

October 6, 2021, School Council Meeting Minutes

- Welcome
 - Ana Cabral
 - Jan Laffin
 - Andrea Michelutti
 - Christine Bunz
 - Tamara Schmelzle
 - Aniko Kasos
 - Katlyn Harnock
 - Rebecca Cunningham
- Election
 - Treasurer: Katlyn Harnock
 - Secretary: Rebecca Cunningham
 - Chair/Co Chair: No takers—can be added in future but will remain as part of Principal/VP position
- Teacher Update—Jan Laffin
 - Ripple Effect group called “Tree”
 - Ripple effect in education—they’ve been in classes in previous years and starting week after next they’re coming into the school to help with conflict resolution, social skills, those types of activities.
 - Will help to interact again with their peers and getting used to those interactions again
 - 5-week program about an hour a week or so
 - <https://therippleeffecteducation.ca/about/>
- VP Update
 - Distance learning VP for Gr 5 & 6 with 2K students.
 - Building, maintaining, solidifying, and re-building relationships to bring everyone back together has been the efforts for September
 - Trying to understand the assessed levels of all learners—key focus of Sept.
 - Strengths and understanding next steps
 - Orange Shirt Day
 - Challenging topic with new learning at all age levels
 - This is not a celebration but rather a recognition of Indigenous experience within residential schools
 - Entry and Exit Procedures
 - Adhering to protocols is key to safety of children

- Key to helping kids develop a 6ft benchmark in their minds
 - Kids have really adapted to the distance markers
 - Dots are their “Safe Place”, and kids just seem to know to go there during incidents
- Outdoor Learning Time
 - Deviation from regular/pre covid experience
 - Had to look at alternatives to outdoor time because what was offered wasn’t feeling safe for individuals within the building
 - Provides a much-needed balance throughout the day
 - Seems to be going quite well
 - Gives kids more of an opportunity to work as a team or cohort and they can easier recognize kids who may need an invite to play or may need some additional emotional interaction
- Laurier TEC (Teacher Education Candidates)
 - Once a week there are 3 that attend
 - Opportunity for them to learn the role and get to know teaching
 - They’ll be there all year and gradually increase the amount of time they’re able to teach within the school
 - Great opportunities for mentorship and leadership
- Principal Update
 - Safety Measures
 - Outside in cohorts’ kids can remove their masks
 - Some concerns with crossing of cohorts and that’s why they try to keep kids apart
 - Self screening should be continued daily, and students need to be diligent for streamlined covid symptoms
 - Anticipating info re: school photos within the next few weeks
 - Dominos Fundraiser
 - Enter “Care” when ordering and \$3 comes back to the school to pay for guest speakers
 - Prizes are available for twitter tags
 - Halloween

- Info will be provided on Schoolday
- No costumes or class parties due to Covid protocols
- Trying to create a more inclusive day where 10% of students may not participate
- Boundary Study
 - Aniko and Rebecca will be representing
 - First meeting in the next couple of weeks
 - Looking at Tartan Ave School boundaries
 - Janet Metcalf, Laurentian, Southwood, Jean Steckle, and others are involved
 - Want to ensure we're expanding as needed to avoid portables and providing a safe space for students
 - Over 100 requests for additional families to attend at Jean Steckle resulting in 850-900 students if they were to be added. Space is at a premium
 - Currently there are 710 students with additional housing opening up
 - Ideally the number would be 600 including remote where if they were to come back, they'd be adding 60 students

- Future Meetings
 - Need to have 4 meetings throughout the year
 - Proposing Wednesdays at 6PM
 - November, January, April, and May will give us 5 meetings thus meeting the mandatory
 - November 10
 - January 12
 - April 13
 - May 11
- Q&A
 - Are we using any other social media platforms?
 - Would like to have someone take over FB
 - Will start to use Instagram as well
 - Why are parents hesitant to join council?
 - Parents are afraid they're going to be tricked into roles
 - Worried they're going to have to volunteer
 - Some work 2-3 jobs
 - Some have additional commitments
 - Could we create additional "Advertisement" re: council meetings to help engage parents
 - Could we do a google survey to get dates and times and provide further detail on what happens within the meetings
 - What does parent engagement look like?
 - Many parents are asking about why our board protocols are so different from the Catholic protocols
 - Catholic schools are doing pictures and parents are wondering why we aren't
 - Visitors are NOT allowed into the school
 - Different boards do things according to the direction of the public health units
 - All schools are given the same message and they implement them
 - Would need to ask trustees why we're so different from the catholic board when we all fall within the same health units
 - Rapid Testing—to be done based on what's the virus level of the area—if it comes back negative and they have symptoms how long do they have to stay home?
 - Should we message parents to remind them to have their kids tested

- Only do rapid tests when kids are asymptomatic
- Volunteers
 - Still need the vulnerable police check
 - Interview with volunteers
 - Have to be double vaxxed within the 14 days
 - Have to have a vulnerable check every year