

Helen Detwiler School Council

November 19, 2020

Attending: Michael, Heather, Kim, Amanda, Lora, Ryan, Allison, Sukhi, Cara

Regrets: Leanne, Louise

Dawn Danko, Trustee, will be joining the meeting for a few minutes to address any concerns.

Motion to accept October minutes: Kim

Seconded: Allison

Principal's Report

Goodbyes - Saying goodbye to Vice Principal, Louise van der Put. Unfortunately, with our low student enrollment, we do not warrant the need for a Vice Principal. Her last day will be December 18, 2020. A big thank you for all she has done for the school, and sending her off with well wishes for her new post.

Also saying goodbye to Ruth L'Abbe, head caretaker. She is currently on vacation and will be officially retiring this year. A big thank you to her for the last 11 years of service at this school. Wishing her all the best in her next adventures. The new caretaker will be hired soon and will start in the new year.

Kiss and Ride - some curb work done. Our curbs are starting to crumble. Some pot holes have been fixed and we are now working on addressing the curbs.

Technology - In regards to iPads that were lent out over the shutdown earlier this year; most technology has been returned and has been redistributed among the classes. Looking at approximately 10 per class. In middle school, we are almost at 1:1 for tech. We are augmenting with the laptops we purchased last year. Promotes digital learning. More and more learning is being done through the hub, especially important for middle school students as they get ready to transition to high school

Parking in Kiss and Ride has been fairly smooth. Encourage parents to use full length of kiss and ride. There is often bottlenecking to stop at pathway that leads into the field. Use the full length to keep the traffic flowing. Students are reminded to exit on the passenger side of the vehicle only. This is to ensure student safety.

All staff are now parking in staff lot. This includes before and after school educators and student teachers. We have welcomed a few high school co-op students as well as some Brock University students.

Covid update:

* 3 students at HD have tested positive for Covid. All information can be found in the community letters posted to the school's website. There has been no reported student to student or staff to student transmission. This means there is no need to close any classroom. The school cannot disclose any student names, grades or divisions, as this is to protect the privacy of the individual. We ensure that students are following quarantine/isolation rules as followed by public health.

* There remains daily cleaning and sanitization throughout the day. One caretaker performs regular building duties and the other is strictly sanitizing touch points, door handles, etc.

* Each confirmed Covid case, there is a deep cleaning of the classroom for an extra layer of protection.

There will be no gift drives happening this year. More information to come in terms of food drives. It is still being addressed.

Bullying Awareness and Prevention week - conversations have been going well. Teachers have been discussing and Mr. Azzopardi has been addressing on the morning announcements.

Food for Kids is still happening. Food is delivered on Thursdays rather than Fridays at it was previous.

PA Day - November 27, 2020. First half is compliance training and the other half is teachers communicating with families. Parent Interviews conducted or teachers to address concerns. Most recent direction, as Hamilton has entered the red zone, is staff will be working with alternate location other than the school on that day. Classroom teacher will send out communication to families they wish to connect with.

Member asked if technology was a requirement - Not a requirement but teachers are trying to get ahead of the 8 ball, in case of another closure, so that the students and teachers feel more confident accessing curriculum and learning through the Hub.

Graduates of 2020 - Grade 8s from last year — Received communication about picking up their awards and diploma last night. Two week window starting Monday November 23 - December 4th, 2020. One person from each family can come to pick up the graduate's package at the front office between 10am and 2pm. Should you need to come before 10am or after 2pm, you can call the school to make arrangements. If the graduate has another student in attendance at the school, we can send the package home with them.

Winter plan for quads - more information to come. We might have to reimagine what nutrition breaks look like, and that will be communicated as soon as we know. Reality of winter time - there is often indoor recess time. Blacktop is icy and prevents from going to the field. Creative solutions to come. Daily decision based on the day. And also waiting on the ad-hoc committee that has been put together to support winter learning for our schools.

Mr. Azzopardi is outside during both nutrition breaks. If you are trying to reach him, he is unavailable during this time.

Dawn Danko - Thank you to Helen Detwiler, Mr. Azzopardi and parents. Appreciate this group that everyone tries to take a positive approach even when you're incredibly frustrated. We haven't seen any epidemiological links among schools, so it's not spreading through schools.

In regards to the big reorganization - will the next reorganization look the same in the next one? While the delay was intended to be respectful, it was so disruptive for everyone and caused a great lack of stability in a time when we are clinging to it.

In the future, as stated in the collective agreement, we cannot undo a big reorganization. We cannot reassign teachers again now. For January transition, we cannot guarantee space for incoming students. It will not be a free-for-all, but rather more constrained. We did assign \$9 million to keep class sizes decent. There is some of that left after the last reorganization, so we can continue to support class size.

Rumors/discussion around extended holiday. But we are not seeing transmission within the schools so we may be able to keep schools open. Stay tuned. It's a fluid conversation.

Motion to adjourn: Kim

Seconded: Heather