

EK SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

Date: May 18, 2021

MS TEAMS

Attendance List: David Thorne, Cindy Stranak, Lisa Donegan Baetz, Jen Matthews, Jane McNally, Natacha da Silva, Kait Kennel, Laura Van Alphen, Lori Prevec, Vanessa Scanga, Christi Hodgson, Meaghan Eisenberg and Fleur McGeoch

| PRESENTER | AGENDA ITEM | INFORMATION | ACTION REQUIRED |
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| Cindy Stranak | Review & approval of May Agenda. Approval of March Minutes | Motion to approve the minutes – Lisa approves, Jen seconds Motion to approve the agenda – Lisa approves, Jane seconds | |
| David Thorne | Principal's Report | <p>Exciting HVAC project is happening right now at EK. The boilers are being removed, there were 2 but 1 has not been used in many years and is being replaced by a new heating and cooling system (that includes all new duct work). This capital project has been planned for several years. It was set to start this summer but due to home learning, the workers were able to get into the school now. Pictures were shown and will be sent to the distribution list.</p> <p>Administration and staff are currently working on class distributions and staffing. David showed the actual numbers which showed: 4 Kindergarten classes with 28 kids each and 20-22 kids in Grade 1-5 (some are splits).</p> <p>Report cards will be done in the coming weeks.</p> <p>Breanne McColman (Physical Education Teacher) and David Thorne have been working on doing a Jump Rope for Heart Event.</p> | <p>Cindy will share the photos of the new HVAC system</p> <p>Lori will share the link to the webinar</p> |

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| | | <p>The school is not able to accept donations at this time due to Covid so they are working on how to have donations go direct to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Information will be shared with the students/parents/guardians as soon as plans are finalized.</p> <p>Health and Well Being at EK.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical professionals, including Dr. Jean Clinton from McMaster are saying that the best thing is for kids to get back to school but right now that is not possible and out of our control. • The board introduced a program called We Help a few years ago (https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/blog/hwdsb-launches-we-help-campaign-to-build-culture-of-help/) it includes classroom discussion and skill-building so that all students know how to help each other. • Emotion Couching – Lori shared that as part of the We Help program, staff members are learning a new approach to helping students in emotional distress, which is using different strategies to calm the child brain. She also shared that the Board is currently offering 4 webinar’s that parents can join to learn the strategies. 2 have past but there are 2 dates coming up. Lori will provide the information to the group. • Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild (LDR) There was supposed to be 4 learning modules this year but due to the pandemic, there will only be time for 3 modules. Jen Mathews shared the classroom experience teaching LDR, including community of care, belonging and privilege | |
| <p>Jen Matthews</p> | <p>Staff Report</p> | <p>She thanked the EK community of parents and guardians for being involved and engaged. Everything she wanted to share has been discussed.</p> | |

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| <p>Lisa Donegan Baetz</p> | <p>French as Second Language Committee Update</p> | <p>At the last meeting (March 2021) the Superintendent and HR Manager shared recruitment and retention efforts they are taking for French Staff, an ongoing challenge, in both immersion and core French.</p> <p>This years' overall immersion enrollment was well received. Any non-responded to offers of acceptance were called directly to confirm their decision. At time of March FASLC meeting there were 1-2 spots open at EK (due to declined offers of acceptance).</p> <p>Diplôme d'études en langue française (DELF) is an internationally-recognized test of French proficiency. It was cancelled last year and was just announced that it will be cancelled again for kids in Grade 12. The Board usually covers the cost for French Immersion students to take the test but the Ministry is not providing the funding so the Board is unable to cover the cost for the students who were not able to take the test due to the cancellation.</p> <p>Canadian Parents for French (CPF) – Lisa shared earlier this year that CPF was offering free membership for a year so she signed up for an EK account for the school that teachers can use. She will be passing it on to David shortly.</p> <p>Lisa shared that this year marks the end of her 2 year term. She encouraged parents to consider joining so that EK has a voice on the committee.</p> | <p>Lisa to provide David the login information for the CPF website</p> |
| <p>Cindy Stranak</p> | <p>Parent Involvement Committee Update</p> | <p>PIC Met in April to discuss School Graduations this year under COVID restrictions. There was a focus on grade 8 and grade 12. Guidance for grade 5 graduations would be discussed at a later date and shared with Principals. From last years' experiences they did learn what works and doesn't work. The board is taking what they learned last year, as well as the thought exchange feedback from parents/guardians and students and using it all to develop plans for this year that are within safety protocols and equitable for all.</p> | <p>Cindy will share the information about the Karl Subban Virtual Presentation</p> |

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| | | <p>At the last meeting in May there was a lengthy discussion about social media use by School Councils. The Board is currently working on developing social media guidelines for school councils to follow. They are focusing on 4, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Youtube. There will be an opportunity for our group to provide feedback in the future as the guidelines are further along in development.</p> <p>PIC is using the PRO Grant to offer a virtual evening with Karl Subban on June 15 from 7p.m. – 8p.m. All parents are welcome but you must register by June 10 to receive the link. Cindy will share the information to the group.</p> | |
| <p>Cindy Stranak</p> | <p>Closing</p> | <p>The next meeting is supposed to be June 15, we are cancelling the meeting so people can attend the virtual evening with Karl Subban.</p> <p>This is the end of Cindy's 2 year term as Chair so in September the Council will be looking for a new Chair.</p> <p>The Council would like to thank Christi for her time and contributions to the EK community. Christi has been a valued member of council for many years, her youngest child will be moving on to Ryerson in the Fall.</p> | |