

Helen Detwiler Council School Council

February 18, 2021
6pm on MS Teams

Attendees:

Michael Azzopardi
Allison Boyle
Heather Smiley Deneau
Amanda Duncan
Ryan Duncan
Leanne Evelyn
Cara Healy
Kim Ward

Principal's Report

- * March Break postponed at a provincial level. Postponed until April 12th, unless otherwise noted.
- * Unofficial electronic report cards are going home Friday along with paper copy March 4th. Likely sometime Friday evening. Access via Parent Portal/email.
- * Family Science Night next week. Sticker reminders in student agendas are helpful; generates a lot of interest this way, as we are now almost at capacity. 2 sessions to be run Wednesday: 6-7pm and 7:30-8:30pm.
- * **Learn, Disrupt and Rebuild** - put forth by the board to fight systemic racism through the board. It is provincially-mandated curriculum. Some letters and notifications posted on school website, including some lesson plans that students are receiving.
- * **Picture Day** is confirmed for March 3rd. - it was supposed to be Grade 8 grad photos only, but because of timelines, K-7 will be done in the morning and Grad photos will be done in the afternoon.
- * Kindergarten grad photos - To be determined. We need board clearance before this can be arranged.
- * Thank you for your patience as we work through lots and lots of snow. We do have contractors coming this weekend to clear out the parking lots. Teachers have had to park in parent parking lot because the snow fall has left them without enough spots.
- * Graduation sweatshirts - conversations are currently underway with same company we used last year. Information should be coming shortly.

Parent Engagement Fund

- * \$500 to be used for parent engagement.
- * Pandemic poses a problem with spending. In the past, we would use the funds to hire childcare to break down that barrier so that parents could attend council.
- * Seeking potential ideas for how to get parents engaged and use up these funds.
- * Use students as messengers to their parents; have children be ambassadors to get their parents involved with the community.
- * Amanda clarified that Parent Engagement funding is separate from the PRO Grant. Parent engagement is not community activity for families, but rather funding to engage parents to participate in the school community and council
- * Again, the pandemic poses an issue, further inhibiting parent engagement, as they are not permitted into the school at this time

- * Council recognizes that parents are busy and people need a reason to engage
- * Is Helen Detwiler reflective of our community? Council agrees there are many voices and perspectives missing on council. To decide on how the funds should be spent, we need to collect data from these voices, perhaps by way of a survey.
- * Consider using Facebook group (composed of 140 parents) as a way to reach community.
- * Michael to address whether we can get Twitter active again.
- * Make sure the survey can support various translations and user-friendly enough that people can complete it with ease.
- * Perhaps we can offer gift card draw for participation in data collection? Can we use Parent Engagement funds to purchase gift cards?
 - * Michael to seek board clarification that this would not fall under lottery and gaming - can we offer gift cards if they are purchased with Parent Engagement funds or if they are donated?
 - * Amanda to clarify with Parent Engagement standards that we can do this.

Synervoice - concern expressed with number of synervoice communications. This is likely board synervoice rather than personal. Amanda shared that you have to change your settings on each person's device to ensure that you aren't receiving multiple communications of the same message.

April Meeting conflicts with the new spring break.
 Motion to cancel April meeting: Amanda
 Seconded: Allison
 Passed.

SunSense update: submitted a report detailing what we can do this year. We have intentions of doing a sunshade. Projected 5 year plan. Received some crafts from them that can be used in May/June.

Motion to Adjourn - Leanne
 Seconded - Allison

March Agenda Item: Finalize how to spend \$500 Parent Engagement

Next meeting: Thursday March 25, 2021 at 6pm on MS Teams