

**Lawfield School Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday January 28th**

**Attendees**

Heather Arbuckle \*  
Nicole Russell \*  
Lisa Evink \*  
Jackie Tanner \*  
Karen Nichol \*  
Amy Cowling \*  
Melanie Roberts  
Francine Reed \*  
Sarah Northrop\*  
Michael Hornby \*  
Tasha Reid  
Holly Estey \*  
Chris Denholm \*  
Jennifer Miskas (Vice Principal)  
(\* voting member)

Minutes from the last meeting are approved

**Opening Remarks and General Updates**

**Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)**

- There was a meeting this month but Mel wasn't able to go
- Next meeting - Anti-bullying committee - topic will continue to the next meeting

**Tasha - Umbrella Update**

- Wait list for Umbrella daycare, not JK/SK, some waitlist for school age
- Can't open more groups until we get steady staff back in
- With Strike coming, still accepting families from alternate sites, no wait list for strike days

**Jessica - Student Council Update**

- Not attending tonight because of labour action
- No update on Acts of Kindness tonight

**Jennifer - Principal's Update**

Chantal is ill today

**Parent Voice Survey**

- Came out from the board (every year) - Sarah forwarded this
- Let the board know what they're doing well and what they need to improve upon
- March 13th deadline for feedback
- Need 20 people to complete the survey in order to have the information shared with the parent council

- This one is about modes of communication, bullying, 22 question, 20 minutes, gathering a lot of good information

### **Labour Action**

- Updates shared through HWDSB website/email
- This Friday January 31st is the 1st day for Hamilton elementary teachers to be on strike
- Thursday / Friday next week as well
- Not picketing at Lawfield this Friday but we don't know about the following week
- Could be some disruption to child care, criteria for picketers, legally they do have the right to hold-up traffic in a respectful and law-abiding way
- The School will communicate as soon as they know
- Extra curriculums - this week these are still happening but as of Monday Feb 3rd, they will stop
- Office Assistants, EA, Custodians, Principals, will still be coming to work
- Will always be someone in the building but there may be hold-ups
- Be assured that teaching and the curriculum is not changing
- Teachers can only be in the school 30 minutes before, and 15 minutes after, the bell - don't have as much time to prepare
- Otherwise students are not being impacted with respect to academics, only extra-curricular

### **Report Cards**

- Principals are receiving grades on hard copy class lists
- Board has chosen not to issue them because of the manual nature of entering them, last time there were a lot of errors
- Teachers are still available for an appointment for parents to speak to them or hear verbal comments
- They could speak over the phone during prep times, they will try to make something work
- Speaking with parents is part of their classroom duties, you can find out where your child is at if you check in with them
- IEPs might come through the office, not the teacher

### **Parking**

- Thank you to Lisa for stepping up and helping out with morning traffic/parking - this has made a huge impact!
- Parking passes can be made available if someone needs them - Tasha will have these for Toddler and Preschool families
- New ones are Purple, will be very clear

### **Strong Start Program**

- Program is doing really well, almost finished for the first term
- Lost a few volunteers but got a few more
- Lawfield was asked to be part of a 'cheque' presentation
- Cowan has made a donation to Strong Start, they want to do the cheque presentation with Lawfield students with our MPP and one of our Trustees
- JK and SK students are excited to be part of that
- Thursday February 13th in the foyer at 11:30

- There is another training session starting next Monday(s) (afternoon Feb 3rd and Feb 10th) Richard Beasley school

### **Financial**

- Just under \$2,800 available but 2 primary math carts have to come out of that
- Should be left with \$1,000 - \$1,200

### **Lockdown**

- Received a message from the Board, clarified that Lock Downs and Hold & Secure are for severe actions of bodily harm, danger, violence, these should only be put in place through the Police
- Office messaging needs to change over PA system - e.g. remain in classrooms until further notice
- Likely shouldn't have called a lockdown at Lawfield but it was difficult in the moment to think beyond student and staff safety
- Concern over the fact that allegedly a teacher shared news of the lockdown while it was happening over social media
- Recommendation to re-train teachers on what message they can share
- Parents could provide their feedback on the Parent Voice Survey
- Question regarding staff coverage of portables during the lockdown - 2 teachers covering 6 portables
- Because it was on lockdown, there weren't enough teachers for the 6 portables so it was reported that there were kids left unattended
- Process moving forward will be for the teachers to collect students from 2 portables and bring them into the third portable - this is the best option
- All teachers are on duty if there is a hold & secure or Lock Down

### **Fundraising**

- Pizza is still cancelled because there is not collecting/handling money, not able to do that because of the strike
- No fundraising, chocolate sales, professor Jams
- Once contracts are settled, we plan on reinstating these things
- Contact people are understanding and they'll be up and running when we are ready
- Fundraising discussion will be put on hold until we know the resolution of the Labour Action
- Do we want to consider the 3rd Party Gift Card solution in place since no cash is transferred with the school? Sold online
- Lisa/Chris can look at this online option, need to meet with Chantal, would like to have this run as of Sept 1st at the very least

### **Ontario Human Rights Commission - Right to Read Public Inquiry**

- Phase II - Parent & Student Survey province wide
- Would like input ohrc.on.ca
- For students with dyslexia
- HWDSB is one of 8 boards that is allowing access to student records
- Will have a public meeting in Hamilton but no date assigned yet

Next Meeting Date: Tuesday February 25th, 6 - 7:10 pm