

WEST ROUGE JUNIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

Dec 2, 2020

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Attendees

Trish Gordon, Mike Murphy, Leah Denov, Carla Scirocco, Deborah Bowers, Rupinder Brar, Nadia Taylor, Inder Singh, Heather Alousis, Jackie Ventresca, Tiago Do Couto, Stephanie Tomlin, Laura Driscoll, Celestia Richards, C Graham, Quathar Jacobs, Anita Klubal, Alison Mitchell, Alison Koukal, Rebecca Forsey, Vanessa Martin, Jacqueline Abel, Ashanthi Au, Kristina Skocic, Richie Singh

Chair – Carla Scirocco

- Welcome
- Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 13th January
- Update on SSON and Bylaw Revision:
SSON is done. Bylaws are almost done; we just need to add preamble. Will be ready for vote next month.

Principal's Report – Michael Murphy

Great Learning this Fall

- I know there was a lot of apprehension and uncertainty about what a return to school this fall would look like. As we have now settled into our “new normal” and daily routines I want to take a moment to say how impressed I am at how adaptive our students are
- Students seem, for the most part, understanding and just happy to be in school and with peers even if they are missing some friends who are in other cohorts
- Great learning is happening in our classrooms, instructional time is focused, teachers are finding creative ways to overcome obstacles like not being able to share resources as easily- for example, iPads and Chromebooks are being signed out in half day blocks rather than 40 minute periods to allow time to sanitize over lunch and this results in a more significant and focused period of time students have learning materials for
- I want to also thank our staff for all of their hard work each day to maintain the necessary health protocols and routines and for all that they are doing to try and ensure school remains engaging for our students especially as we enter the holiday season that will look a little different than usual years
- Also, thank you to the SAC and community members who continue to impress by finding ways to ensure food drives, clothing drives, the angel tree, online auction to support local businesses can continue. These supports are needed and appreciated more than ever this year and are more challenging than ever so thank you!

COVID Update

- Parents and the school continue to work together at West Rouge to ensure that our school is a safe place for our students and staff
- Nearly all students arrive each day with the screening form signed, most students are remembering their own masks, all students and staff are wearing masks inside the school, hand hygiene routines remain consistent
- Most importantly students and staff who have any symptoms of illness are being kept home, many choose to be tested for COVID as a precaution and choose to share results with the school
- We remain ready to pivot quickly to an online learning model should a cohort have to isolate for 14 days
- As of noon today, there are 374 active student cases in the TDSB, 75 active cases among staff members, and 451 resolved cases.

Mathletics

- The school has purchased a year long subscription to Mathletics which is a digital math program. This program includes lesson plans and ideas for teachers to use aligned with the new Curriculum, has videos and other resources to share with students, and has a game component for extra practice/math engagement. Teachers can set strands/topics and grade level for the questions each student receives in the game mode.
- Every teacher (in person and virtual) have accounts and every West Rouge student (in person and virtual) has an account
- Staff training will occur on December 9th
- Some classes have started to use it already, others will begin after the staff training
- This will help to support our math program in person or virtually if the need arises this year and moves beyond traditional work sheets/textbooks for daily math practice and instruction

Air Purifiers

- Thank you to Rupinder who did some detailed research on the Board provided air purifiers in comparison to the model donated by many parents in August. He found the units to be very comparable in terms of their function and ability to purify the air. The main difference is a slight increase in operating noise at certain settings with the Board ones over the donated ones
- When provided items such as this by the Board or Ministry we are expected to use their equipment as they assume responsibility for general maintenance and costs such as cleaning/changing filters over time
- Donated units have been picked up by donors and continue to be picked up. Many have decided to pass on the devices to other schools that did not receive Board provided purifiers, local daycares etc. to continue to benefit our community.
- We have switched out the machines and are now using the Board provided ones in all our classrooms

Virtual Book Fair

- We held our virtual book fair in mid-November
- Sales were down a little from what we normally see with our annual in person fair, but still a good turn out and high level of support. There was a total of \$2600 in sales
- This translates to \$509 coming back to the school to invest in literacy resources. We are using these funds to purchase mentor texts for classrooms on character education topics, specifically empathy for kindergarten/primary classes and texts to support our school's equity work written by Black, Indigenous, People of Colour Canadian authors

SAC Budget Wish List Items

- Please see the chart for the 6 wish list areas, estimated costs, and rationale



Parent Council
Wishlist.pdf

- All items were discussed, debated and put to vote for approval by SAC.
 - Motion to approve items over Google forms moved by Nadia, seconded by Jackie
 - Motion approved on each item.

Teacher Representative – Jackie Ventresca

- Wellness committee: working with tree of life and focus on 7 teachings. Moving from courage to truth.
- Had our first Safe schools and caring committee. Couple of parents and students were on the meeting as well. Focusing on development and equity issues.
- We have put up a variety of different questions on inclusion, well-being and equity. Got feedback from staff, students and parents. Survey going to students this week. Will use that data to plan for the future.
- Virtual assemblies are going strong.
- Altamont: Reached out on spreading holiday cheer for residents. Classes will create window décor that we can walk over and place on the windows.

Secretary – Inder Singh

- Thank you everyone for taking the time to review the previous minutes and approving it over email.
- We did set ourselves a target of getting minutes up for the community within a week but we were able to do it in 2 weeks after meeting which is still an improvement given we were not approving minutes of one meeting until the next meeting.
- Carla has kindly created a google form which should help us speed this process up even more. Carla will share this link when the minutes get sent out.

Treasurers - Alison Mitchell & Alison Koukal

- Current balance \$24,315.
- We do have \$400 committed from last year that hasn't been paid out yet.

Web Administrators – Nadia Taylor & Quathar Jacobs

- Wanted to remind that the messaging we are doing through Facebook is also done through mailing.
- Stephanie: Anything we are doing can and should be sent out through different channels.
- Quathar and Nadia to receive content/messaging from others and they can relay it to the community.
- Rebecca: is fundraising getting all done on Facebook?
- Steph: Not everybody is on Facebook but it's a good way to reach to the community.
- Nadia: we can point the community to the Facebook page.

Social Representative- Deborah Bowers

- Food and Clothing Drive update
We weren't able to donate freely because of COVID. We will make attempts to deliver what we got
- Angel Tree update

Have the email ready. We can do both FundScrip and FlipGive. Will get the email over to Nadia shortly.

Fundraising – Leah Denov & Laura Driscoll

- Online Facebook auction is happening now until December 24 (local businesses are donating items that are being auctioned off with 100% profits to the school). One item will be won in a free draw, with participating members who comment on the post getting one ballot and those who donated to food drive, angel tree, clothing drive will get an extra. An email has been sent to Nadia to update the mailing list with details of the event and a link to join the group.
- FlipGive and Fundscrip details are being sent to families (an app and website where a % in sales is being given to the school). These sites sell gift cards and offer online shopping, and can be used for the Angel Tree Gift card donations.

Meeting Adjourned at 8.50 PM