

WRJPS SAC Meeting

May 26, 2020, 6:00pm

21 participants attended the meeting virtually through Webex.

### **Principal's Update from Mr. Murphy**

Been a while since we last met and there have been a few things going on in the world!

First, before I get to the updates I need to say a few very BIG thank yous

-To our SAC executive members, at this time of year we normally try to have a social outing to say thank you for all of the time you volunteered this year. Some of you may decide to return to your role or a different role in the fall and some might be moving on so I want to thank you for all that you have done for our school and students.

-This year was probably the least normal school year ever so I need to thank you for your understanding, patience, and above all else your flexibility. You continued to go ahead with planning events like a movie night to raise money for our choir and getting started on the fun fair planning with uncertainty about how or if these events could go forward and then of course the uncertainty we have all felt since COVID hit in March.

-I want to thank our parents and guardians who have not had it easy the past few months. We know the school closure has not been easy and we know an enormous amount has been placed on each household. So thank you for all that you are doing and for continuing to work with our staff in ways that you are able to that together we can ensure our students continue to get the fundamental skills they need.

-And thank you for embracing the virtual meeting tonight! I think it is important that we meet to wrap up the year and to be able to ask the questions that might be on your mind. Holding a virtual council meeting was optional and less than half the TDSB schools (about 30 % of schools) have opted to hold one so I'm very happy that our council decided to go forward with a meeting. Now we will hope the technology doesn't fail us!

In terms of school updates:

1. I mentioned at a previous meeting that we had some exciting presentations booked for our students including an Indigenous Dance performance by Prologue and the anti-bullying magic show that included a parent evening. We are going to look to reschedule these as soon as we are safely able to do so.
2. We traditionally hold a welcome to kindergarten event each June to welcome our new families. We are creating a welcome video and informational brochure that will be sent to our JK families and new families to the school electronically. Part of the video is highlighting the amazing work our parents on council do with

events like pizza lunches and the fun fair and what that money goes toward and encouraging our new parents to consider getting involved with our council next year. Also going to look at holding a virtual Q and A session after the video goes out.

3. I also mentioned a few construction projects which include the creation of a calming space off of the library, climate control in the gym to better regulate temperature, and the re-paving of the parking lot. The construction on the calming room has started to go ahead as of a week ago, the climate control project is expected to be completed before the summer and we are still hoping for re-paving to happen during the summer although I am waiting on confirmation for that.
4. Given the school closures some families have started to reach out to ask about summer school options. Summer school will happen virtually in the morning during the month of July. This is run for students from grade 3 to 6. Registration has opened on line at [tdsb.on.ca/summer](https://tdsb.on.ca/summer). The programs focus on fundamental literacy and numeracy skills. I will be sending this information out to families on the weekly.
5. Report Cards:

All students will receive a June report card and it will look like a regular report card that you would normally receive in June.

The difference that parents need to know is that a typical term 2 report card covers learning from the end of January until June. This year the marks will be based on the end of January until the school closure (March 13<sup>th</sup>) so a much smaller window of time. This may result in some subjects not being reported on as they weren't covered during that specific time period.

During the remote learning time from March break onwards, a student's marks will not be negatively affected because we know that there are many factors that might affect a student's fair chance to complete work including their access to technology or their ability to learn concepts remotely with less direct instruction. For students who have worked hard and have shown consistent improvement during the remote learning time, teachers can use this to improve the marks where appropriate to do so.

6. School Access:

Many are anxious for information on when and how they can retrieve their personal belongings from the school. Preliminary plans are being developed to have structured and safe access to the school for students in June. We are waiting to hear finalized information from Public Health around how many students can access the school at one time.

This would be coordinated very similar to how stores are managing with socially distanced lines allowing a certain number of people per time, a designated entry door, handwashing. There will have to be some sort of a system in place where either families sign up for a specific time or we do this based on set times for each room and students would line up similar to stores.

This would be optional for students who need to come in and who are comfortable doing so. We are also looking at a drop box system for returning library books, textbooks, and other school property without having to line up and enter the building.

I am hoping to have more finalized information to share by the weekly so parents can start to plan accordingly if they need to come in.

Along this same line, the Minister of Education has announced that he would have information by the end of June about precautions that will need to be in place for schools to re-open in September. As I learn more I will continue to update our community so everyone can be well aware of what changes will look like in schools in the fall. We want to ensure the safety of our students and staff members so will be taking all necessary steps outlined by the Ministry of Education and Public Health.

### **Information about remote teaching**

Information came out from the Board a few weeks ago about remote teaching. WRJPS students are providing a number of hours per week, and are offering “office hours” through Google Meet. The Board will be putting some direction out soon for schools to be more consistent about this in June across schools. Our school seems to be doing this already, but we are awaiting more information.

At our school, the teachers are sending out the week’s work is sent out every Monday. Feedback from teachers will be sent to students within the week, or shortly thereafter.

### **Fun Fair cancellation**

The Fun Fair has been postponed. We are awaiting decisions from the province, city and the TDSB to understand what our options are. Silent auction items that have

been collected, and we will determine how to distribute/auction off. Mr. Murphy will reach out to Leah about items as well. An online auction this academic year or next is definitely an option.

Fundraising for the school is happening organically. Stephanie Tomlin took the lead along with Melissa, and was able to raise money for families in need anonymously. Mr. Murphy helped to coordinate that effort. If it items are contactless and sanitized, parents can connect to Mr. Murphy to see what is possible, and he can continue to facilitate where possible.

### **Next Year's SAC**

Nadia Taylor updates the committee that both the SAC Chair and Vice-Chair positions will be open for new parents to take on. Nadia asks members to pass on the word and encourage proactive and interested parents to consider a role on the SAC. Mr. Murphy thanks Carol Foote and Nadia for their participation this year, and looks forward to working with a new SAC next year, hopefully in a different format.

### **Other items, as tabled by our SAC exec team**

Pooja Chaudhary reminds the participants to connect with her if anyone is holding any donations or money and any receipts from various initiatives since February. Mr. Murphy will remind teachers of the same. Pizza lunch money was refunded to families in late April.