

Plympton-Wyoming Public School Council Meeting Minutes

3rd Meeting: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 7pm - Virtually through Google Meet.

Attendance: Andy Parnham, Tressa Brown, Trina Nolan, Cheri Rondeau, Theresa Siertsema, Valerie Riess, Jennifer Richard and Afton Helps

Regrets: Ashley Armstrong, Sarena Potma

1. Welcome

2. Additions to the Agenda

3. Approval of Minutes

4. Reports – Principal’s Update

New Kindergarten students for September 2021

Families with kindergarten-aged students who may be beginning school next year, are encouraged to call the school to enable the school to start planning for the 2021-2022 school year.

Christmas for Everyone

The school has raised over 800 dollars now for Christmas for Everyone. It has been a very successful campaign.

Covid-19 screening

A reminder to always use the Covid-19 screening tool before sending students to school. The message will continue to come from the school to be vigilant in using the Covid-19 screening. It is very important to continue to screen students before coming to school. Everyone at the school is trying to remain diligent in reminding the kids about screening and about using the Covid-19 protocols. Everyone is working hard to try and keep everyone safe.

Attendance call out system

Beginning Tuesday Dec. 8th – as a part of the new student information system, there is now the ability to make automatic calls regarding student absences. Teachers will have 15 minutes to take attendance and then the system will start automatically begin calling the homes of the students who are absent with no reason having been provided to the school.

School messenger system

The school is also testing a new school messenger system that can send automated phone messages out to families.

Playground equipment/outdoor

The playground equipment is now closed for the winter. Students are reminded to remain in their cohorts while playing outside at recess.

Many of the snowbanks around the outside of the school property can get quite high. Students are reminded to stay off the snowbanks when walking to and from school so that they do not accidentally slide into oncoming traffic.

Vaccines

Students who normally get vaccinations at the school, specifically the grade 7/8 students will need to receive the vaccinations elsewhere this year, such as at a community clinic, as the Health Unit is not sending nurses in to do vaccinations at the school this year.

Sarnia and District Humane Society fundraiser

Ms. Wood and some of the staff have organized a Sarnia and District Humane Society fundraiser. Students are encouraged to bring in a picture of them with their pet or someone else's pet or send in a picture virtually. The pictures will be placed onto ornaments to be hung on the Christmas tree outside of the learning commons that was created by students in Mrs. Allen's class. Students are encouraged to bring in a loonie or toonie with their picture as well for the Sarnia Humane Society.

Outdoor classroom

The school is in the queue with LKDSB Building Services. Principal Parnham has not heard anything further after his initial conversations with them. The schools that have building projects to be done in the spring are already determined. Our school will not be in the spring group, but hopefully we can be in the group following that one.

Various locations have been proposed by staff. One location is in the back yard near the cluster of trees; however, the cluster of trees will be removed on Saturday as the trees are no longer living. The two back corners of the rear yard of the school were also suggested. A couple locations on the primary yard, off Niagara St., in the proximity of the garbage dumpster, but further over. Out front of the school is another suggested location as then the community could see the students and staff using the outdoor classroom. The location would be between the main entrance sidewalk and by the bike racks, in the current grassy area.

The hope is that the location of the outdoor classroom wouldn't interfere with the track and field setup or the cross-country tracks in the back field. Another suggestion was that if it was in the back field, then the students would be able to use it during recess. The teachers could also use it while other students in their class are using another part of the field. The outdoor classroom will be well used even if it's in the back corners of the yard, though it may be harder to supervise during recess. If it is in the south yard, it will be close to the soccer field, and if students are playing soccer it might interfere with the outdoor classroom. Another thought is that if the outdoor classroom is closer to the school, it might be subject to less chance of vandalism.

Council is encouraged to put some ideas together of what they would like to see for a possible outdoor classroom and what location they would prefer. It's good to have a few different areas picked out as the first choice isn't always possible. Council is encouraged to be ready with a plan for when the time comes so that we can work with the architect.

The prices that have been shared from other projects are significantly higher because the contractors are required to meet all the safety standards and requirements. For example, if armour stone is used, it

is not jagged and has to be fairly smooth. If logs are going to be used, then the logs must be specially treated and manufactured for a child and school type setting. There is an extra cost for these safety measures. Even woodchips must be specially treated which is part of the reason why we must go through LKDSB Building Services and the tendering process. Then an architect is brought on from an early stage to help plan the build. For these reasons, quotes often come in higher than many councils think they will. The Board tends to only move forward with a project when there are sufficient funds to pay for the project.

Council will continue to put funds in place for the outdoor classroom.

-Teacher Representative Update

Assemblies

Mrs. Brown shared that they are having a lot of fun at the school. The classes did a beautiful job with the Remembrance Day assembly. Every classroom showed different ways that they celebrated Remembrance Day.

The teachers continue to build into school assemblies and build school spirit. There are ongoing discussions and talks over activities that can be shown for a virtual assembly. Classes are looking at doing a bell song, a dance or even an oral presentation to be able to show during a virtual assembly. Classes may get together in small groups, virtually, to celebrate the holidays.

Spirit days

This Friday, December 4, 2020 is school spirit day. Wear wildcat wear or black and yellow/gold.

The last week of school before the Holiday Break there will be 2 spirit days.

Tuesday, December 15 will be wear holiday wear, bring it up in holiday fun clothing.

Friday, December 18 will be long winter's nap day – students can come dressed in cozy clothes or pyjamas. They can be Christmas themed or anything cozy and comfy. Students are still encouraged to dress appropriately in their outdoor clothing - snow pants and winter coat so they can be warm outside.

Coding week

Coding activities are being planned for coding week. Coding is part of the new math curriculum. Staff are excited about it and Mrs. Shain has been coming up with exciting coding activities. Each classroom is looking at different activities for coding week, some are online coding with apps and others are off-line coding; such as using a map of Wyoming and moving a car from one house to another to determine how many arrow steps to get the car from one place to another.

Mrs. Shain is leading the charge on coding. Coding has already been done in the school in the past with learning common activities with Osmo and Ozbot and Dash and Dot – different coding activities with robots.

House captains

House captains are planning an assembly for some sort of school spirit dance party to celebrate the holidays.

-Treasurer's report

Holiday Plant Fundraiser

The Holiday plant fundraiser was the only change in balance since the last council meeting. The current balance is \$4455.00. This means that the Holiday Plant fundraiser raised \$1307.64. It was a great fundraiser this year.

Degoey's : \$2500 worth of urns were sold.

Westland : \$1200 worth of plants were sold.

The teacher appreciation luncheon hasn't been taken out of the account yet.

Other expenses

In a normal year, council also pays for Grades 5-8 health classes, but we aren't sure if the Health unit is offering those programs this year.

In a normal year council also pays for the Medieval presentation for the Grade 4s, but it is unlikely that the program will run this year.

-Fundraising Update

Council is happy with how everything went with the holiday plant fundraiser. Council was surprised at the amount of planters ordered. Profits were between 7-8 dollars per planter.

One thing that was mentioned by a few people was that they wished that the dimensions of the planters had been mentioned, specifically the succulents. This information will be passed on to the planter providers.

A few people didn't show up to pick up their order so it took a couple days to get the orders to the right people.

5. New Business

No new business.

Lost and found question raised about how parents can find items that their children have lost. The lost and found is located between the double doors at the entrance to the school. Mrs. Brown suggested a virtual lost and found viewing, something like what they do in Kindergarten when they find a lost item of clothing. A virtual lost and found will be created to be shared with families so that parents can see if any of their child's items are there. This will be undertaken by Mrs. Brown.

6. Adjournment

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 9th at 7:00pm