

WEST ROUGE JUNIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

Wednesday March 3rd 2021 – 7pm

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES

Attendees

Alison Haines, Alison Koukal, Carla Scirocco, Carm Graham, Celeste Richards, Deborah Bowers, Eric, Heather Alousis, Inder Singh, Jackie Ventresca, Jacqueline Abel, Laura Driscoll, Leah Denov, Mike Murphy, Nadia Taylor, Rebecca Forsey, Rupinder Brar, Stephanie Tomin, Tiago Do Couto, Trish, Vanessa Martin

Chair – Carla Scirocco

- Welcome
- Vote on Bylaws
 - Nadia moves, Leah Denov seconds, motion approved.
- Next Meeting
 - Wednesday, the 21st of April, 7 PM

Principal's Report – Michael Murphy

- Caring and Safe School Work Update
 - Celebrating Black History month and Chinese Heritage month here at West Rouge in February through discussions, lessons, activities in classes
 - Welcomed Jeff Martin here last Friday to speak to our grade 3-6 students with a powerful message that students can change the world and had examples of positive change students have made in their communities. Jeff is an award winning speaker, coach, and author. We hope to be able to welcome Jeff to our school in person after COVID.
 - We have received money to purchase texts written by Black, Indigenous, and Canadian People of Colour which will be part of a school-wide reading challenge this spring with the goal to promote family literacy while exposing students to a more diverse selection of texts and stories. Recent student surveys indicated that students feel that they do not see enough diversity reflected in the texts within the school so this is something we are actively looking to address with library and classroom resources. Mrs. Ventresca will share more information in her update.
- COVID Update
 - -Health and Safety protocols that we have been following all year remain in place now that we are back in person. These are developed by Toronto Public Health. This includes families conducting pre-screening each morning and signing the health pass,

parents/caregivers wearing masks on school property and students at all times inside, hand washing, cohorting, distancing as best we can, and remaining home if sick.

- Changes that were put in place with the re-opening include students wearing masks outside when distancing cannot be maintained and students must stay home if anyone in the home has symptoms.
 - If a student is exhibiting any COVID symptoms they must stay home for 10 days, receive a negative COVID test, or receive an alternate diagnosis from a doctor.
 - Asymptomatic testing is occurring in schools (about 5% of a Boards schools per week).
 - We have not received any indication if or when this may occur at our school. Parents are always informed ahead of time and parents must consent to the testing of their children.
 - As of this morning there were 173 active student cases and 25 active staff cases in the TDSB with one school closed.
- Budget Update
 - Since our last meeting we have placed the order for the 30 new Chromebooks courtesy of SAC and they have arrived. We now have a total of 60 brand new chromebooks in our school (30 from SAC, 30 from the TDSB in an effort to replace what was used last spring)
 - At this point we have made all purchases that were approved by SAC at the December 2nd meeting with exception of the teacher consumable fund as that is ongoing as receipts come in and the \$800 for grade 6 graduation (graduation meetings and planning begins on March 11 th) so that money will be allocated. There have been some savings for example we did not need to use \$3000 to purchase dash robot ipads.
 - Junior classes have many students bringing their own devices and have received some Chromebooks for those who are not routinely bringing a device so that gives ALL of our junior students a device to use each day. We have two sets of 20 chromebooks that our primary classes are now signing out as well as a class set of iPads. So there is amazing access to technology for all classes this year. We anticipate more students next year as those in virtual school will likely return to us so that will spread the tech out a bit more, but we are well positioned to continue giving all students regular access to new, up-to-date technology to learn with.
 - Screen time- we know that students and staff have endured significant screen time during closure period so this is something we are mindful of. Technology integration is different than remote learning as the tech is a tool to be used to help complete work but is not the sole teaching tool. Students are not looking at screens 100% of the time. Teachers will teach and students expected to look at the teacher, but have the technology to help with research, work processing etc. during work time. Allows teachers to share slides so students can review material if something was missed. Allows students to collaborate on a project with peers without physically being close to them as examples. There are also environmental, budget, and health/safety benefits as photocopying is reduced and therefore so is sharing of papers.
 - In addition, the dash robots are being signed out by classes to be used for coding and we have mousebots that are great to introduce our kindergarten students to coding.
 - I was asked by Carla and Stephanie about other spending we are looking to do at the school so a few areas I am looking at include:
SAC had talked last year about a primary ball net that is smaller than a basketball net

for our primary students but due to the closure that never happened last year
Discussion with some staff about allocating some money for gardens and/or a music wall for primary/FDK students

- Final Switch Date
 - The final opportunity to switch into or out of virtual school happened in mid-February. We had 6 students return from virtual school and 3 students decide to go to virtual school. These low numbers allowed for very minimal impact across our school.
 - The Board will not be offering any additional switches between the two learning models this year.
- Other items discussed
 - Possibility of using bigger rooms from grade 4 to 6. It is an options however large spaces like gym are already being used just not for a classroom.
 - Triple layered masks: While triple layered masks are recommended, policy allows students to bring a mask they like. We do have masks available at school which are triple layered.
 - We are number 5 on COVID community rating (highest); we suspect this is due to the long term care homes in our area that have been impacted disproportionately.

Treasurers - Alison Mitchell & Alison (Riley) Koukal

- Update on bank account balance: Without monies that are expected to be spent, we have expected balance of just under \$7900. Once we add \$2100 for Facebook fundraiser as well as other fundraisers, our balance would be \$12K. After removing committed monies that haven't been paid out, we are left with just under \$7900. Historically we have had \$5K in the bank towards fun fair. Holding back fun fair amount gives us \$2900.
- Trish Gordon: Still have plans to print the year book.
- The largest funding we need is for basketball net (app \$1200 + tax), Gardening/landscaping can be flexible based on budget.
- Leah: We could get a lot of stuff from donation. In terms of fundraising there are not very big ideas.
- Stephanie: we can take one last peek at tech and ensure we are covered. Also suggest using monies to enable kids to step out when its warm. Mike: we may need to talk about other tech next year. We have other aspects that we don't want to neglect – things we can do outside. We are looking at the gym equipment as well; it's been very well used.
- Rupinder: We should approve the nets for kindergarten. We could approve a budget now and then Mr Murphy can approve that for individual spends.
- **Budget approval for triple nets (approx. \$1200 +tax): Tiago motions, Deborah seconds; motion approved**
- **Discretionary amount for gardening: Rupinder suggests approving \$1000; Tiago moves the option, Stephanie seconds; motion approved.**
- Virtual fun fair as potential fundraiser? Mike: Fundraising can go ahead if it is virtual. But if people are expected to come in, then it's not possible.

Teacher Representative – Jackie Ventresca

Class/Club/Committee	Initiative	Purpose
Wellness Committee	West Rouge Tree of Life: Love and Honesty Spirit Badges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School wide focus based on the 7 Sacred Teachings • “Love” for Feb and “Honesty” for March • 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"> • Continued Staff PD of privilege and awareness lessons • Primary voice data collected (consistent findings, need to focus on diversity) • Junior Biography of Inspirational Black Canadians Celebration of Learning • BIPOC Canadian Literature Study for April (Primary and Junior Focus)
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 (open submission of work)
Teaching Practices	Technology in all classrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent access to chromebooks and ipads daily

Eco Team Representative – Rebecca Forsey

- Eco committee ideas:
 - Spring walk to school day
 - Spring clean the school yard with garbage count
 - We could invest in a small amount of gloves or reusable tongs for kids to use
 - Planning for gardens/planters
 - Exploring the idea of auctioning plants if permissible

We can begin to look at these more next month when the weather is more conducive.

Web Administrators - Nadia Taylor & Quathar Jacobs

- Website Revisions
 - The website has been updated
 - There are aspects teachers can use for their own announcements
 - On the background there are a lot of changes in the implementation.
 - We have a hidden fun fair/committee page. We can highlight any of these pages at any time.
 - There is a voting ability as well that we can experiment with.
 - As you think of this and there are questions, please let me know.

Health & Safety Representative- Jacqueline Abel

- The school is doing a lot to support students' health and wellbeing during the pandemic. The TDSB also has provided a number of resources and facilitated webinars for families. With the COVID-19 protocols in place, the SAC is limited in what we can offer. Previous events and activities were the School Wellness Day, At Home Alone and Babysitting workshops, as well as first aid and CPR. We have not shifted programs online, but this is an option, if we would like to do more. Examples are online cooking classes and virtual fitness challenges. We would have to balance the cost with interest and participation, being mindful of "Zoom fatigue". Suggestions and recommendations can be brought forward to Jacqueline Abel.

Meeting adjourned at 8.16 PM