

MS TEAMS

Attendance List: Christi Hodgson, Christine Elson, Cindy Stranak, David Thorne, Fleur McGeoch, Hamish Nixon, Jennifer Matthews, Jennifer Walsom, Kait Kennel, Lisa Donegan Baetz, Lori Prevec, Megan Evans, Natacha daSilva, Steve Wong and Vanessa Scanga

PRESENTER	AGENDA ITEM	INFORMATION	ACTION REQUIRED
Cindy	Welcome		
Cindy Stranak	Approval of previous agenda & January minutes	Motion to approve agenda: Natacha de Silva, seconded by Megan Evans Motion to approve the minutes: Lisa Donegan Baetz, seconded by Jenn Matthews	
David Thorne	Principal's Report	Offer of HEPA Filter Donation DT thanks the parents and community for the generous offer to supply school with HEPA filters. However, DT checked with HWDSB Facilities and learned that the Board direction is that portable air filtration units containing HEPA filters are put in place where ventilation is deemed insufficient. The classrooms at EK have mechanical ventilation and meet requirements for not needing air purification (all filters and so on were replaced in the fall as well). Board policy also prevents anyone from simply bringing in their 'own small appliances of any kind' and the these items would quite possibly overload the school electrical system which would result in continuously tripping breakers.	

		<p>Upgrade of School Heating System EK's heating system will be upgraded. This was planned pre-COVID. EK currently runs on a radiant heating system that runs on steam, and is very noisy, distracting and not terribly efficient. It will be replaced by a system that runs on water. Contractors are bidding on the job now. Work is slated to start in March, and should be completed by summer. There will be water-towers on the roof. It should be a more efficient & effective system, and provide cooling as well.</p> <p>Condition of Playground Turf It is within the city's jurisdiction to replace or repair the turf. We may need to reach out to local councilors to inquire and add pressure around this.</p> <p>Asymptomatic Testing Rollout It looks like this will happen largely in Secondary schools and largely in hotspot areas. DT does not foresee EK becoming a site of asymptomatic testing.</p> <p>First positive COVID case at EK DT described the process: Where a family goes to have a test done for a child attending school, public health contacts the school immediately if in fact the test results are positive for COVID. In our case here at EK, the family learned of the positive test result the morning of February 10th and Public Health was in touch with the school before 11:00 on that day to organize a meeting with the school, the Board COVID Contingency team and PH @ 12:00. DT was directed to shut the class for 14 days so the entire class, including staff and students, went into 14 days isolation. Parents were called to pick up their children, and teaching staff were sent home. Coincidentally, the 14 days is over tomorrow (Feb 24) and they will be returning.</p> <p>KK: As a parent (with a child in another class) can you clarify the communication strategy used here? We did not get an email, etc. DT: Public health takes over the communications and tells the school whether to contact or not contact the larger school community. We are bound to follow Public Health's instructions in this matter.</p>	<p>DT will reach out to city / councillors to inquire re: next steps</p>
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Cindy Stranak	Parent Engagement Grant Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thank you to everyone who participated in the Vote on how to use the Grant money. The result was 11 to 9 votes in favour of investing additional funds in the Parent Support Library. 2 parents have volunteered to help Cindy and Lisa with the project. - Cindy to contact the school in the next couple of weeks to start the conversations. - Lisa and Cindy will investigate if we can get it up and running this year. <p>LP: Jen Ellis and I have a bin of resource books. Many items were signed out but have not been returned.</p>	
Jen Matthews	Staff Report	<p>Not much of a report to share</p> <p>It is pink shirt day tomorrow, an event in support of anti-bullying.</p> <p>LP: last week with the snow day it was a bit hectic at the school.</p> <p>JM: it is a sloppy mess outside. The kids' masks get wet and sloppy.</p> <p>Please spread the word about sending extra masks to school.</p>	
Lisa Baetz	FRENCH AS 2nd Language Advisory Committee Update	<p>French Immersion – offers of placement go out Feb 26.</p> <p>For reference, in 2021 there were 602 applications. For 2022, there were 650, so the numbers are increasing.</p> <p>Offers go out Friday, Feb 26th for acceptance.</p> <p>LB- we are welcome to write to her about FI and core French. LB wants to advocate for French reading resources. Remote Learning has online leveled reading resources; these resources have not been provided to in-person schools because of the limited budget. Currently, in-person classes get approx.10 new books a month for each class, but the online option is unlimited.</p> <p>The online resource RAZ kids has been considered. However, it is not an approved tool for use at EK because the programme mines students' accounts for data.</p>	

		<p>LP: has info about this through her dealings with someone at the board. They are planning to get an online resource, but it is being targeted for a certain grade, Grade 2. It's not a broad program. Epic will pick up the older grade. A class gets 30 accounts, but given that elementary classes are 20 students or less, there are extra accounts that can be used 'backwards' for students who may be in a higher grade but require reading at that level.</p> <p>CH: Please clarify: are the online books meant to replace the physical books in the classroom? LB: NO, they are meant as a supplement.</p> <p>DT: We will begin to have access to licenses to reading sites. Potentially by class or school. There is a lot of conversation about this at the board level.</p> <p>VS: Suggests Boukili as an option LB: That is an option, but it is not leveled. As a non-French speaking parent it would be preferable / useful to know what book is appropriate. Does not think it should be on teachers to level the books.</p> <p>LB: Note that the committee is also for Core French. CPF Hamilton (Canadian Parents for French) this is an organization that has a lot of great tools for parents. In honour of the 20th anniversary, there is a free membership for a year, and have access to the tools (including clubs for kids and lessons for parents). cpf.ca/en/member registration and renewal/</p>	<p>LB will share the link to free membership</p>
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