

Alma Public School Council Meeting

Date: January 13, 2022

Council Executive:

Amanda Reid – Council Chair

Paula O'Donnell – Secretary

Betty-Sue Driedger – Treasurer

Jason Boyce – School Principal

Angela Ackroyd – Fundraising Chair

Crystal Schnarr & Betty-Sue Driedger – Snack Program

Council Members/Attendees:

Jason Boyce	Betty-Sue Driedger	Amanda Reid
Paula O'Donnell	Vera Snowe	Crystal Schnarr
Laura Ferrier	Angela Tearle	Veronique Roesink-Dann
Angela Massey	Emily Huehn	James Ferrier

Welcome (Amanda Reid):

-welcome

-motion to approve minutes from November's meeting – 1st Crystal, 2nd Vera

Principal's Report (Jason Boyce):

-just had a staff meeting

-there was more engagement and participation in this last round of remote learning

-more board and online resources were available to the teachers

-teachers can't wait to see the students back in person next week

-students were very responsible and respectful when using breakout rooms

-thank you to parents for their support

- students appreciated the Warm Wishes bags
- Mrs Scott's class and their writing initiative made it into the newspapers in December
- thank you to Angela and Amanda for their work on the Optimists fundraiser
- we had a virtual concert in December live streamed for families and classes, went very well
- received a \$450 donation from the Alma Bible Church for our Food & Friends Snack Program
- early January started with a quick shift to online learning, went smoothly
 - thank you to parents for their support
 - we loaned out over 45 chromebooks
 - teachers have done a great job providing small and large group activities for the classes
 - Friday will be a teacher prep day for the return to person Monday, asynchronous learning for the day
- we will continue to use the Hepa Filters
- staff will be provided with N95 masks
- students will be given 3-layer masks, should be arriving Friday
- yesterday it was announced that more rapid tests will be going home with students, will update as we know more
- more info coming about possible school vaccination clinics
 - nothing will be done without parent approval
- classes will be cohorting outside at recess for now
- daily screening has been updated online
- we continue to monitor daily and weekly for changes
- kindergarten registration continues for September JK
 - if you know of anyone, please remind them to register
- stay tuned for a North Wellington Hub starting by the trustee and directors
 - we are Center Wellington but we are also grouped with North Wellington so we get the benefits of both worlds
 - there will be an opportunity for at least 1 council member to join
- thank you for supporting our school with online learning

-when we work together we can do hard things

-there is a new board superintendent, Belal Taha

-Questions?

-Amanda - is there a report somewhere on the hepa filters? -what's in the school, the ratings, etc?

-the board website has information, linked to each school

-the mandate is to have one in every kindergarten room, we have one in every single classroom

-the board does air quality testing and keeps track of the maintenance schedule for them

-all of our hepa filters were cleaned over Christmas break

-Amanda - will there be 2 masks handed out per student?

-it will depend on what arrives, we don't know what's coming yet

-UGDSB is purchasing masks to hand out to all students

-will it be mandatory for students to wear 3-ply masks?

-no, you can use what you have if you prefer

-Crystal - high school students have to sign off saying they completed the daily screening.. Will our students have to?

-no, our students are too young to understand and do their own screening

-it's not the teachers job to screen

-if a student becomes ill at school, the parents will be called, just like before

-we will be re-emphasizing the importance of daily screening

-teachers will be teaching kids how to self-screen and let their parents know if something isn't right

-our parents have been very responsible about morning screenings

-staff will continue to sign in and sign off on screening in the mornings

-will students need to rapid test before returning to school?

-it's not mandatory

-Amanda - if a student is home sick will they need to prove the negative rapid tests before returning?

-no, it will be an element of trust

-it's not mandatory to test

-will the school have PCR test?

-there hasn't been any clarification on this yet

-PCR tests handed out to school are based on percentages

-we only have a few

-will kindergarten classes be together or separate outside?

-they will be separated for now

-staff will all be masked to float around at lunch

-lunchrooms - will students still be eating in their classes?

-yes, desks are spaced as far as they can be

-students stay in their desks at lunch, facing forward, when eating.

-masks go on after eating to talk

-playground - how will the classes be segregated?

-a map was sent out to parents already so it can be shown to students prior

-our kids are great and follow rules

-this should be short-lived, we will do our best

-Crystal - will students have to be masked on the playground?

-no because they are with their cohort and outside

-Amanda - what percentage of our students are vaccinated?

-we don't know, that data is not collected

-do we know the number of kindergartens for next year?

-not yet, it's too early to say

-Vera - our school was listed as 1 of 4 of the top under-utilized schools in the area - why are they not adjusting boundaries?

- we are often on that list
- there are a lot of blessings to being a smaller school, such as smaller class sizes
- boundaries are based on population, building, growth, families moving in and out, etc
- Vera - why do we only go to grade 6?
 - all based on numbers
 - there can't be 3-way class splits (grades)
 - it's a very complicated process using projected numbers for at least 5 years in the future

Treasurer's Report (Betty-Sue Driedger):

- account balances:
 - school council fundraising general \$1,491.03
 - school council general \$16.35 (account to transfer in/out)
 - school council playground \$14,981.33
 - snack program \$2,213.60
- income received:
 - \$343 from Kitchen Cuttings Optimists Fundraiser
- expenses out:
 - \$200 to snack program
 - \$107.34 Winter Wishes treat bags for students
 - \$115 Scientists in the School program for grade 6 class (50%)
- potential upcoming expenses:
 - \$575 for up to 5 more classes of Scientists in the School

Old Business:

- Winter Wishes bags
 - students all loved them
 - clementines were a nice addition - we got them for 50% off from FreshBox Market

New Business:

- board is reviewing the volunteer application process policy
 - could be an interview process and police vulnerable sector check required

- still working out the details
- could affect parents volunteering for field trips, etc
- will keep us updated when we know more
- before Christmas we were given the go-ahead for milk and pizza orders
 - we can still look into it
 - pizza places didn't apply to be on the board approved list this year
 - pizza places are short-staffed so can't meet our needs at this time
 - we will continue to look
- lunchbox company coordinates both, but they're having a hard time finding board approved places as well this year
 - Amanda - can we start milk without pizza?
 - yes, there is cost saving of doing them both together so we're trying that first
- Emily - gator wear?
 - logo has been revamped
 - company couldn't get it done before Christmas, but it is coming
 - looking into Feb/Mar for options
 - Amanda - can we find a local printer?
 - Shannon already had it set up with a Guelph printer, we will continue with them

Committee Updates:

- Fundraising
 - next fundraiser will be Elmira Chicken and some sort of meat
 - looking at mid February
 - will be run through the Optimists again
 - hall is closed, but we can use outside if it's not open by then

Next Meeting: February 10th (2nd Thursday of each month), at 6:30pm (online)

- equity survey was sent out - not a lot of responses
 - there were questions about adjusting the meeting times, can look into for next year

-comments about more men being involved with council

-Amanda - any word on in person council meetings?

-not yet

-Crystal - will staff be required to have boosters?

-haven't heard anything about this yet

-there is no staff vaccine mandate

-motion to adjourn meeting - Vera 1st, Crystal 2nd