

## Plympton-Wyoming Public School Council Meeting Minutes

**2nd Meeting: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 at 7pm - Virtually through Google Meet.**

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

### **1. Welcome**

### **2. Additions to the Agenda**

### **3. Approval of Minutes**

### **4. Reports – Principal’s Update**

#### Start of new Quadmester

Monday, November 16 is the start of the next quadmester, and parents have the opportunity to change their students from face to face to virtual learning or vice versa. These have been communicated to the school administration already and communication to those families who chose to switch schools will be sent out on Monday of next week (Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>).

Staff at the school will be finding out in the next little while if they have someone joining their class or if someone in their class will be moving to the virtual school. At this point there shouldn't be any significant changes to the school. No reorganization of school classes will have to take place. Movement is fairly minimal and there shouldn't be a lot of student disruption. Monday November 16 is when students who are moving will begin in their new classes.

#### Teacher appreciation luncheon

Mr. Parnham passed on a thank you from the teachers and staff for the appreciation luncheon. It was well received by staff. A thank you note from the school was also sent to Mrs. Helps for the school council.

Foodland will send the receipt to the school to be reimbursed by the school council account.

#### FDK initial observations, ALLP and Grade 1-8 Progress Reports

FDK initial observations, ALLP and Grade 1-8 Progress Reports go home on Friday, November 13, 2020. Please know that with the new student information system this year, staff are using a new reporting system, so it has been a lot of changes. The reporting system looks different and data input is different as well. Everyone is working hard to make the reports as polished as they usually are, however, there are many kinks with the reporting system that are still being worked out, in regards to spacing and comments, so they may not be as polished as they have been in the past.

#### Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent-teacher interviews look different this year. Normally a preference form goes home and interviews were on a specified day and a half but this year it's a little different. The teachers will be coordinating interview times with parents. Possible methods of communication include phone or Google Meet. Teachers will be communicating these directly to parents.

### Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is next Wednesday, and classes will be doing something virtually to acknowledge Remembrance Day.

### Treaties Recognition week

For Treaties Recognition week students have been learning about treaties through our indigenous education focus.

### Bus safety and evacuation training

Bus safety looks different this year because there used to be two classes at a time that would go through the bus training on the bus, but this year only one class can be on a bus at a time. The busses are being disinfected between cohorts. Only students in Jk through grade 3 will be doing the evacuation on the bus. The older grades are receiving a link for the training information.

### Upcoming dates

Friday, November 6 is Disney Day

Monday, November 9 – There are outdoor education activities for some classes planned through St. Clair Conservation Authority

Monday, November 9 – Holiday Fundraiser closes

Friday, November 13 – Progress Reports go home

November 16-20 - Bullying awareness and prevention week – There are many education pieces that go along with this week.

Tuesday, November 17 – LKDSB's Parental Involvement Committee is hosting a virtual presentation by leadership and relationship expert and author Dr. Karyn Gordon on "Building Confidence" from 7pm-8:30pm.

-Mrs. Brown put in a good word for the presentation. In her opinion it would be a good session for parents to take in before their children are teens.

Friday, November 20 – P.D. day, no school for students

Thursday, November 24 - Holiday Fundraiser item pick up

Thursday, November 24 – For parents of Grade 8 students on IEPs, there will be an optional virtual information session.

### Christmas for everyone

This year the Christmas for Everyone campaign will be done a little differently. All fundraising must be done through School Cash Online. Mrs. Shain who normally organizes this campaign at Plympton-Wyoming looked to see how we could do donations differently this year and similar to other schools, the donations will be made through Spirit days. (Of course, every child is welcome to participate in Spirit Days whether or not they send in a donation.) The fundraising is off to a good start, there have been a

few sizable donations already. Christmas for Everyone also was in contact with the school and let them know that they need things early this year to help because of Covid restrictions.

A local church that is always very willing to help our school families over the holidays has decided because of Covid, that this year they will be donating to Christmas for Everyone and the Petrolia Foodbank and count on those organizations to help families who may be in need over the holidays.

#### **-Teacher Representative Update**

Mrs. Brown shared that everything is going so well with the virtual adaptations. These adaptations are one way that the teachers can continue to make the school feel like a community.

2 weeks ago the school held its first virtual school assembly. Each class joined a Google Meet and they were able to introduce the House captains online and as well as introduce the new JKs to their House Colour teams. Each colour group got a chance to dance together virtually. It was great fun and the students enjoyed seeing each other and dancing. There was also a scavenger hunt with questions such as “find something in your desk that is your house colour” or “find something that starts with the first of your name” and the students got points for their House colour teams.

During various activities, classes will have Google Meets between classes to allow classes to continue to build community. Reading buddies and math activities have been happening between older and younger classes together.

Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Winder’s classes had a Google Meet with a local artist who taught about the different treaties and what they mean and then the classes did different paintings related to what they learned. Now Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Winder’s classes are doing Google Meets with other classes in the school to pass on what they learned about treaties.

Students are interacting through Google Meets and students are still feeling a sense of community. Every teacher and every student is working to make this a fun, enjoyable and personable year.

Grade 8 captains are excited to keep the spirit days going. Friday is Disney Day. Grade 7&8 students want to present and spread a positive message to everyone to continue to show what a great school we have and even though we are divided we are still together.

#### **-Treasurer’s report**

There is no activity to report.

Currently there is \$3147.07 in the school council fund. The staff appreciation luncheon will still come out.

#### **5. New Business**

Teacher wish lists and big-ticket items:

-Mrs. Winder – outdoor classroom

-Mrs. Brown – MAKE DO – It is a STEM accessory. These screws and pieces go together and instead of using tape you can screw them in, and it teaches students more about construction. They can be used to build anything. They can create 3D solids in the older grades, which can be easier to do with the nuts,

bolts and screws. There are two different sets, primary and junior. If you go to the STEM ideas page it is #2 on the what to purchase list. The items would go into the learning commons so that everyone can use it. They are plastic so they can be sanitized and cleaned.

INVENT has a junior version and a primary version – one set of each would be enough fasteners. The prices vary but are appropriately \$150 per kit.

-Mrs. Lynch asked for a science kit related to electricity and magnetism and for some specialty art supplies.

A question was raised about whether items like the MAKE DO kits and the science/art kits need to be ordered through an approved vendor. The answer was that if the items are not carried by one of the Board approved vendors, then we can purchase the items online. Ms. Wood has done that in the past, for example with stools that were needed, when given the go ahead from the purchasing department.

### Outdoor classroom

In order to begin preparations for an outdoor classroom we need to have a significant dollar base. An outdoor classroom will cost a lot, the number \$10 000 was thrown out as how high the cost could be. It was mentioned as well that many of the local landscaping companies have been on the Board approved vendor list previously.

Council decided to take the first step toward beginning the process of the creation of an outdoor classroom.

Step 1: Mr. Parnham will contact Building Services through the Board to start the ground work and report back to council. Ultimately Building Services will decide whether the project is a go and where it could be located. They also have regulations that must be followed when making changes to school property.

Council would like the teachers to have input as to where they think the outdoor classroom should be located – if location is approved by Building Services.

In the picture of the outdoor classroom, the rocks are big enough that in a normal school year with no Covid restrictions, they could seat 2 students. There are 2 curved rows of rocks and then a rock in the middle, likely for the teacher or presenter.

Building services might suggest that if the outdoor classroom isn't directly on grass, that they would prefer it to be on mulch and not stone, depending on what meets the safety regulations.

It will not be a quick process.

Fundraising ideas were brought up, such as an auction or a raffle. These are permitted as long as the school has a lottery licence and there are rules to follow as well. Also, we must be cognisant of safe pick up of items because of Covid. At South Plympton there was a raffle fundraiser where classroom baskets were put together and raffled off.

Donations to school council are ok as long as they meet the Board donation approved guidelines.

It was noted that Merlin Public School recently got a new outdoor classroom. Council was going to have a look at their design as well.

It was decided that a decision on fulfilling the teachers' wish lists would be postponed until December's council meeting to give council time to decide whether to fund teachers' requests or to begin to save the funds to meet a larger goal of building an outdoor classroom in the near future.

## **6. Adjournment**

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 7pm - Virtually on Google Meet