

## Lawfield Parent Council – Hybrid Meeting, Tuesday October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Attendees:

- Tanya T.
- Holly E.
- Kevin B.
- Alana J.
- Sooraj U.
- Heather A.
- Ellen S.
- Shannon B.
- Krista H.
- Veronica B.
- Chris D.
- Jackie T.
- Michelle S.
- Jeff M.
- Amy C
- Shannon F.

### Introduction & Welcome

- Approval of Sept Minutes (1 spelling error brought up.)
- Motion to approve the minutes after spelling error fixed - Kevin B.
- Second – Jeff M.
- No objection in vote – motion passed

### Principal's Report – T. Tymkiv

- School recognized Orange Shirt Day on September 31<sup>st</sup> – Commemorative day (like Remembrance Day) – learning about and thinking about indigenous children in a compassionate way
- Have been through a massive reorganization – Approx 150 Kids. Principals and VPs provided some feedback to the Board on the timeline, it was later than we hoped. Having to move becomes more difficult after relationships are built
- Open house was well attended, families exploring children's classrooms
- Office – Mr. A Pulley was not here at the beginning of the year; Henderson was here filling in, getting to know students and administrators now. Interviewing for some staff positions – hired Ms. Thorpe (was in LTO) for music prep position, Ms Lee – Day 1 prep position.
  - Q - Mme Bee's classroom was collapsed, did she take another position?
  - A - Yes, took another position, grade 6/7 LTO
- Staff and student absences that have been due to Covid-19, still going around and testing positive. Website is being updated when there is disclosure. Testing kits at home is a great way to double check if your child's classroom is noted on the website.
- Grade 7 and 8 vaccination catch-ups last week (traditional, not Covid-19). Families signed consent forms and public health was here for 2 days.
- Photo days; 2 full days, went smoothly. Inquiries from parents, will there be sibling photos? Spoke to photographer – company has just switched the software, it's now enhanced but only allows single individual photos (more than one face means it can't focus). Won't be ready for photo re-take day in November, more likely in the new year. Photo re-take day is Thursday November 12<sup>th</sup>.
- PA Day – Violence prevention and intervention training for staff, half day realigning action plan goals, focus on safety , academic inclusion (seeing students struggling, finding different ways to invite them into learning), what Right to Read means, what is working and what we need to put

in place. Adjusting to lack of progress / gaps due to pandemic. Looking at strategies to not leave any students behind, bringing families on board so that everyone has a pathway to succeed.

- Poster for Cyberbullying (Mental Health & Wellbeing, HWDSB) – only got one for parents/caregivers. Get a PDF of it, post it on the website and send out to families. Can click hyperlinks to get more information. Can scan QR code for additional resources.
- Part-time nurse is at Lawfield now – focus on mental wellbeing, promote positivity. Working out of the room beside the office Mondays (Maureen Kelly)

Q – Content and approach for Residential school information for Orange Shirt Day? Some children have struggled with the material (e.g. begin taken away from the home)

A - Reach out to the educators, we do use age-appropriate learning materials.

Q -How to split classes work? Do the kids have same or different curriculum?

A – hardest part for educator is around Science and Social science – very different units of study per grade. Look at the big ideas and overarching processes, enduring understanding of the curriculum. When you look at the curriculum document – this is the big idea that we want kids to come away with. Look for the similarities and overarching understandings to see what naturally fits together. Language and math are a lot easier because it's the same basic concepts building each year. Teachers are accountable to two different curriculums.

Q – Pathways to graduation – has there been discussion from the ministry as to whether curriculum will be modified to recognize the gaps over the past few years? How as educators will they fill in those gaps so that they aren't further behind each year?

A – Reading – Right to read report, what we're looking at is the interventions that we already have in place. Tiers (bottom level is 1) – building the solid teaching practices of a comprehensive literacy program so that all students are getting what they need. Tier 2 – additional supports – Hamilton has recognized that they don't have a lot of tier 2 programs in place. One of recommendations is a program tool called Lexia, can give feedback to the student and teacher so that during comprehensive literacy time, the teacher can follow up and do a guided lesson with them. Tier 3 – is further additional supports – Empower reading program. Some grades are in a better position than others, they look cross-class to bring all students together to do explicit training with them, and other teacher will support students during that literacy time. Math – math facilitator that works half-time, working with staff and students building capacity around math pieces – results of latest EQAO were that students are doing horribly in math. Educators had requested that the ministry pause the EQAO but were not successful. It is just a benchmark in time and does provide good information. Results come out next week and we will be able to dig-into that to see where strengths lie and where needs are, can refine programming based on this. Looking at the data in real time (e.g. reading specialist has spreadsheets for reading progress for students) that data informs what we do next as teachers.

Q – School Cash Online – what happens if there is a surplus for purchases (optional donation for student assistance)?

A – This purchase option came out of school council last year (suggestion to assist) – worked with finance department to say that there is an option to donate for every event so that families that can choose to donate. Can move it to student subsidy (stays in Lawfield, not a board donation) – it subsidizes events for families. Teachers have to work with Principal when they want to do field trips etc. If we have 30 students and only 25 have paid, then Ms Tymkiv can signoff on that transfer from student subsidy. Try to preserve the dignity of the family and just support the child where we can.

Holly E - Halloween Dance was up on Cash Online for a few days but raised \$53 in supplemental funds those days – how do we want to spend it? All dance expense are already covered by previous ticket sales. Suggestion: Identify students who need support based on feedback from teachers

- Shannon – motion to move to student subsidy
- Alana J – motion to pass
- No objections for vote – Motion passed.

Q – Bathroom issues, are these problematic again?

A – Yes, paper towels and pads on ceiling and walls, clogged toilets. It's very sad. As adults and staff we can't supervisor in washrooms – knock, announce ourselves, escort some people out. Often station selves and monitor number of people in and out. Urination on the floor. Upstairs mirrors have been removed for safety. Have spoken to the kids about this.

Feedback from parent: Big kids are loud and making a mess. Often Grade 1 child goes in and has to crawl under a stall. Some of the locks might be broken. Once a student kicked open the door. She felt unsafe.

Q - What about hall monitors? It's not one child making the mess.

A - We have to move away from us 'policing' the situation, rather than building the good decision making of students, and ability for students to report wrong behaviour.

Suggestion for Educator to select a 'buddy' to escort student to the washroom, which would make them hopefully more likely to make a good choice.

Could be an issue for kids with getting bullied, parents voice concern about their child supervising another child (they are missing out on their learning too) – a lot of factors.

Suggestion for Educator to increase 'checking' of bathroom and having a student sign-out requirement in classrooms.

Classrooms should already be requiring students to sign out. Will follow up to ensure this is happening.

Suggestion for schools to install cameras in the hallways outside the bathrooms.

HWDSB does not allow cameras in elementary school property (inside or outside).

Suggestion for school to have a solid 2-3 weeks of constant monitoring with parent volunteers? In the bathrooms or verifying identities of students wanting to use the bathroom?

Can't have parent volunteers in a position of authority with the kids in the school. Parents can't ask names of kids going to the bathroom.

Q – Haven't seen email for parent volunteers for parking.

A – Hasn't been sent yet. Will send out request in next week or so.

No School Council parents were elected onto PIC or FASL. Recommended if any parents want to join to reach out directly ASAP.

Chris D. – Financial Report (via group chat)

We have approx \$500 in the account. \$200 from the Halloween Dance and \$300 from the gift cards.

We are expecting another \$200 from the Halloween Dance so far. We will have approximately \$300 in expenses for the dance.

### Fundraising update – Holly E

- Halloween Dance on Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>! New board policy meant that the School Cash online couldn't continue as set up
  - New rules are that the school cash online has to be taken down 5 days before the 'event' so that the money has time to clear
  - Moving forward, all fundraising done online has to be taken down 5 days before event (including food lunch days, trips, etc.)
- Many registrations came in person today and more coming tomorrow
- Looking for more volunteers to do set-up (3 pm, meet in front area) and tear down (return the tables) – Alana's husband, Shannon's daughter – High school students are good too (Holly will sign their hours)
- Bake Sale items – drop off any donations at the bell at 3 pm, but Jackie will be here doing nutrition break/snack bin – name goes into \$25 gift card draw (purchase and donate is fine too) – so long as it is nut-free! Individually wrapped is appreciated
- Pizza day – Every Thursday – already up on Cash online, now (Nov 10<sup>th</sup>)
  - Some parents want to do 1 month at a time, some parents want to do a few months at a time
  - They are working on a solution to do either
- Pita Pit on Concession – want to get Pita's and smoothie going as well – Tuesdays would be good (to avoid holidays and PA days) – they will deliver – let's pick TUESDAY! Jackie will organize with Lisa to set this up on School Cash Online
- Popcorn fundraiser? At one time student council was doing it. Trying to bring it back. There is a subcommittee to discuss the food/snack fundraising days at school, Holly E to add Shannon to the online group.

#### New business:

Q – What are the opportunities for volunteering within the school?

A – Library time, reading programs, kindergarten classrooms on special event days or field trips, sports, drivers – My Tymkiv will chat with staff about how we can welcome volunteers. Police check is required. Email the office for an application.

Next meeting is Tuesday Nov 29, 2022 (UPDATED NOV 8<sup>TH</sup> – NEXT MEETING IS NOV 28<sup>TH</sup> DUE TO FRENCH IMMERSION HIGH SCHOOL INFO NIGHT CONFLICT.)