

Lisgar School Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 30, 2021

Attendees: Mary Elliott, Sandra Santinon, Amanda Zacharewicz, Shannon Freeman, Kathleen Keenan, Sam Sheculski, Aleah Sheculski, Phuong T., Kala Scott, Mehak B., Denise Hierlihy, Jennifer Fizzard

Regrets:

Nominations:

- Co-Chairs: Aleah Scheculski and Kathleen Keenan
- Secretary: Aleah Scheculski and Kathleen Keenan
- Treasurer: Shannon Freeman
- Voting Member at Large – Phuong, Amanda, Kala, Sam, Denise, Jennifer

Principal's Report – Mary Elliott

Welcome

Nominations for new Council

COVID UPDATE:

- **Shared Material**-This year we are allowed to have some shared materials for learning. There has been an emphasis on hand washing and sanitizing when sharing these materials, namely balls, trikes etc.
- **Physical Distancing** – Furniture has been removed to add more space in classrooms and limits on the number of people in shared spaces i.e. bathrooms, office, and staff room have been put in place to allow for distancing.
- **Public Health Measures:** Like last year, students and staff are to screen for covid daily, wear masks, physical distance, use respiratory etiquette, regularly wash hands and/or sanitize, and Ms. Elliott completes the daily GO Secure Reporting.
- **Reimagining Wellness:** An emphasis has been placed on working on community and team building each day, physical activation, and social emotional skill development to help build students up for this school year.

Chair Report

Wampum Belt:

- Council would like to see the Wampum Belt displayed at the front of the school for students, families, and members of the community to see as they enter the school; as it has been in years previous.
- Lisgar has two Wampum Belts. The first was provided by the board and is framed. This Wampum Belt was previously displayed in the display case at the front of the school. The display case is now being used to highlight different classes and their work. This has brightened up the front of the school and brought school spirit, however, we now need a new location for the

Wampum Belt. Council will think on a new location that will allow for the Wampum Belt to be visible to all who enter the school.

- The second Wampum Belt at Lisgar is in the library. This Wampum Belt was created with the students and is to be touched and used. This is not the wampum that is to be touched and used. The one created by the students with Mrs. Santinon will be put on display in the front entrance. The wampum belt provided by HWDSB is the one to be handled by students.

Land Acknowledgement:

- Council feels strongly that the Land Acknowledgement be read daily at school. This was brought up at the last council meeting in June. At that time, Ms. Elliott stated it was a possibility, however this year Ms. Elliott has chosen to continue reading the Land Acknowledgement on Mondays and Fridays with hopes of avoiding desensitization to its importance.
- Council suggested having the Land Acknowledgement read in different voices or ways as is done with O Canada. Council emphasized the importance of having it read each day.
- Ms. Elliott agreed to again look into having it read daily.

School Calendar/Newsletter:

- Council would like to know when the school calendar/newsletter will be starting up. This was a request from last school year; however, paper was not to be sent home. Council requested at the June council meeting that this be reinstated for the 2021 school year, should paper be allowed to be sent home. At that time, Ms. Elliott advised she would look into it for the 2021 school year.
- The calendar has not been reinstated for this school year as Ms. Elliott feels strongly that we move to more digital methods of information to save paper. Ms. Elliott assures council that the school website holds all necessary information. Ms. Elliott also encourages teachers to provide parents with a calendar and/or monthly newsletters/use of social media to keep families informed.
- Some members of council feel that the website does not have all information about what is going on at Lisgar. Many members expressed a disconnect from the school and a lack of communication. Digital exhaustion was also brought up as well as there being too many places to look on a phone or a computer when a calendar can be hung on the fridge and referenced with ease by all people in a home and not just those with phones/computers.
- Ms. Elliott has agreed to look into this again.

Nutrition Break/Cohorts/Grass Field:

- Council is concerned again this year about the lining up of students in the grass field. This caused many problems for students who started their days off with cold and wet feet in the winter as well as muddy shoes in the fall. Last year, council requested the students line up on the tarmac.
- This year the students are again lining up in the field. Council again requested the students line up on the tarmac, however, Ms. Elliott feels strongly that there is not enough space to do so while keeping social distancing measures in place and following Covid protocols as indicated by HWDSB in conjunction with Hamilton Public Health.
- Council is concerned about students having outdoor time during Nutrition Break if the field is wet. Some classes stayed inside even though it was not raining. Ms. Elliott assured council that when the field is wet and it is not raining, teachers are to bring the students outside at a time that does not interfere with their lessons.
- Some members of council have concerns about this protocol as some teachers did not end up bringing their classes outside. This is worrisome as students need a break from wearing a mask.

Council finds it problematic to have students line up in a wet field but not allow students outdoor time due to the wet field.

- Council requests a further look into cohort/line up areas. Mary again feels strongly that there is not another solution that will address the Covid protocols and Public Health measures.

Assemblies:

- Public health has not given approval for assemblies to occur/ gatherings in the gym.

Student Awards:

- Student awards were previously given out at assemblies and were an excellent confidence builder in student. Despite the cancellation of assemblies, Ms. Elliott has chosen to adapt and give out student awards over the announcements.

Fundraising/Milk Tickets/Pizza Days:

- Fundraising may continue this year but only via online methods. Public Health has not allowed for food items like milk or pizza to be distributed.

School Pictures:

- School Pictures have been scheduled for October 19. This has since been put on hold until approved by Public Health.

2021-2022 Classes:

- It has been brought to council's attention, by several parents, that their children aren't in a class with any of their friends this year. Council would like to know what the process was to build the classrooms for 2021-2022. Ms. Elliott stated it was based on students' learning styles and needs.

Class Reorg:

- The class reorg was announced to students earlier this week. The switch to new classes comes into effect on Monday, October 4 with some new staff in place on Oct. 4 and others after Thanksgiving.

Courtyard:

- In the June council meeting, Ms. Elliott made mention of making the courtyard a useable space with an indigenous focus collaborating with the HWDSB Indigenous consultant, Lisa King. At this time it is quite overgrown but has much potential. following up on this item from last year.
- Ms. Elliott has spoken with the carpentry teacher from Sherwood. He is going to come to Lisgar and look at primary courtyard to see what he and his students can do to spruce it up.
- Ms. Elliott also ordered some seeds and planters that have arrived and need to be built. There are also outside toys like magnifiers that have also arrived from the board.

Nutrition Program/Volunteer Requirements:

- The Nutrition Program will be starting up again next week. As of now, there are parent volunteers for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- This year, volunteers are required to show their Covid vaccination record which would indicate two doses of the vaccine.
- Volunteers are also required to have a current police check done in the last three years as has been required in previous years. The school will continue to reimburse the fee to have the police check done as a means to remove the financial barrier that may be in place for some families.

- Council would like there to be communication to parents about a lack of volunteers as well as the procedure for volunteering. There are many more students back at the school this year and this program helps many struggling families. It would be great to have it back running 5 days a week.

Halloween:

- Ms. Elliott is still waiting on public health guidelines but as of now it is looking like Halloween will be going ahead in a similar fashion to last year, with parties in a bag.

Daily Physical Activity (DPA):

- Council has had parents express concerns about DPA not happening daily. Some teachers have said that this will start after the reorg.
- Ms. Elliott stated that it should absolutely be occurring already on days that there isn't phys ed.

Teacher's Report – Sandra Santinon

Cross Country:

- Cross Country will look a little different this year. The primary students will be participating in a meet at Lisgar.
- The grade 6, 7, and 8 students will be participating in a meet at Christie Conservation Area on October 15. Ten students from those grades will be selected to participate. There will not be parent volunteers or spectators at events, at this time, as determined by Public Health.

Terry Fox:

- The school will be participating in the Terry Fox run this year, on October 8, with a rain date of Oct. 12. It will look different with Covid measures in place. Running/walking will be done by cohort. The forms have been sent home and all funds must be donated online.

Volleyball:

- Try outs will be held soon and the tentative first game is October 18. There will not be any spectators allowed.

Treasurer's Report

Balance: \$3,797.99

Council would like to look into using some of the council funds to purchase a laminator or two for the school as it has been brought to our attention that many teachers are bringing in personal laminators and sharing.

Council would also like to see about purchasing some of the teacher's wish list items.

A Look Ahead

- Monday October 11, 2021 – STAT HOLIDAY - THANKGIVING
- Friday November 26, 2021 – PA DAY

Next tentative meeting: Thursday, October 28 @6pm via teams