

MINUTES

Parent Council Meeting
December 10, 2020
7pm

Principal's Report

New School

- Update on the new building: everything remains on track
- 500 deficiencies were highlighted (this is average for a new build as per board)
e.g- could be as little as a light switch being crooked
- Contractors are still there
- Clean up starts tomorrow (December 11, 2020)
- They are ensuring building will be ready for occupancy
- Need to firm up the date with the contractors as to when they will be out
- Staff will go over to ensure that they can place everyone safely, while maintaining distancing
- Will discuss entry, bell times, flow of traffic etc
- Last day of school is Dec 18th
- Moving company on 21st and 22nd.
- Library is already packed, and we are looking forward to a bright new library
- Student desk and chairs are being delivered on the 24th-27th of December
- There is a delay on the admin furniture
- Staff furniture is delayed as well, factories causing delay
- Transportation: looking at bus list revisions, and will release next week
- Parents should be notified before the break so that there is ample time for planning
- There will be less busses
- A summary of changes in routines will be produced and distributed
- Parking lot will be tight- There may not be a drive through option (??)

- Staffing Change: Grade 4- Supply teacher in until tomorrow (December 11, 2020). LTO is starting on Monday December 14th and will be with them until the end of the year.
 - Mrs. Vansickle is taking a 0.2 leave
 - Mrs. Mancini is taking a full leave-
 - Mrs. McVittie interviewing next week for replacements
 - Fundraising is on hold
 - Got the go ahead to order spirit wear. Staff members have taken this on to find suppliers etc
 - The suppliers have to be able to accept payment directly from parents as a prerequisite

Teacher's Report

Robyn BainBridge

- Next week there are events organized for the kids.
- Parties in the class on the Thursdays
- Friday is pajama day
- Tomorrow (December 11, 2020) is accessory and sweater day

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Kate

- Monies- Amount reviewed.

New School Funds Spending

- What do we want to purchase?
- Principal suggests electronics
- Technology was a big push historically (last couple years) and was the main focus
- Goal was a smart board in each class- Goal Met.
- We could circle back and fundraise for these monies
- We may not want to blow the budget on 10 ipads
- A renewal plan may be the best strategy Eg- Buy 10 ipads every year
- We have ipads, but most are dated and do not run the appropriate apps
- It would be a great idea to ask teachers as to how to allocate funds for classroom needs
- Barb to involve the children to see what is missing in classes as well

Missing Purchase

Will need to check for Jerseys- Track them down.

They have been purchased- 50-60 at least

Discuss will Al- does he have them put away safely somewhere?

Karen found email- June 23rd- Confirmation that Jerseys and Banners have arrived.

Picture of the banner on the floor- They exist!

Now just to find them😊

What does the school come with?

- Scoreboard in each room? Doesn't look like it
- Screen in the gym
- **Projector on cart needs to be purchased for the Gym**
- Every other room has a mounted projector
- Library books are being sent to new school
- Remainder of books will need to be purchased
- Music room- New program. Barb submitted proposal- is hoping board will cover cost \$25,000
- Science room- New program. Barb submitted proposal for funds
- Art room- New program- Barb will propose for funding if applicable
- 400 new desks
- 250 chairs
- Shelving will need to be purchased- not sure what is included or locations
- Will bring what they can if in good shape

** Hoping there will be an exception made to extend timelines in order to purchase items of interest that we are unable to purchase due to COVID** Barb will ask School Board

Outdoors

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- Blue ship- Vito- no one knows where it is. Could have been taken away when they came to do the grounds
- They have gone back and painted some 4 square on the grounds- the person who painted them did not understand the game, and made them very small, so will need to be redone.

School Spending Suggestions/Discussion

- Sensory hall ideas were fantastic- we need to revisit that. Hold over some money.
 - Positive messages in the bathrooms- really fantastic
 - Hand sanitizing stations- infection control.
Stand 4 ft high. Hold a big metal base. Holds 2 large bottles of hand sanitizer.
\$229 each.
So if they will not mount them on the walls, then they can use the metal base.
(These should be covered by School Board, Barb to confirm please)
 - A natural wood playground- any contacts or connections?
 - Karen knows a company that she has looked at, she will pass along the info
 - Board does not support natural playgrounds- because of upkeep
 - Barb will look into it further, perhaps a change in policy or an exception to be made?
 - Very costly to put in. Over \$100,000.
 - Grant does not cover all of the GreenSpaces for schools; a lot of fundraising would be required
 - Would like to look into it- Barb will send emails to facilities to see if position has changed
 - They are great because you can keep adding to it, and the kids never tire from playing using their imagination on these playgrounds
 - Outdoor classroom? May be able to ask Board to provide funding. Some schools currently have 1-2.
 - Cannot make any firm decisions regarding any equipment until cost is discovered
- ** If not a neighbourhood park in close proximity, the city has contributed some monies to Outdoor equipment. Barb knows someone who works in Rec. department and will text him

Cheryl- would like to put a motion forward to suggest that \$5,000 to purchase Ipads if possible.

Q: Jeff- Clarification- what is the board willing to provide? Can we purchase ipads only. Tablets? Androids?
Is there a directive?

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A: Barb: Encouraged now only to use ipads. They are a lot better than the android devices
In supporting the apps that we require

The board supports technology for those doing distance learning that do not have devices.
Those devices then are taken out of the schools unfortunately

Q & A: When remote learning ends, we get the ipads back- **yes**

Consider: As for policy: Can purchase net books \$350-400 (what is approved by board)
But Ipads approx \$450-\$500, so you may save a hundred dollars when purchasing, but
would you save in the long run? Ipads tend to require less maintenance.

School Needs

Barb recommends waiting until all have moved to the new school until needs are assessed
Re: shelving etc.

It is hard to know what is needed until equipment and supplies from old school have been
moved in

- No central storage area anymore ; Schools share equipment- usually only share
when not in good shape

Concern:

To spend 25% of money that we have on ipads, when it will not benefit many students, is
that the best way to spend the money?

Q: What is currently in the classrooms? And what would the needs be?

A: Robyn Bainbridge- Grade 4 and down. Each class have 6 ipads. All are mostly at the end
of their life cycle. Each have a handful of low end game apps, all they can process.
Junior classrooms have newer ipads.

Suggestion: Perhaps we need to talk about a tech renewal plan

Issue: We do want to honour what the money was intended for, but also need to consider what
the needs for the school are

So where are we going to go from here?

Technology, Out door equipment, or classroom needs?

What do teachers feel are a priority for our children? Would all teachers would answer this
question this same?

Would like to see a needs assessment first; although we hate to put this on the teachers,
because they are already so busy, we need to hear about what they need.

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Action: Barb willing to facilitate a quick survey to ask what are needs and wants from teachers. For example, "identify 3 needs and 3 wants"

It would be inappropriate to present any motions to allocate funds at this point.

We will:

- Bring highlighted needs/wants from Survey back in January.
- Needs assessments should be considered after they have been in the classrooms for a couple weeks. May be able to collect this info from teachers/students for January meeting, but likely not until February.
- Talk numbers and estimates after needs are assessed.
- Then vote on allocation of funds.
We will consider: Purchasing technology, renewal program in lieu of, and needs of school that are outstanding.

Upcoming meetings:

- Jan 14th
- Feb 11th
- March 11th (usually cancel, but we can hold a meeting if needed, which is ++ likely)
- April 8th
- May 13th
- June 10th

Voting Members:

Jenn Haverty
Erica
Tiffany
Karen
Chery
Michelle
Jennifer
Tanis