

EK SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

January 19, 2021

MS TEAMS Meeting

Attendance List: Christi Hodgson, Christine Elson, Cindy Stranak, David Thorne, Fleur McGeoch, Geoffrey Cameron, Heather Arrell, Jane McNally, Jennifer Mule, Jennifer Matthews, Kait Kenel, Laura VanAlphen, Lisa Donegan Baetz, Lori Prevec, Megan Evans, Nancy Kucic

PRESENTER	AGENDA ITEM	INFORMATION	ACTION REQUIRED
David Thorne	Land Acknowledgement	D Thorne speaks of the land acknowledgement from a personal perspective, and the importance of honouring the land. There is knowledge transmission through the acknowledgement – we are custodians / protectors. The acknowledgement has been incorporated into the EK mornings.	
Cindy Stranak	Approval of previous agenda & November minutes	Motion to approve agenda: Megan Evans, seconded by Lisa Donegan Baetz Motion to approve the minutes: Laura VanAlphen, seconded by Jane McNally	
David Thorne	Online Learning Update – Principal’s Report & Parent Questions	<p>Nancy Kucic will be principal of Bennetto as of Feb 1, 2021. DT: “Nancy is a fantastic colleague”.</p> <p>Some nice anecdotes: NK: <i>“EK is an amazing school community. The kids are great. This is a reflection of the parents. Thank you for all of your hard work. Bon Courage and Bonne Continuanace”</i> DT: <i>“I’ve been at 8 schools in 26 years, & can say that EK kids are great.”</i></p> <p>EK Does receive a 0.5 VP position. The job is posted. There will be an Interim VP Feb 1 – March 12, Sue Fox. She is a retired principal and has 30 years experience.</p>	

<p>David Thorne</p>	<p>Online Learning Update</p>	<p>“We want to be in school”. DT pops into different classes per day.</p> <p>There are many challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- drawback to this model is one size does not fit all -- struggles with the technology -- maintaining engagement is major challenge -- concerns about screen time (teachers too) -- parents are reaching out to say that it is too onerous & submitting the form to recede from the online instruction --- there is a form on the Parent Portal re receding from a full day of remote learning ---- DT: we know it is difficult, it is ok to do this (recede from full day remote). We need to be focused on academics and health and well being 	
	<p>Parent Questions</p>	<p>Laura Van Alphen: We have been missing connecting with the community. Is there are way to do something in the weekly update as something to make the community more connected. For example, tips / success stories / DPA ideas, etc. A great way to get a snapshot every week.</p> <p>NK: Something came out from the OPC</p> <p>Geoff Cameron: we have not continued with online learning. Q1/ Where is this form (to officially recede from it)? Q2 / How can families keep communication going with teachers when their kids are following along at home, but not “in class” all day.</p> <p>DT: We have a legislative requirement to take attendance.</p> <p>NK: The form is an exemption from synchronous online learning. Students are not exempted from a subject. It is expressed in fractions of decreasing attendance– 25%, 50%, 75% of online learning.</p> <p>DT: it is about scheduling check-ins. Very small group check-ins.</p> <p>GC: Our family has taken a 2 week absence, but is checking MS Teams.</p>	<p>Laura VA to send email to DT.</p> <p>NK & DT to review an email that was sent out</p> <p>DT: Form available via the Parent Portal</p> <p>CE: To summarize this info and share with the larger community</p>

		<p>LB: As an alternate experience, some families have been welcoming the synchronous online learning. It is the asynchronous part of the day that is the difficult part – parents are unable to help the kids as they are busy with work. Within this context, concern about student assessment was also expressed. Is it truly being assessed? What if a student does not do all the work?</p> <p>DT: Yes, work that is submitted is being assessed. If students don't submit work, teachers employ the letter "I" on a report, as in "insufficient information to make an assessment". Parents do what they can... It is not unusual to have kids in a class at different levels... The school's educational goal is to meet kids where they are at. The letter "I" in an elementary school report card is not a big deal in the long term.</p> <p>CE: Can we summarize this information and share it with the community?</p> <p>CH: What do the teachers think about this? Ie, do they want the information to be communicated?</p> <p>JM: If I am not teaching as student in a synchronous online manner, it is very difficult to maintain consistent communication and assessment.</p> <p>NK: The partial exemption directive is from the Ministry of Education.</p> <p>GC: re: the exemption form. Should I fill it out, or just de-register? Is there any reason to submit the form or are there implications to choosing one over the other?</p> <p>DT: There are implications for not attending. If you do not show up after 15 days you are de-registered, and then the trigger is pulled on CSS.</p> <p>CE: what if we make a fulsome way of communicate this?</p> <p>DT: Currently it is case-by-case. Communicating with Parents / Teachers.</p> <p>NK expressed wisdom from having been on the remote side of things:</p>	
--	--	---	--

		<p>– whatever they do online takes 2x as long as in the classroom. It is not the same as in the classroom. Dedicated online teachers are trying to figure out best strategies... it is a WIP. It is a moving target.</p>	
Cindy Stranak	PEG	<p>Parent Engagement Grant – we received \$500.</p> <p>LVA – Ann Douglas is a good speaker: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCNA6kOm5b-K5UZ7M8tQWfg</p> <p>CH: Do we have students & families who could use translation services? DT: We do have access to this, and we send it along...</p> <p>CE: what if we put together a good newsletter and embed the Ann Douglas and pay someone to do it? DT: We have internal resources to do this, no need to spend the \$\$.</p> <p>CS: I will send an email, and we can finalize via email how to best spend the money.</p> <p>--- The idea of pooling & sharing the \$\$ with other schools in the neighbourhood was discussed within the chat. Promotion was discussed – facebook, newsletter and teachers</p> <p>LB: Our company did a zoom about mental health of parents and children as another option</p>	
Jen Matthews	Staff Report	<p>Teachers are overwhelmed. \$100 has been allocated to each teacher. *We are waiting to see how this is going to go – we are predicting that we will not be going back on Feb 16. Teachers are holding back on spending the money. Looking for permission on extending the deadline on spending the \$100.</p>	

		<p>Heads up – not sure how much sound is picked up by headphones... parents in the room of kids who are learning – there are 24 other households hearing every conversation...</p> <p>CS -- thank you all teachers JM – we feel appreciated by EK, thank you</p>	
Cindy Stranak	PIC Update	<p>Last meeting focused on online learning. There was a presentation by Bill Torrens, Superintendent of Programs at HWDSB which included information about the online school and how it operates. 9000 students enrolled in the remote school. 4 Principals, 5 VPs. 470 educators, 350 classes, English & French & Mandarin.</p> <p>Secondary Schools – students did not have the same options as elementary.</p> <p>The meeting is recorded and posted on the board website.</p>	
		<p>Request to include on the agenda for next meeting. The School Yard turf has degraded. During rain events, the rubber pellets are ending up in the storm sewers.</p> <p>DT: forward your thoughts to me, I will send to the city. The park is joint between EK & City of Hamilton.</p>	