

Lisgar School Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 9, 2021

Attendees: Ms. Elliott, Ms. Santinon, Kathleen Keenan, Shannon Freeman, Alicia Morrison, Mehak Bano, Shannon Goodale, My Phuong Goedvolk, Ms. Baker, Jennifer Fizzard, Kala Scott, Aleah Sheculski

Regrets:

Meeting Chaired by Kathleen Keenan and Aleah Sheculski

Principal's Report – Mary Elliott

Black and Gold Day on Dec. 10 to cheer on Ti-cats

Rapid antigen tests will be sent home before the Winter Break. Tests are voluntary and available for caregivers are to test children before their return to school as an extra precaution. Information flyers going home in the days to follow.

Positive Space Group communicated by Ms. Baker:

The group meets once a week and includes students from Gr. 6-8 (for confidentiality purposes). The group will be making posters with positive messages. The posters will be made in a plaque like nature to hang around the school and have a visual representation of the group.

POC group has been initiated by a student. Ms. Donahue will be hosting and supporting that group in the new year. It will be for Gr. 5-8 students.

Chair Report

School Calendar/Newsletter

We now have a school calendar and newsletter. The digital format has worked for some parents but many parents have expressed difficulty accessing the calendar digitally. Some parents have missed important dates. Council proposed a vote to have the paper calendar reinstated along with the digital calendar.

Council voted in favour of including a paper calendar Yes: 8 No:1 Ms. Elliott agrees to begin the paper calendar in the new year.

Council feels it is important to have free food days as well as club and team dates put on the calendar.

Cohort Lines

The students are now able to line up in their cohorts on the tarmac as opposed to the muddy field. This will help students start the day off dry and alleviate the issue surrounding parents bringing in changes of clothes.

Nutrition Program

There are now enough volunteers to have food provided to students on Monday-Friday.

Council feels strongly that there be a teacher representative for the program to consult when issues arise. Ms. Elliott to ask staff if there would be someone willing to fill this role.

Volunteers would like to know if they can run the dishwasher. This was something volunteers were advised not to do last year, however, Ms. Elliott has given approval to run the dishwasher. This will help remove some of the chemical buildup noticed on the nutrition cart bins.

Board Menstrual Policy

HWDSB Trustees voted to have free menstrual products in washrooms of all HWDSB schools by the 22-23 fiscal year end. Ms. Elliott confirms this but has not yet heard a further update.

Bathroom Safety/Procedures

Parents have expressed a concern regarding the bathrooms this year. Ms. Elliott has implemented a sign in/out policy for bathroom use on each end but is limited in monitoring the bathrooms due to privacy.

Positive Space Group

Ms. Baker provided an update during the Principal's Report

December Spirit Week

There will be a themed day for the last week before the break. Classes will be doing a party-in-a-bag style party.

Teacher List Results

Ms. Elliott to provide wish lists from teachers

Laminator

Two laminators (small and large) have been purchased and delivered to the school. Council votes in favor of purchasing \$30 worth of sheets Yes:7 No: 0

Courtyard Update

Ms. Elliott is still working towards making this a usable space for the school.

Agenda Items to Discuss

Donation

Mr. Hazell donated \$1000 to Lisgar. He specified that \$500 be used towards Equity initiatives and \$500 towards engagement initiatives.

Code of Conduct:

An important task of the school and school council is to review and update the code of conduct. Ms. Elliott has advised that the students' agendas are not being personalized at this time, due to covid.

Ms. Elliott to look into bullying policy at Lisgar

Ms. Elliott to look into protocol for students' behavioural issues/ chain of command for parent involvement.

Character Building:

Council believes it might be beneficial to look into something like the 7 Grandfather Teachings (wisdom, love, respect, bravery, honesty, humility, and truth.) This is something that would help students better understand ROAR. Ms. Elliott will contact our Indigenous Consultant for guidance in planning and adopting this program.

Art Contest:

Council discussed the idea of supporting a monthly art/poster contest for both the junior and senior ends of the school. This would be a great way to have students involved in the community of the school. It would support visual arts, but also aid in learning about things like Pride Month, Positive Spaces, Black History Month, Autism Awareness Month, Truth and Reconciliation etc. Council voted on providing 2 \$10 gift cards for both Jr. and Sr. ends of the school (Tim Hortons/Michaels/Indigo) VOTE: Yes- 7 No-2

Fundraising Ideas to consider for this year/the future:

- Digital Screen for foyer to display announcements and things going on in the school
- Shrink wrap for gym door to help show some school spirit since the walls were painted white and the photos removed. Ms. Elliott expressed concern that this is a large expense (estimates \$3,000) that will likely be vandalized.
- Teacher Wish Lists
- Folding Trays from Dollarama for each class (6) Council voted in favour of the purchase (Yes: 7 No: 0)
- Set of foam headphones for the school (20) Council voted in favour of the purchase (Yes: 7 No: 0)
- Document Cameras
- Drying Racks for art
- Classroom readers and books
- Basketballs, Volleyballs, outdoor equipment such as pylons, utility balls etc
- Fidget items for each classroom
- Button Maker for Positive Space Group and other groups
- Calculators (council asked if this could be provided by the school and Ms. Elliott confirmed the school can provide calculators so we do not need to use council funds)

Student Council/Student Representative

Council stresses the importance of building leadership amongst the students, especially during covid. Council requests a form of class representatives be implemented to build self-esteem as well as leadership. Ms. Elliott advises this is not a possibility due to covid restrictions and cohorts.

Staff Rotation for Council Meetings

As a means to feel more connected to the school and get to know some of the teachers/coaches/club leaders, council requests a rotating teacher join a council meeting in addition to Ms. Santinon. This could be in the form a guest giving updates similar to Ms. Baker. Ms. Elliott to ask staff if there would be interest in this.

Teacher's Report – Sandra Santinon

Sports

Volleyball finished last week and was a very successful season. Coaches include Mr. Kelly, Mr. Frail, Mr. Chohan, Ms. Gehl. The final games are next week - JR vs. Sr. Girls and Boys

Basketball try-outs start tomorrow, first game is second week of January- Ms. Jardine and Ms. Hardy coaching Jr basketball.

SCAT Team

A committee for brainstorm what is going on in the school and how things are going. SCAT came up with the food drive and Macassa Lodge donations.

Spirit of Giving

Program inside Lisgar to donations to help Lisgar families in need. Council votes to match previous year's donation of \$500 to help. Yes: 7 No: 0

Bulletin Boards

Staff is being asked to decorate display case – school wide craft day on Wednesday before the break

Sensory Committee

Working towards turning Room 9 into a sensory room. There is a consultant that is working with the committee.

Treasurer's Report

Balance: \$3,797.99 –September's balance.

Open Discussion

The parent communication board was removed when the school interior was repainted. Council would like to know when it will be going back up. Ms. Elliott advised that it broke and fell apart during the painting and will look into having it replaced.

Can parents send in their own sensory items if their child has difficulty focusing? Ms. Elliott confirms this is permitted.

As a council we also discussed having a time manager for the meetings, to keep us on track, and Mehak volunteered. Going forward, meetings will have an estimated amount of time for discussion and Mehak will be indicating when it is time to move on.

In a meeting with council chairs, prior to today's council meeting, Ms. Elliott provided a schedule for the remaining meetings. Chairs provided council with the information, and it was voted on via email. The vote reflected a want for more meetings.

A Look Ahead

- Winter Break - Monday December 20, 2021 to Friday December 31, 2021
- Next Council Meeting: Thursday, January 27, 2022 @ 6pm via Teams