JAMES MACDONALD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

200 Chester Ave, Hamilton, ON L9C 2X1 Meeting held via Microsoft Teams Online

November 12, 2020 at 7 pm

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE:

Stephanie Lostanaw Lavin, Chair
Stephanie Hurley, Secretary
Melissa McCormack, Principal
Amanda Vernon, Teacher Representative
Nicola Giles, Teacher Representative
Rachelle Hest
Laura Kentie
Heather Talach

Meeting called to order by S. Lostanaw Lavin at 7:10 pm

LAND OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, M. McCormack

- Agenda approved by S. Hurley, H. Talach. All in favour.
- Minutes approved from October 15, 2020 meeting & accepted by, L. Kentie, H. Talach. All in favour.

PRINCIPAL REPORT, M. McCormack

- Hydration station will hopefully be up and in running in the next two weeks. Station arrived in the school yesterday, will be installed next week.
- Students are following Covid-19 safety protocols well. New lines drawn on playground for class zones based on class reorganization. Four zones on primary side and four zones on junior side.
- HWDSB is hosting a four-part webinar series to support parents, guardians and caregivers in the area of mental health. Topics include: Anxiety, ADHD, low mood & mentally healthy homes. Webinar series posted on HWDSB website with registration details.
- Secure school drills:
 - o Three fire drills completed for fall.
 - o Hold & secure drill completed.
 - o Shelter in place drill completed.
 - Bomb threat evacuation will happen within the next two weeks. Awaiting board direction based on pandemic plan to ensure safety. Reminders will be sent out before the drills happen.
- Next week is Bully Awareness and Prevention week. School will be having classroom activities, school wide announcements, possibly a pink shirt day will occur as a focus to bring the conversations into the classrooms.
- Celebration Madame Giles has been successful to become a Vice Principal. She will be placed in a VP role as of December 7, 2020. Congratulations to Madame Giles!
- Funds approved for primary books for home reading program: order is in the process of being put together. Reading coach is working with suppliers to put order together.

TEACHER REPORT, A. Vernon, N. Giles

• Currently working on equipment requests from teachers.

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• Spirit day – went well. Had school wide BINGO for Halloween celebrations. Teachers looking at continuing spirit day celebrations. Two ideas for spirit day include Crazy sock day & Name that Tune day. Activities will include outdoor DPA activity at the end of the day, weather dependent.

TREASURER REPORT, S. Lostanaw Lavin

• See attached Financial Report for account balances

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

- Meeting focused on Covid-19 protocols, symptoms & return to school policies. Will share
 policies with council when they have them. Policies based on current public health
 recommendations.
- Online learning 9,000 students in elementary doing remote learning. For the most recent reorganization: 300 students switched from in-person to online learning and 500 students switched from online to in-person learning.
- Are you ready for school shut down, survey was posted on HWDSB. Came from Minister of Education. Survey looks at technology aspect for remote learning.
- Fundraising on hold currently but is being reviewed monthly.

Meeting Adjourned by S. Lostanaw Lavin at 7:39 pm. Approved by R. Hest, H. Talach.

The next School Council Meeting will be held at 7 pm On Thursday, January 21, 2021 via Microsoft Teams Online.