

Parent Council Meeting – November 2, 2020

Attendees: Audrey Hensen, Tanya Sanders, Rachel Kott, Anne Campbell, Cara Bensimon, Craig Warren, Emily Szabo, Ewa Bilan-Poon, Heather Foster, Julie Hunter, Donna Gerritsen, Kristin Weber, Linda Van Pelt, Julie Said-Richardson, Michelle Toner, Meredith Bourne, Karen Brown, Pamela Crichton, Rebecca Galer, Sara Ardiel, Sheryl Heddle-Kafka, Erin de Souza-Bruce

Called to order: 6:36pm

- Previous Minutes approved by Ewa, seconded by Linda; adjustment to prior minutes so as to include Rachel Kott as a Staff Representative.
- Addition to current meeting Agenda: a) Follow up to Grad Committee, b) New School Naming Committee update. Both items added to Principal's Report section.
- Agenda approved by Michelle, Seconded by Julie and Ewa 😊

Principal's Report:

- Many thanks to Linda and Kristin for setting up our Council meeting
- New math curriculum mandated in June by the Government is being implemented at SVS by Mme. Anderson; topics of focus are financial literacy and coding which some students are enjoying with with Mme Andersson.
- Ms. Hall and Ms. Rozon have been educating themselves on “knowledge building – big questions with big ideas”; they will be knowledge sharing with the rest of the staff to implement new strategies for learning.
- Physical Education is working hard to deliver curriculum safely; utilizing the outdoor fields for classes and working on transitioning to indoor classes adhering to social distancing. New equipment has been purchased to facilitate this indoor transition and we are eagerly awaiting the new school gym (it's a double!!) to take advantage of the extra indoor space accommodations.
- COVID Update: students are well conditioned to adhere to the 1 (one) meter apart, using masks when required, and only removing them when they are eating or outdoors; the new COVID restrictions are quickly becoming “normal” with kids adjusting quickly to the new expectations. There have been **zero cases of COVID at SVS**, a testament to the amazing partnership of families and school working together for effective screening. This effort is very much appreciated by Ms. Hensen and the staff at SVS.
- New School Naming Committee: Pam and Michelle along with 2 (two) grade 7 students are participating members of the Committee. 3 names have been suggested for the new school: Greenville, Crooks Hollow, and Webster's Falls. The next steps will be to pick new school colours and a mascot; the students will be getting involved in this process and excitement is growing!
On Friday, November 6, 2020, Ms. Hensen will be touring the new facility with the Facility Manager to view progress and get an idea of what is needed in the new school (such as furniture) and to also formulate a plan for operational procedures as there are only 8 short

weeks until moving day! The outdoor areas will be assessed for what the conditions of the playgrounds will be (factoring in Community building construction that will still be ongoing). The indoors of the new location will be fully completed and, during the upcoming facility tour, Ms. Hensen will have a better understanding of what the outdoor conditions will be for our **expected move in date scheduled for January 4th**.

Information will be shared with Linda and Kristin to disseminate to parents as she receives it. With the current pandemic, an opening ceremony will potentially need to be deferred or re-strategized due to COVID restrictions and consideration of a virtual ceremony may replace an in person event. Plans will be shared once considerations have been made. The new electronic school sign is operational and, though currently turned off, will be up and running once the school officially opens. The construction of the Community buildings is going well and on track.

- Our current facility is running smoothly – no structural problems, the indoor temperatures are warm, there are no offensive odours, the water is running great, and staff has been utilizing the immense and beautiful outdoor space to compliment indoor teaching spaces. A small repair was required and achieved efficiently – a glass door was requiring maintenance (glazing) and was repaired within a day! Drop off and pick up is going better though not as many families are using the “Kiss and Ride” feature. Despite this, through amazing effort and collaboration of staff and families, this are going smoothly.
- Class Reorganization: due to restructuring, SVS is down 1 (one) portable and 1 (one) staff member, resulting in redistribution of students. It primarily effected one full grade 7 class that was disbanded and placed into other classes; this has impacted grades 3-8 to ensure that the displaced grade 7s could be accommodated into other classes. New placements for Class reorganization will start Tuesday, November 3, 2020. While class sizes have increased, it is by small numbers, the highest increase in any single class was by 4 (four) students.
- To make the transition smooth, safe, and seamless, student desks were sanitized and moved on Monday evening to be ready for the new school day. Staff had one short week to reorganize, create new timetables and communicate the reorganization to parents; while the Board did not afford much time for such a large action, the feat was accomplished quickly and efficiently. Staff is focused on making the transition for the students as seamless and comfortable as possible. While sorry to have to make changes after the kids have adapted and recognizing the fact that these are not optimal and even difficult changes to make, Staff is committed to do everything to mitigate that process. Should any parents have questions, Ms. Hensen is available via email. SVS had a significant amount of students between grades 4-8 transition from in-school to remote learning and Ms. Hensen has indicated that we are now at full capacity. Our largest class count has 24 students.
- Question #1 for Ms. Hensen: what is the status of extra-curricular activities? Answer: currently on pause as per Board regulations. The current extent of availability is for single class cohorts to partake in an activity run by their class teacher. With an ever-changing dynamic, the Board is working hard to create virtual experiences for HWDSB students; details will be shared once the activity/program is released.
- Question #2 for Ms. Hensen: how will the continued construction of the Community buildings impact the outdoor space when we move in? Answer: January 4, 2021 is the expected date. The

larger blacktop at the new site will hopefully afford more flexibility for student movement at recess. At the tour on Friday, November 6, Ms. Hensen will dialogue with the Construction Manager to understand better what the grass area will be like in January (conceivably seeding/sodding applied therefore prohibiting the kids from going off the blacktop). If the field portion of the playground will need to be off limits, Ms. Hensen indicated that she will create a strategy to ensure social distancing can be observed on the blacktop, potentially requiring a staggered nutrition break schedule to accommodate distancing.

- Question #3 for Ms. Hensen: Are spaces guaranteed for students looking to return to in-school learning (from remote) for January and March? Answer: Families who meet the submission deadline for request of change will be factored in to the school count and associated staffing needs. If requests are submitted late, there is no guarantee of available space. Families who have opted to choose **home schooling** (instead of in-school or remote learning) are not registered with the Board and therefore qualify as “new students”, needing to be re-registered at SVS to guarantee placement. Approximately 1700 students in the HWDSB Board (throughout elementary and high school levels) failed to register for this September (in either option).

Staff Report via Ms. Sanders:

- Music, Dance, and Drama classes have been conducted outside effectively; with re-organization, the younger grades were concerned that they would not have Ms. Sanders for music anymore, but are relieved to know that this remains constant through the changes. For Remembrance Day, each class (k-8) will be participating in creating a video that Ms. Sanders will compile into a “Virtual Assembly” for the children to watch in their classrooms in lieu of an in-person assembly. This movie compilation will also count as part of student grading; it is not shareable with parents due to privacy and confidentiality reasons (as with any other photography/video opportunity). The movie montage will be played starting at 10:50am on November 11, concluding at 11:11 for silent observation. Ms. Sanders is strategizing to create virtual extra-curricular activities, potentially during the nutrition breaks, and will share information once plans emerge (with maybe an option of a virtual choir if the kids show enough interest!). Ms. Sanders reported that it has been busy at the school over the past couple weeks with a staff focus on ensuring students are happy and reassuring them that “we’re all in this together”; she spoke at length with the grade 7 class to help them understand that reorganization impacts all schools throughout the Board – a piece they felt was more centralized to SVS. They appreciated the insight and it has helped them understand why changes are required. Finally, Ms. Sanders was pleased to have the help of Mr. Bader and Home & School (through teacher allowances) to build a ukulele cart to restart some student string plucking! The first class will likely be Ms. Beaudoin’s to start the ukulele training.
- Millgrove Update: Becky spoke with Anne Campbell regarding proposed fundraising for SVS this year. While not having a Millgrove Home & School Committee this year disables them from fundraising, they will be accepting donations. It is urgently requested though, in future years,

that SVS fundraising does not overlap Millgrove fundraising campaigns as we are “essentially the same community”. To date there have been no overlaps and we encourage Millgrove to share their campaigns with the SVS community as we are never aware of when they are happening. An outline of events is helpful, though advertising during the campaigns is required to notify the SVS families of active fundraisers. No other pertinent updates were relayed.

- Home & School Update: Anne Campbell joins Erin de Souza-Bruce as co-chair for H&S 2020-2021 season, Michelle Toner as VP, Natalie Pauls as Treasurer, and Karen Ooms as Secretary. With a meeting planned for November 10, 2020 @ 6:30, we will finalize the 2020 fundraiser campaign and create a strategy to host a “virtual feel good event” before Christmas. A small executive meeting was called with Anne, Michelle, Kristin and Erin to align objectives for this school year and discuss administrative tasks to be addressed with special attention on requirements for January with the new school (banking needs to be updated, paperwork submitted and filed through OFHSA, etc).
- Finances: the Parent Council account still holds \$11,520.67, funds carried over from the old Greenville account. These are projected for use on new school needs.
- Sister School Winter Drive – due to Board restrictions, we cannot host any drives due to COVID restrictions.
- Grad Committee: By January 2021, 4-5 grade 9 families will be needed to assist staff in the planning of graduation. Julie Hunter has offered to be a member in this group.
- Communication: Ms. Hensen is available to answer any questions you may have though please understand that certain pieces are regulated by the Board and subject to approval prior to sharing. You are welcome to direct questions to Ms. Hensen via email or use Kristin or Linda as a medium to pass messages on. It is also encouraged to contact your child’s teacher directly. Please show patience and understanding as staff will try their best to respond within 24 hours of outreach.
- Voting Members to represent each grade constituency was decided; see attached document for member list.

Meeting concluded at: 7:53pm