

GREENSVILLE SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

January 11th, 2021

Time: 6:30 pm -7:30 pm

Location: Virtual

Co-Chairs Spencer Valley: Linda Van Pelt & Kristen Weber

Secretaries: Erin DeSouza Bruce, Pam Crichton and Michelle Toner

Principal: Audrey Hensen

Staff Representative: Tanya Sanders

Community Rep: Anne Campbell

Home & School Rep: Erin De Souza-Bruce

School Council Parent Members: Emily Craddock, Becky Galer, Chris Batrynychuk, Craig Warrian, Donna Gerritsen, John/Leigh Wells, Kristin Weber, Linda Van Pelt, Megan Wiggins, Michelle Toner, Tanya Sanders, Meredith Bourne, Heather Foster, Julie Hunter, Rachael Kott, Ewa Poon, Sara Ardiel, Cara Bensimon, Karen Brown.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Welcome: first Official meeting of 2020-2021 School Council
 1. 6:36pm call to order
2. Approval of Minutes
 - *1st-Michelle Toner
 - *2nd-Craig Warrian
3. Approval of Agenda
 - *1st-Michelle Toner
 - *2nd-Pam Crichton
4. Principal's report

Audrey Henson

 - *Construction on the school is complete
 - *Deficiencies being worked on (locks, hinges on door, etc.)
 - *New furniture is in, teacher materials are in, it's a big job to unpack, still some work to be done in terms of teachers organizing. Teachers were ready for in person this week, but did a quick pivot
 - *SVS changed to Greenville - learning platforms / HUB changed, causing a scramble on Monday, but hats off to the staff who found different ways to connect at the drop of a hat.
 - *Some staff are working from home, some are working from the school building. Social distancing and mask wearing protocols are being followed.
 - *Facilities Management - Health and Safety measures are
 - *Mrs. Hawkins class is attending in person - first student in the building last week has a family history (mother, grandmother) Greenville students, so photos were taken to honour that moment.
 - *Build is up and running, gym looks amazing, stage is up.
 - *Nick Sterling - afternoon caretaker - responding to many needs on site
 - *IT support - Eric Tims - doing trouble shooting

- *Phone system is new - you have to wait to leave messages, teachers will be getting their own extensions soon.
- *Outdoors are in better shape than expected. Sidewalks are complete, students can come in safely, parents can pick up on the playground due to some fencing moves. The board has permitted students to be on the field to play (not the climber but the green space)
- *Day 1 face to face is up and running and ready to go!
- *Covid protocols are in place, signage is up
- *Water coolers are in place due to wait for testing
- *Bathroom accessibility - Kinders have their own bathroom
- *DD class uses main entrance
- *Six other busses use the bus loop
- *Solid entry/exit plan
- *Ipads have been requested - 100 of iPads were redeployed to system, request is in for additional ipads, cellular enabled (for families without enough bandwidth to run regular service). The board is running out of iPads to lend out - it's a big initiative system-wide.
- *Partnerships: before/after school, daycare during the day (toddlers, and babies), their site won't be operational until March but they are taking names.
- *A flyer was sent out with name and info of daycare director
- *Library is in active construction
- *Transition Committee has met to discuss what is going on, to chat about questions that continue to arise about the build.
- *We get news and information when you do - for example, virtual learning, we hear about online learning when you do.
- *Website is now up and running - it has limitations, but posts are being pushed out as news and events.
- *Staff has been reaching out to families and how the students are learning.
- *Please feel free to let parent council know if you have any questions

Questions:

Kristin: is there a way families can come in and have a tour?

Audrey: hard no - they are trying to limit who is in the building (due to covid) - perhaps we can do a video. There is no access to people who are not essential

Kristin: Staff have mentioned some frustration with the new site

Audrey: Hub and MS Teams - there is frustration with it for sure. We were 407 and are now 175 - everything had to be manually input to PowerSchool.

Glitches when the transfer happened.

Kristin: to clarify, the frustration is in reference to the school building.

Tanya: huge undertaking of learning a new building, technical glitches, moving in to a brand new building to expect the highest standards and things are

Audrey: staff were in the building before Jan 4th, which means that there were still things not ready for startup, however as of Monday, from a Health and Safety point of view, everything was ready to go. Furniture didn't get delivered over the weekend and the elevator wasn't working, so the extra week of virtual school was used as a benefit to give a little more time for moving in.

5. Staff's Report

Tanya Sanders

- *Not much to report
- *Sarah Hawkins class is in the school 7C
- *Some staff are in the school, trying to get it sorted. The school is not what was expected - some things are lacking
- *Virtual learning - sticking to daily schedule
- *Mental well being of students is most important
- *School colours and Mascot will be up to the students so info on that will be sent out soon. Please email questions to Mrs. Sanders
- *Craig Warrian: concern with students hopping classroom to classroom - is there a way for students to stay in one "classroom" all the time and have teachers come and go?
- *Mrs. Sanders: we do have one class / team, but when separate classes are programmed, they aren't separate on the calendar... Suggestion will be passed on to the staff.

6. Millgrove update

- *Becky Galer: no update. Council meeting is tomorrow, so nothing to add.

7. Home & School Update

- *Michelle Toner: no update. Meeting scheduled for tomorrow, nothing to add.
Instagram Account: @greensville_home_and_school

8: Communication

John Wells:

- *Began talking to families in the school yard at pickup time, and have some concerns - parental view of having kids educated
- *Parent / Teacher partnership - information gap - we would like to know the curriculum, it's a basic academic request
- *Information from the school - webpage is laborious and confusing - Facebook, Instagram, large number of platforms and people being excluded (ie because they don't use Instagram)
- *Consistency between communication between parents and teachers from year to year - could this be mandatory?
- *Information FROM the school, but parents don't know how to get information back TO the school. Information seems to depend on
- *Suggestion: can we create a working group? Differentiate between routine announcements, urgent announcements, contacts, descriptions, extra curricular, policies, surveys for parents / kids.
- *Are there people with communication expertise in the community we can consult or who could be part of this?

Kristin:

- *Curriculum - defer to Audrey
- *Platforms: school sent out a form, website, facebook, twitter, - the more we have, the better chance we have to reach more people.

John: can we send out a survey? To see what people prefer?

Kristin:

*Teachers can choose whatever platform they choose to communicate with parents; Bloomz, SeeSaw, Personal Website, etc.

John: Can't we have the teachers all communicate via ONE source?

Audrey: Expectations of content / curriculum - first point of contact is teacher. Second contact is Audrey. If you are concerned you aren't getting answers from your child's teacher, please contact me. You can also go to School Council to get information.

*The school has a responsibility to be responsive to parents. 350 students, with many different ways of thinking what communication should look like. (ie: once a month vs. every day contact from teacher). As students get older, there is less communication between students and parents as part of the learning expectations is to have students take responsibility and ownership for their own learning and regulation.

*The curriculum itself is online.

John: I would also like to have some sort of syllabus. Is it possible to share a year's plan?

Audrey: The strands are all there with general concepts and expectations, however the learning plans are responsive these days. The concepts can be revisited and we talk now about "uncovering the curriculum" instead of covering the curriculum - it is much more fluid. Less compact and less reportable.

John: we can take this conversations offline and discuss. It IS important to have a relationship with the teacher so that we can communicate gaps in the knowledge.

Audrey: There are SO many areas to find communication - the one constant is the website. People can go wherever, but what I've tried to do is put everything on the website.

*Teachers are required to report to the parent. How they do that is up to them.

*If there is a group / committee that wants to chat more about this - I'm open to hearing from them.

*Policies for example, are on the board website - that's not something that we include on the school website.

Tanya Sanders: even a couple of years ago we all had many ways to communicate

*the board is encouraging only two ways: now HUB or MS Teams - many teachers are asking students to check the HUB every Sunday so that they know what is happening. Twitter was pushed on the staff because the board was using it.

*The aim is to get to as many people as we can.

*Curriculum: sometimes what we want to get done (concepts), we can't move on. For example snow days or holidays, etc. might take longer. Every teacher has a plan, or an outline, for some of the kids they have it in their notebook.

*This is a bigger conversation that needs to happen and hopefully we can appease everyone.

John: thanks for your participation - I'd love to chat more:
wellsjohnmd@gmail.com - thanks for the opportunity to have this discussion.
Kristin: we will look into the creation of a committee for talking more about this.

9. Pro Grant (tentative)

*tabled - all of budget information is not present

10. Formation of Grad Committee

*grade 8 parents

*5 or 6 volunteers

*Julie Hunter has volunteered to help out / guide / lead

*in the past it has been grade 7 parents, but we have flipped it so that grade 8 parents are the ones running the show.

11. Vaccination Clinic - grade 7 (ADDED)

*public health has cancelled the clinic at DVSS, so parents need to contact public health or their family doctor.

*we've heard nothing else about this (Audrey)

Next Meeting: Monday February 1st (tentative), 2021 6:30 pm - meeting will be rescheduled to March 1st if students to not return to in person learning on the 25th

Adjournment: Meeting ended 7:55pm

**Reminder: As a Green initiative, we will no longer be printing the Agenda's or Minutes. Please review prior to the meeting, or print off your own copies for reference. Thank you!*

*****Please send emails to Greenville email account: greensvilleesc@hwdsb.on.ca*