



Yorkview Elementary School Council

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

86 Cameron Avenue

Dundas, Ontario L9H 1P8

Email: yorkviewSC@hwdsb.on.ca

<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/yorkview/school-council/>

SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, March 22, 2021

18:30 – 20:00

In attendance: Suzana Milinovich, Laura Bartkiw, Hilary Nolan Haupt, Steve Hill, Lily Ernst, Sabrina Press, Amy Taylor, Rebecca Ganann, Karen Beattie, Megan Medlock, Roland Puppa, Rebecca Ganann

Item	Agenda	Notes
1.1	Land Acknowledgement (Hilary)	
1.2	Approval of Agenda & Minutes (Hilary)	Both approved
2.1	Teacher Appreciation Lunch (Amy)	<p>Council discussed wanting to say thank you and show appreciation to the teachers and staff at Yorkview. This came forward as a suggestion from a grandparent of a student at Yorkview.</p> <p>Ms. Milinovich said that the teachers would appreciate this gesture and it is possible do this safely. It would be a great way to support local business. This would need to be something outside of funds as School Council funds are for school use.</p> <p>Day/time/venue is flexible. The gesture would be appreciated. Roland will identify potential dates that would include all/most by tomorrow. Total staff numbers = 21. Target: next week. Council members will work out logistics.</p>
3.1	YMCA	Deferred
3.2	Dundas Valley Cooperative (Brienne)	Dundas Valley Cooperative are doing well. Recently enrolled 4 students. Now at 11/16 spots. Have 11 new families interested in September, on top of returning families. DVC remained open during the last lockdown. Likely will happen again if school ends up shifting to virtual again.
3.3	Principal's Update (Suzana)	<p>1. HWDSB Annual Plan</p> <p>Looking closely at Equity Action Plan that will run up to Aug. 2022. HWDSB has responsibilities to address Equity Action Plan. First September PD days were focused on this.</p> <p>Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild. Is part of this mandate. HWDSB is responsible for proactive approaches to address equity. School and Classroom Practices: to develop and integrated Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy to build a community of care for students.</p> <p>Staff have been teaching about these principles and using Board modules to integrate the goals for the three sessions (Learn, Disrupt, Rebuild).</p> <p>E.g., Learn – developing awareness, knowledge, and skills to support mental health and wellness recognizing the intersectional impact of the pandemic.</p> <p>Has students and teachers as co-learners in this new learning. The curriculum</p>



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		<p>is adapted to different grade levels and stages of learning, using student-friendly language.</p> <p>Parents discussed the classroom conversations and the conversations that have been happening at home (e.g., related to Black History month). Many have been positive, although some have had more challenging conversations as children ask tough/important questions to try to understand why inequities and racism exist.</p> <p>Some questions about the language used at school to talk about children who have individual needs (e.g., those with IEPs). Question was rooted in wanting to use wording that is inclusive and in alignment with current language used in school.</p> <p>Teachers approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Language used is able everyone being individuals and unique and everyone having their own learning needs/styles. - All have strengths and have things that are more difficulty. - Teachers talk about wanting all students to show teachers what they know, and some students need some help to show what they know. This is encouraged from kindergarten up. - “It’s not a thing” if students are learning/doing different things. The teachers are bringing out the best in everyone. Trying to show that everyone needs different help at different times. - If issues arise, teachers try to address firmly and clearly. - Teachers try to normalize individual bests and trying to give each child the best opportunities to show their best. <p>2. School improvement plan</p> <p>Learning Commons – not using this year but Suzana did explore existing collection. A lot of outdated materials have been weeded out. The latest publication dates were 2016. Learning Commons could use newer titles that would be engaging to children. It would be useful to engage students in identifying the kinds of books that would be engaging according to their interest.</p> <p>21st Century Learning Commons. Want students to come in and use their critical thinking skills to engage with the environment, engaging physical env’t (e.g., white board table), seats that group together and then can break apart. This is a long-term vision. Learning commons visually is much less engaging/interactive that it would be to align with 21st Century Learning Commons.</p> <p>Question: when making modifications and purchasing, where does that money come from? A: some could be from School funds and some from School Council. It could be a collaboration in terms of how money is spent to enhance area.</p>
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		<p>Questions/comments: are there other ways to contribute to the Learning Commons. Is there a way to share outside of the LC? Like an AirBnB for School Books akin to the Sharing Economy. The concept of the LC is really cool. Outside space is another area of LC. Great opportunity to engage with outdoor space. Also great idea to develop a coding/electronics cart to engage in innovative inquiry.</p> <p>Q re: book donations – Suzana will explore process for integrating into LC.</p> <p>3. Public health protocols</p> <p>If student is sent home, they can return to school if they are tested and have a negative result or if they have documentation from their provider to state that the symptoms are related to another medical issue. When children return to school, it is because the protocols have been followed and the student has been cleared to return.</p> <p>Karen will share information on HWDSB policies on Facebook page.</p>
3.4	Teacher Update (Roland)	<p>With the way that the numbers are going, the teachers really appreciate that parents are continuing with the daily screening.</p> <p>Several teachers have had negative experiences when calling home, as teachers are just following public health protocols.</p> <p>Steve and Roland met to discuss possibilities for outdoor garden boxes. Some interesting programs (e.g., through RBG). Ideas for Spring gardens, suggestions to put small signs in rain gardens to identify plants so that it could be authentic reading for kids, raise awareness, and avoiding cutting through and stepping on plants.</p> <p>Question re: identifying class gardens. Others do not have demarcations re: which class is responsible for each garden. Would need to be flexible with signs.</p> <p>Discussion re: adding mulch to area to address weed growth and refresh look. Also, discussion of compost/fertilizer to replenish soil.</p> <p>A lot of questions in Gr. 5 class from students and parents – questions re: graduation, visit to Dundas Central, basketball tournament, etc. Just don't know what June will look like.</p> <p>Is it feasible to do classroom garden work in class or would this be a weekend project? A: if Council provided signs/plaques, class could label it, the school/classrooms could manage implementation.</p> <p>Steve: an idea – each box could get a name based on a plant or someone known for their environmental stewardship and a symbol, for example, rather than named by grade(s) or teacher.</p>
3.5	Fundraising (Sabrina/Amy/Lily)	<p>Fundraising still on pause.</p> <p>Boston Pizza has stopped doing fundraising. Dundas Valley Coop just did one</p>



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		<p>not long ago and are planning one again. We are unable to move forward with any fundraising options during this time.</p>
3.6	Budget (Megan)	<p>Discuss need to narrow down the things that we can use funds for and then move forward with decision making. Have earmarked funds. Some teachers are starting to submit receipts. Some outstanding.</p> <p>Are we able to carry funds over or do we need to spend the funds out? Suzana will follow up to explore this. We need to revisit the things that we have already fundraised for, however, there are some line items that</p>
3.7	Environmental Stewardship (Steve)	<p>Green Venture has made use aware of a grant deadline coming up. Focus of grant would be on growing vegetables. Steve is happy to work with Green Venture to apply for the grant. This would be a grant for 2021-2022. Suzana and Rebecca will help support the grant submission. Submission deadline: Mar. 31st.</p> <p>Question whether additional mulch would be part of the grant or on the side. Could be separate and done for low/no cost. Would just need manpower to move the mulch. Green Venture may also be able to provide some support. Steve will explore this further. Will explore if we can target a weekend, as long as we are following certain rules. Will need to provide rough estimates of # of people and dates. This would need approval from Hamilton Public Health Services depending on zone we are in at the time. Suzana will explore this.</p> <p>Green Venture does have plants ordered to put into rain garden this Spring.</p>
3.8	Communications (Lily/Karen)	<p>Lily and Karen have been working together. Karen is now going to be the solo communications person (but is able to reach out to Lily with any questions). Karen will emphasize that these are Board policies that the School is following. If there are School-wide spirit initiatives, it would be helpful to share this information with Karen so that she can disseminate it. Suzana will share this information with Karen going forward.</p> <p>Lily will continue to manage the Yorkview School Council page. It has not been updated/maintained in a while. Q: since it has been inactive, let's keep it inactive this year since there are multiple other communication channels. Decision: do small update but then decide if it is something worth maintaining.</p>
3.9	Advocacy (Karen)	No new issues identified.
3.10	Questions	

Next Meeting: Monday, April 19, 2021