACTION REQUIRED
Cindy Stranak	Welcome, Meeting Agenda and Minutes	Review and approval of October Agenda – Approve: Kathrin Milley Second: Laura VanAlphen Approval of September Minutes – Approve: Jennifer Matthews Second: Vanessa Scanga	
Lisa Baetz	French As a Second Language Committee (FALSC) Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- French as a Second Language (FASL) Advisory Committee is advisory in nature with a focus on French programming in elementary and secondary as well as Ministry and community supports that enhance the learning experience for our students.- Lisa is starting her 2nd year of a 2 year term. She encouraged parents to think about being part of this committee next year so EK has a representative at meetings.- Topics of discussions this year include Grade 1 entry, long term enrollment plan, Secondary School Courses, Core French and online resources.- Bill Torrens attends meetings. Bill is the Program Director at HWDSB.- Lisa asked parents to share any questions/concerns/thoughts about these topics with her, so she may bring them to the committee for discussion.- Next meeting is November 25, Lisa will share the discussion at the next meeting.	Lisa to update the group at the next meeting

<p>Cindy Stranak</p>	<p>Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parent Involvement Committee provides advice and feedback to the Board from a parent perspective. - Cindy is starting her 1st year of a 2 year term. - Last meeting was focused mainly on remote learning; approximately 9,000 students, 470 educators and 4 Principals represent the online learning environment. Biggest challenge to online learning was staffing. - All PIC meetings are virtual this year. They will be recorded and posted for the public to watch the day after the meeting. The link can be found on the Board’s Meeting calendar here: https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/trustees/meetings/ - Cindy asked parents to share with her any questions/ideas they would like this committee to address. - Next meeting is December 8, 2020, Cindy will share the discussion at the next meeting 	<p>Cindy to update the group at the next meeting</p>
<p>David Thorne</p>	<p>Principals Report & Parent Questions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David thanked the group for starting each meeting with the Land acknowledgement - School Announcements used to be done by students who visited the office but was cancelled due to Covid. Good news to share that Mlle. Blais grade 5 FI class has been electronically pre-recording student messages for the morning announcements. - Masks have become a new normal in school. - To date, EK has not had any positive cases. However, school is prepared to handle any cases that arise. They are keeping an extensive contact tracing binder that records who is where and when within the school walls. - Hand washing and deep cleaning continue in the school. - At this time, the outdoor PODs have evolved into larger spaces and class equipment is now available. - David continues to encourage mask wearing with parents. Has had some parents push back on this policy but he continues to request everyone model good behavior for the children. <p>Q1: Will the gym be reopening? The Gym will be reopening this week. The gym was being used to store furniture not allowed in classrooms this</p>	

		<p>year. A bin been onsite in the parking lot in order to assist with the removal of the furniture from the Gym.</p> <p>Q2: Province is considering extending Winter Break. Is EK prepared? The decision is out of the school's control but the school is prepared to react to any decisions made by the Province and the HWDSB. FYI - Decisions made by the Provincial Government are sent to the HWDSB which then guides how the school responds. Parents are encouraged to watch the Board's website for updates.</p> <p>Q3: After receiving the online learning readiness survey, is the Board preparing for online learning again? There are no immediate plans in the foreseeable future to change back to online learning however, the board is planning for all contingencies. They are preparing/training staff and figuring out technology so that if online learning happens again the pivot would be faster and better than the last time. Improvements to online learning have been ongoing since Spring, at this point they are significant.</p> <p>Q4: At least one class is learning to use the HUB (positive experience). Are all classes doing this? Yes. Staff are continuing and encouraged to use the HUB with students in their classroom.</p> <p>Q5: How does the school maintain communication with public health? The school has a public health nurse assigned, she has visited once since the start of school. This nurse is the first level public health contact for EK. For any sick children at school, EK does fill out a public health online form which goes directly to the City's Public Health Department.</p> <p>Q6: This is bullying prevention week. Is the school doing anything to bring awareness to it? The school is consistently raising awareness and talking about bullying, for example the Be Kind Campaign. This Friday is a spirit day, and students are being encouraged to wear odd socks – The Odd Sock Campaign is an opportunity to encourage students to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique.</p>	
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<p>Jen Mathews</p>	<p>Staff Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Last week was Remembrance Day. EK held an outdoor ceremony that was heartwarming to be a part of (together but apart). Flanders field was read, a moment of silence was held and students who knew the lyrics sang Highway of Heroes by the Trews (Mr. Popek has been teaching this song in his music classes). - Kids are enjoying the return of DPA equipment. - The teachers are working on setting up the details around the Art Gallery virtual field trips for the applicable students this year. Pre-Covid, the older grades visited the Hamilton Art Gallery (AGH) for art instruction, those visits are being transferred to online format. Details will be provided to parents once available. 	
<p>Cindy Stranak</p>	<p>Closing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thanked everyone for attending - Next Meeting is Tuesday January 19 at 7pm 	