

WEST ROUGE JUNIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

Jan 13, 2021

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Attendees

Alison Koukal, Alison Mitchell, Anita Klubal, Ashanthi Au, Carla Scirocco, Carm G, Deborah Bowers, Heather Alousis, Inder Singh, Jackie Ventresca, Laura Driscoll, Leah Denov, Mike Murphy, Nadia Taylor, Quathar Jacobs, Rebecca Forsey, Rupinder Brar, Stephanie Tomin, Suman Seth, Tiago Do Couto, Vanessa Martin

Chair – Carla Scirocco

- Welcome
- Update on Bylaws
 - Bylaws are complete. Sent them off to Nadia for formatting, will send to rest of council for approval.
- Next Meeting
 - Wednesday, the 3rd of March, 7 PM

Principal's Report – Michael Murphy

- Superintendent Update:
Our former Superintendent, Shirley Chan moved over to virtual school in November. We had a temporary Superintendent until the New Year and now I am happy to introduce John Currie as our new Superintendent for our area. He started this role on January 4th and looks forward to being able to come out and visit the school and the community in person.
- Budget Update:
A HUGE thank you on behalf of the staff for the SAC budget decisions made at the last meeting. Staff were so appreciative of your support.

Since that meeting, we have purchased classroom technology for each classroom which was a partnership between the SAC and the school budget.

We are ready to purchase the 30 Chromebooks but need to ensure staff are at school to receive delivery so once we know when we are going back that purchase will be made right away.

The dash robots were purchased, arrived, and have been used by Mrs. Hummel's class already before the holidays. We had year old tablets in our maker space that could hold the dash software so there is not a need to purchase the iPads to go with them which was something I was going to look into after last meeting. That should save a few thousand dollars.

- **Remote Learning:**
 As you have likely heard, this has now been extended until February 10th. We know this is not the news many families want to hear, it is not easy, and please know it is also not the news our staff want to hear. We have been and will continue to support each other in ways that are needed. If the amount of time in a day is an issue please reach out so we can work on a case by case basis for solutions with regard to attendance, we continue to support with devices as we can and help with technology issues as best we can. We know that some days and sometimes there are tech glitches which are happening across the Board. We are being patient and persistent when screens freeze etc.
- **Lunch Time Adjustment**
 A great example of the role of Council and how this system was designed to work. Many parents found having siblings on different lunch times very difficult to manage at home so a few parents reached out directly to me, but a lot also went to your SAC chair and vice- chair. In turn Carla, Stephanie and I were able to talk through this and get a sense of what wasn't working. I was then able to look at our schedules and talk with our staff to figure out what solution could help our families while having a minimal impact on our schedules and routines that students have been accustomed to all year.
 We were able to find that moving our classes to the later lunch from 11:50-1:00 could be done without significantly impacting our prep delivery schedule.
 I have heard from many families that this switch has really helped them juggle remote learning with multiple children and their own work demands.
 When we go back to in person learning we will have to switch back to our double lunch schedule to support cohort distancing in our yard.
- **Synchronous vs asynchronous**
 Synchronous learning time is when a teacher is directly teaching the class, a small group of students, or is available in real time to support students. This would be 225 minutes per day for grade 1-6 students and 180 minutes per day for kindergarten. Asynchronous time is the remaining minutes of the day where students have work to do but it is more independent in nature and should not require direct teacher support. This might include finishing work that was previously taught, online activities like mathletics to practice skills, choice boards.

 Teachers will continue to provide weekly schedules that should be clearly laid out what is happening at each block.

 There are screen break times built into the schedule and getting off devices is encouraged. This includes recess, lunch, and during asynchronous times students also have a little more flexibility in whether they are in the meet or working offline.
- **Student Engagement Remotely**
 We are continuing to look for creative ways to keep students engaged and positive during this difficult time by exploring things like virtual field trips, classroom or school wide simple spirit days (not ones where you have to buy or make elaborate things) continuing school virtual assemblies, and looking for virtual presenters to run programs for our students. We have booked the comic art workshop that was well received last year for January 26th for all grade 2-6 students.

- **Public Health Update:**
Public Health is still encouraging parents to screen children for symptoms and get tested similar to when school was open. The goal is to identify and isolate cases during the closure period. More communication will be coming out from Public Health.
Public Health noticed a decline in the number of school age tests after December 18th and are seeing a percent positivity rate increase among school age children.

Political Liaison – Rupinder Brar

- **Political Overview**
 - Thanks and congratulations to teachers that have shifted online.
 - Tried to talk with our MPP; they’ve provided information that’s nothing beyond what we see in the news.
 - Teachers are getting vaccine in Phase 2.

Teacher Representative – Jackie Ventresca

Class/Club/Committee	Initiative	Purpose
Wellness Committee	Altamount Nursing Home Community Outreach West Rouge Tree of Life: Trust Spirit Badges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social distanced outreach to spread holiday cheer • Classes made decorations to put on the outside of the windows and to hand on the trees • 9 classes participated during the last week of school • School wide focus based on the 7 Sacred Teachings • Continue with “Truth” for Jan • Recognized students receive a spirit badge that is placed on our Tree of Life • Student achievements are read over the announcements • Virtual component if needed
Equity Committee	Initiatives Supporting our 2020/21 equity goal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior students completed our West Rouge Student Equity Survey • Final equity goal was presented to the staff for feedback • First item of the action plan has been initiated, focused primary and junior lessons related to privilege and awareness

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff PD presentation of privilege and awareness lessons • Primary voice data to be collected • Equity committee will meet with the Safe and Caring Schools Committee in January
Virtual Assemblies	Monthly virtual connection and collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade 6 MCs and co-ordinators of student work being showcased • Different classes represented monthly (Mrs. Hummel, Ms. Genco, Mrs. Ferguson) • Spirit days (PJ Day) • Will continue virtually
Teaching Practices	Remote Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students have been amazing! • Teachers continue to try new digital platforms and links in addition to what was already in place • Thank you for your support :)

Social Representative- Deborah Bowers

- Recap of the Angel Tree and the Food Drive
 - Truckload of foods and clothes delivered
 - Great response to gift cards. Over \$1000 collected.
 - Great donations of winter hats that were hand knitted.
- Confirm our speakers and activities for Black History Month
 - Author Lawrence Hill. Parents came from America and started Black History society. We don't know the fee but will try to get this on honorarium.
 - I can bring forth other suggestions including orienting children to social activism.

Area Schools Representative – Heather Alousis

There is a chemical plant going ahead that can impact our air quality. Reach out if anyone's interested.

Fundraising – Leah Denov & Laura Driscoll

- Overview of funds raised from the auction
 - \$2125 ended up raising. Dropped the cheque off to Alison Koukal.

Kindergarten Representative – Tiago Do Couto

- Inviting the virtual students to the school assemblies
 - Through a separate email or making email more prominent
- Requesting Mike to do video for virtual families to connect with them; Mike will consider. Can share the existing link with virtual students.

New Motions/Other Business

We have a webmaster who is helping with SAC updates on the school website; Nadia will send a reminder.

The webmaster is redesigning the current platform which is causing the delays. Once the new platform is built, Nadia/Quathar can update things from their end easily.

Better days are coming. Meeting Adjourned at 7.59 PM