

## Lawfield Parent Council – Hybrid Meeting: Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Attendees:

- T. Tymkiv (staff)
- A Puley (staff)
- Holly E.
- Bill Y.
- Michelle S.
- Nicole R.
- Jackie T.
- Shannon F.
- Shannon B.
- Jeff M.
- Chris D.
- Bridget C.
- Amy C.
- Ellen S.

### Approval of October minutes Holly E

Ellen – 1<sup>st</sup>

Shannon - 2<sup>nd</sup>

Approved

### Principal's Report and update: T. Tymkiv,

- Junior and Intermediate field trips: Battlefield museum, bulldogs trips, Hamilton Conservation Authority – water systems environment
- Halloween Family night and activity day on Oct 31st – well enjoyed by all
- 1<sup>st</sup> Whole-school Assembly for Remembrance Day – great job by all students paying respect, went well with sound
- Many LTO positions to fill for many reasons. If your student was affected, families would have heard from T. Tymkiv and A. Puley
- Open house for Secondary Schools – grade 7 & 8. Sherwood Secondary is coming to speak to transitioning students.
- Progress reports went home on Nov 18<sup>th</sup> – no dedicated PA day for parent teacher interviews, HWDSB has not done this in the past 3 years – instead encouraging ongoing communication. Please contact your child's teacher to arrange time if you would like.
- Scholastic Book Fair – really well received, still online until the end of this week. Thank you to parent and school council volunteers. Signed off on deposit today, only cash & cheques over \$7,000 (not yet including online sales). They were aiming for \$1,000 - \$3,000. Still waiting for online totals to end the week, to see how much will be invested back to Lawfield library and resources
- Photo retakes recently in school
- Volleyball tournaments – both boys and girls
- Grade 1 FI information session coming up
- PA day was this past Friday, full day for professional development for staff
- Labour disruption this past month – we were all listening to the news the day before and getting direction – educators were prepared to do either or
- Trustees (at board meeting) asked for masks – considering the trifecta of Covid, respiratory illness, and influenza, to reduce the risk – indoors (some classes down to 9-10 from 24-25 students.)

### Financial Report – Chris D.

- Halloween Dance – as of right now, we're at \$541.10 (normally we're at \$400) – everyone was happy to get out and celebrate

- Few deposits from FunScripts (giftcard fundraiser run by Shannon) - \$210 (2022-23) – ends tomorrow
- FlipGive - \$342.29 – from last year
- \$1,092.52 in the account

#### Fundraising update

- FunScripts campaign ongoing. Ends tomorrow. Gift cards in by Christmas.
- Candygrams (Michelle & Jackie) – fun opportunity for the students to pass along to friends and teachers – joint venture with grade 8's (fund to grade 8 grad?). Find the grade 8 student Reps, figure out what is best to purchase/provide for holiday-grams, along with candy grams that are just for fun (e.g. lollipop, other halal items, equitable in price as well that everyone can participate)

#### New Business

- Grade 8 Grad
  - Planning to have a school graduation – last year's feedback was very positive, only suggestion that we had was that the DJ could have played more music that they liked (on Halloween activity day, each class suggested songs) – grade 8 worked on the playlists and participation was better
  - Continue with student voice included in song selection, as well as catered meal

Q – Why is it in the school gym instead of HS auditorium with proper hall

A – Look at HWDSB commencement information page, they have done extensive modifications on the criteria. Part

of it is around the ability to send staff to set-up, equity/access, transportation – the school is the hub and most families are in proximity to the school, not always from venues. Rental fees are very high now that venues are recouping costs from pandemic. Students didn't seem to mind, more of a parental expectation (potentially from what's been done in previous years). School administration was asked to rethink what graduation needed to be, given it can be a barrier to some. Staff put in voluntary work for this, some of the support looks different when it's easier to access as well.

Q – Capacity limit when we're in the gym?

A – last year we did 2 tickets per family, last year we took request in for additional tickets, were able to address all requests. There is a limit anywhere you go but it wasn't an issue last year. We looked into a fees last year and they weren't an option. Based on the size of the graduating class, gym has enough space. We also looked into an outdoor tent but there are concerns with weather.

Q – is there any possible way of looking at gazebos – maybe we can all get together to see what we can come up with, rather than having the graduation inside.

A - Will survey the student body – last year we surveyed them around food and whether or not there should be a theme. This year we haven't designed the survey yet, there are a variety of things we could include.

Q – Does the survey include allergies for the food?

A – we have this information already if it's reported to the school

Holly– my only comment with the location of the gym: Halloween dace was VERY hot on a cool day. Lots of people and kids coming in nice attire and kids wanting to dance. Would be good to make it

special and not sweaty. We will add this to the next meeting agenda (end of January) – outcome of the survey.

Q - Christmas Concert – are we having one?

A - Haven't heard one way or another. Have asked staff to share what is Lawfield tradition, no one had brought up the concert to me (might be because they are all just getting back into instrumental program, etc). Everyone is also keenly aware of the political climate this year and the implications of what's happening with other working groups. Everyone is getting back into a more normal fall, arranging field trips and excursions at a different pace than they have done in the past, so perhaps us offering up those things more slowly than in previous years. In discussions as a board, its not that we aren't celebrating Christmas, its that we're recognizing all the celebrations that all our students do. Unifying theme of light is an important factor in all the celebrations, you'll see this come up as information comes out about all the different celebrations. Asking if we do it in the new year, when we are celebrating in slightly different way.

#### Library resources and notations

- There is a parent resource section at the school library – parents can come in and borrow resources there, that is there and available to parents
- Library is open to accepting donations of age-appropriate materials, good condition/good quality books
  - Q – can we just drop the donations off?
  - A – Holly to find out and let everyone know
  - Q – can you also find out what age, etc?
  - A – they are looking everything!
- Looking to purchase a cabinet into the front office, may move the parent resources there

#### Pro-grant sub-committee \$1,000

- Need to itemize where the spending is going, but we don't normally get approval until March/April
- Need to form a sub-committee to complete and submit on-time
- Puley – Parent Involvement Committee – I have lots of samples of pro-grants and how to get them accepted. Has to use 'parent' and 'family' a lot because the focus must be on engaging parents and families (e.g. Parent library resources)
- Idea to have supports for new families to Lawfield – host translators etc
- 3 schools could join together (plus YMCA?) – can get up to \$10,000.
- Send suggestions to Holly, message her if you want to be part of the subcommittee

#### Update on the Bathroom situation – from last meeting

- Reviewed expectations with all staff and students
- Admin checks into the bathrooms when they hear loud noise
- Sign-in/out has been reinforced with most classes
- Cannot have cameras in halls etc, - I've asked questions, not gotten a big response yet (not liking this for elementary but not a detailed reasoning)

Q – can we separate bathrooms by age?

A – typically we already are. Primary is downstairs and intermediate and senior is upstairs. However, primary washroom is accessible from the gym

### Portable issues:

- There was a problem yesterday, the doors were locked
- Portables got re-keyed in May/Jen – only gave us 6 portable keys (new), the portable teacher has the key, other teachers need to access the portable but there aren't enough keys
- Just got the keys about a week and a half ago, reviewed the updated supervision schedule, now all teachers that will supervise in the portable, has a key
- Every portable (5 / 6 used currently) – 1 educator has portables 1,2,3, another has 4,5 (smaller ratio than inside the school)
- Concern is that it's harder to supervise portables than it is in the indoors/hallways
- E.g. portable 2 doesn't think there were check-ins today at all – Puley has confirmed today that he did see supervision.
- What are the supervisors doing about the chaos at nutrition breaks? Seems to be ongoing – safety risk for the kids
- What happened to lunch helpers (e.g. grade 8) ? They are still just students – don't want them to put themselves into any scenario that could cause conflict.
- Walkie talkies? Responsibilities could be limited to communicate with the teacher – in case there is a situation, the teacher could respond better
- Every educator does have a walkie talkie, they must take it with them on supervision. Do a training session with lunchroom monitors
  - Can we get them one? There is already 70-80 in the building, for EA Group, Educators, Supply teachers, office – they have changed our phone line, there is no longer a phone in every room. Only 10 phones in the school now, 5 in the office, and 5 in other spaces. Communication is essential, spoke to principals at 5 other schools to identify tools to use instead of phones.
  - Can train the lunchroom monitors on the walkie-talkies on the classroom
  - Portable can press the call button to the office
  - Awareness to the students in the portable – reminder/awareness campaign on what they should do in that scenario? Where do they go if something happens (is happening?)

### Tornado Tips

- Last week – we introduced “Tornado Tips” – 5 step plan to respond to conflict, teasing, aggression, bullying
- Managing a lot of those issues in the spaces like bathroom, portables etc
- Trying to equip students to use the same language
- Can embed this awareness campaign as well – based off Pre-net, Canadian awareness and bullying prevention site – using it for explicit instructions on how to stop things in the moment.

Q – Grade 8 Grad Trip?

A – Price points are coming in outrageous, huge amounts; looking into doing a grad week, doing an activity that the kids can look forward to (e.g. movie, roller-skating, picnic, dawn to dusk extended trip) – those price point quotes are coming in a bit cheaper. Have put some pressure on the board, new excursion rules (Canada's wonderland is still not on allowable list) – waiting to hear from HWDSB on the criteria for the trips.

Q – What is outrageous?

A - \$800 - \$1,000 per person for a 3-4 day trip

Criteria – kids are not allowed to have free time unsupervised, can't go to Quebec City or Montreal and go to the market and say go out and meet back (more supervision = more cost)

Statistics on previous trips:

- Less than half the grade 8 class participated in the overnight trips
- Looking into location, finances, physically accessible etc. Some cultures don't allow sleepovers. There was not a survey as to why it was this low. Currently doing outreach if we see children not signed up for some of the bigger things.
- We would want as many students from the grade 8 cohort participating as possible.
- E.g. other school were able to offer all 5 activities were <\$85 per child plus supplementing and all students were financially able to participate.

Suggestion from Chris – Camping/day camping – local overnight facility on Six Nations

- (With water becomes a high-risk trip)
- Woodland Cultural Centre –
- Could be Indigenous Education opportunity
- Options that are closer to home
- Tanya to follow-up with Chris on this option
- Would love to continue exploring and building partnerships

**Next meeting is Tuesday, January 31, 2023**