

## **Helen Detwiler School Council**

October 22, 2020

**Attendees:** Michael Azzopardi, Allison Boyle, Amanda Duncan, Ryan Duncan, Cara Healy, Heather Smiley Deneau, Louise van der Put, Lora Wall, Kim Ward

**Regrets:** Suki Dhillon, Leanne Evelyn

### **Positions for 2020/2021 School Year**

Amanda Duncan - chair acclaimed

Cara Healy - secretary acclaimed

Members at Large - Allison Boyle, Ryan Duncan, Lora Wall, Kim Ward

Teacher Representative - Leanne Evelyn

Supporting Treasurer - Diane Orgar

Quorum is set at 4 for the school year.

We will continue to welcome any new members throughout the year. We have open positions that can be filled by new or existing members and will vote them in as needed.

Meeting will generally be held the 3rd Thursday of every month. All meetings for the foreseeable future will be held through Microsoft Teams.

Our next meeting will be:

Thursday November 19th 2020 at 6pm.

No meeting will be held in December, unless deemed necessary at the November meeting.

Tentative meeting dates for 2021:

January 21, 2021

February 18, 2021

March 25, 2021

April 15, 2021

May 20, 2021

June 17, 2021

### **Principal's Report**

Please try, where possible, to bring any concerns forward to Michael and Louise prior to meeting. This allows them to be better prepared in addressing or resolving said concerns ahead of time.

### **COVID-19 update**

- \* Students and community have really risen to the opportunities and challenges presented. The students and staff are adjusting very well with so many new rules and guidelines.
- \* We are still working on routines, in particular mask wearing among friends who don't wear masks when socializing outside of school. Staff have been encouraging students to follow the rules as outlined by Public Health
- \* Children are, for the most part, wearing masks and practicing good hand hygiene. Staff is very proud of the students fantastic attitudes.
- \* Organized entry was very helpful to the students and staff.

- \* Enrollment is down roughly 180 students, resulting in a school population of 300 students. This is approximately half the regular school population.
- \* Home quads have been expanded to allow for more running area. During nutrition breaks, the students are making use of this larger space. Equipment during nutrition breaks is still being withheld for student safety, as the space is larger but still not conducive to skipping ropes or other sports equipment.
- \* Each class has been given an activity bag to support DPA (Daily Physical Activity) with their teacher. So they are allowed use of equipment during DPA and Phys Ed.
- \* Awaiting clarification for winter procedures from Public Health. Right now, students are directed to their classrooms before they go to their lockers or hooks to put away coats and bags. It is still not clear what safety protocols for winter will look like. Possibly reintroducing pylons to mark quads when they are covered with snow.
- \* There is a new attestation form to be completed and returned to the office in order for a child with Covid symptoms to return.
- \* Picking children up when they are ill or experiencing covid-like symptoms has been going very well. The community has been respectful of the new set of rules, and staff is appreciative of that.

**Student Nutrition Program** - funded through Taste Buds Hamilton began this week on Tuesday. We have 6 volunteers total and every day there are 3 volunteers in the school.

Cindy Cripps  
Christine Taylor  
Chris Groves  
Victoria Croups  
Chian Sharif  
Sue Woodcock

There have been a few changes to how the program is run. The volunteers are committing to only work at Helen Detwiler and the nutrition program is running 5 days a week. Shortly after announcements, the food is delivered in class bins. Unlike years past, the food is not prepared on site and is prepackaged. The students are encouraged to take extra food for the duration of the day and take home what they do not eat at school. This way the bins are emptied and collected by 10am so the volunteers can sanitize and prep everything for the following day. Many students were very excited to see this program up and running again, as it brings back some of the normalcy of years past.

### **Reorganization**

- \* Helen Detwiler has been significantly impacted by the reorganization.
- \* We have lost 7.3 teachers and 1 DECE.
- \* As of yesterday, we lost 1 kindergarten classroom, 1 primary classroom, and 1 junior/intermediate classroom. Information about classroom changes and new class placements will happen November 3. Unfortunately, most kids will be impacted in some capacity.
- \* New classes will be built next week with input from our teachers.
- \* Reorganization is difficult for everyone - staff, students and families. Staff will help facilitate transitions for students.
- \* Trying to meet board criteria of having classes around the 20-22 student mark in Junior and 18-20 in Primary. Class sizes will be going up. At first reorganization in June, Helen Detwiler was at about 486 students. In September they were forecasted around 374 and in November, they are looking at about 300 students. A significant number have opted for remote day school or a homeschool model.

\* Amanda to request School Trustee, Dawn Danko to participate in November meeting to field further discussion around school reentry.

**Halloween** - Friday October 30th - students are invited to wear their costume to school. No weapons or halloween masks. No masks for safety reasons. We want to have facial recognition. Regular transmission masks must still be worn. If students choose to wear costumes, they must wear them for the duration of the day, so make sure they are comfortable. There will be no class parties or bringing in of food. This is driven by Public Health in an attempt to reduce the amount of Covid exposure or transmission.

The school is working on doing something special for the students with proper permissions from Public Health.

Each classroom is going to do something unique, as long as they're working within health protocols. Reach out to your classroom teacher if you haven't heard anything.

Fundraising and Photo Days are on pause as of yet. We have to wait to hear from Public Health.

**Kiss and Ride** - potholes have been repaired. Currently, working with facilities to get the curbs around the Kiss and Ride repaired, but will be a large expense. It will take a little time but is still something that will be addressed.

### **Parking**

Parents are not to use the staff parking lot (located to the left of the school if you are looking at it) as a pick up/drop off location with the exception of those with an accessibility permit. This is for the safety of the students. There was a near miss earlier this week where a child was nearly hit.

Please use the Kiss and Ride area or park on the side streets if you wish to walk your child to their quad or the door. The parking lot near the Kiss and Ride is also for parental use. Michael and Louise will be out in the mornings to help enforce this. A staff member will be available to receive your child at the Kiss and Ride drop off area after 8:20am.

Michael to send out a synervoice reminding people of parking availability and rules.

Amanda to convey to Parent Facebook group that Synervoice Messaging transcripts are available on the school website.

### **New Business**

Grade 8 Graduates from last spring - more information to follow.

Motion to Adjourn by Amanda  
Seconded by Cara

