

Plympton-Wyoming P.S. School Council Meeting Minutes

1st Meeting: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 7pm - Virtually through Google Meet.

Attendance: Andy Parnham, Tressa Brown, Trina Nolan, Afton Helps, Cheri Rondeau, Ashley Armstrong, Theresa Siertsema

Regrets: Sarena Potma

1. Welcome

2. Additions to the Agenda

3. Approval of Minutes

4. Reports – Principal’s Update – Mr. Parnham

Class organization

There are currently 220 students at the school. The student numbers continue to fluctuate between Plympton-Wyoming P.S. and the Virtual Learning Elementary School.

Breakdown of classes are currently as follows:

Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Hendra’s JK/SK has 12 JKs and 7 SKs.

Ms. Monk and Ms. Crooks’ JK/SK has 8 JKs and 9 SKs.

Mrs. Shain’s SK/1 has 9 SKs and 8 Grade 1s

Mrs. Janzen’s Grade 1/2 has 12 grade 1s and 8 grade 2s

Mrs. Wilcox’s Grade 2/3 has 6 grade 2s and 14 grade 3s

Mrs. Cran’s Grade 3/4 class has 7 grade 3s and 16 grade 4s

Mrs. Winder’s Grade 4/5 has 11 grade 4s and 16 grade 5s

Mrs. Allen’s Grade 5/6 has 7 grade 5s and 15 grade 6s

Mrs. Lynch’s Grade 6/7 has 6 grade 6s and 18 grade 7s

Mr. Brydges’ Grade 7/8 has 5 grade 7s and 18 grade 8s

Mrs. Gordon’s ALLP class has 8 students.

Questions

The question was raised about whether parents have had a lot of questions for the school.

Principal Parnham shared that most questions from parents center around the playground and inquiries about where students are allowed to play as well as many questions regarding the COVID screening protocol. Initially there were also some questions regarding bussing.

COVID screening tool

A new COVID screening protocol was just received, however it is likely to change again.

Any parent that calls regarding a child's symptoms are encouraged to use the screening tool and follow the direction of the screening tool.

Communication continues to be put out regarding the ever-changing protocols.

-Teacher Representative Update – Mrs. Brown

House colours

This year there are still 5 House Colours, but there are 12 captains. There were many eager senior students who wanted to be House captains, so this year some House Colours have 3 captains and others have 2.

The first House Colour day was Wildcat Wednesday last week.

The House captains are working hard to come up with different ways to do different activities.

The staff are also exploring ways to do remote assemblies through Google Meets. Mrs. Shain has been able help get all the teachers onto a Google Meet so that the classes can interact with each other through their SMART Boards.

House captains are creating videos to share with the students. They will only be shown in the classroom right now.

Tomorrow is Orange Shirt Day. It is a day of awareness, therefore, there will be no House Colour points awarded.

There are, however, 3 House colour days coming up in October. There will be the first House Colour day, a Wildcat Wednesday and near the end of the month a Halloween apparel or orange and black day.

The House captains are also exploring how outdoor dance parties can happen with class cohorts.

-Treasurer's report

Currently there is a new student information system and it has been posing some challenges; therefore, we weren't able to print a current treasurer's report.

There was a closing balance of \$2550. No transactions have happened to date. This at least gives us an idea of where we are starting off this year.

-Fundraising update

No fundraising update.

5. Elections

Afton Helps is our Chair

Ashley Armstrong is our Alternate

No treasurer right now.

Theresa Siertsema is the secretary

Tressa Brown is the teacher representative.

Next meeting dates:

Tuesday November 3rd, 2020

Tuesday December 1st, 2020

Tuesday February 9th, 2021

Tuesday April 6th, 2021

Tuesday May 25th, 2021

6. New business

Water

A question was raised about whether there are ways for kids to get water if they forget or lose their water bottle. The question was followed up with a generous offer to donate a case of bottled water for each class and whether that would be welcomed.

Principal Parnham replied that there are some plastic cups in the office that kids can use to fill with water at the water filling stations. There is also some bottled water at the office as well. The water at the office isn't advertised but is there if anyone is in need. The school also purchased a few water bottles to give to students that needed one. Donated water is welcomed.

Spirit wear

In the past School Council have ordered Spirit wear from Sewlutions. Unfortunately, Sewlutions are no longer on the LKDSB approved vendor list, and as a result School Council can no longer purchase from them.

World Teacher Appreciation Day – October 5th

Normally School Council has food of some sort brought into the school to show appreciation to the staff. This year, instead of doing platters of food, perhaps council could do individual wraps for the teachers. There could be an order form for the teachers to be able to choose what kind of wrap or salad that they would like. The food items need to be individually packaged to follow the COVID restrictions.

Afton is willing to go to Foodland to see what is possible and if we can create an order form.

Principal Parnham confirmed that there are 26 staff in total.

Fundraising thoughts

We are currently allowed to continue with fundraising. There are a few reminders about fundraising such as there must be a specific cause that we are fundraising for which must be communicated to the

school community. It also needs to align with the School Board's philosophy, policies and procedures. All fundraising must also meet all the COVID protocols.

The question was raised that if the schools close, will fundraisers need to be cancelled. Principal Parnham replied that he is unsure, however, last time when the schools closed, fundraisers were able to be continued if it was possible under the circumstances, with all the restrictions and following COVID protocols.

Fundraisers can only be done through School Cash Online and perhaps short-term fundraisers might be best.

Last year School Council used Westland Greenhouse for succulents and urns. It was a successful fundraiser and it might be a good one to move forward with.

It could be done as a Holiday fundraiser again.

Perhaps this year it would make sense to have a different location than the school to pick up. We may also have to stagger pick up times so that there aren't too many people coming to pick up their order at the same time, or perhaps it could be a drive-through pick up.

Fundraising goals need to be decided. The reminder to be cognizant of how much we are asking families for as well, was mentioned.

Donations

If parents want to contribute to the school in other ways, parents can still bring donated items as long as it meets the Board's Donation procedures. For example, the school was able to accept a donation of new cloth masks.

Another question was raised about items that teachers need to have replenished this year. Perhaps there are some items that are being used up quickly this year or have become a need with the new protocols? Principal Parnham shared that the school has purchased some new art supplies to be used in each class with the prep teacher instead of shared art supplies that the prep teacher would bring to each class.

Teachers have noticed that Kleenex is being used a lot, more Kleenex is always helpful. Hand sanitizer is being used rapidly as well. Big bottles of hand sanitizer would be very useful. There are; however, certain criteria need to be met in terms of donated items such as hand sanitizer, etc.

Sanitizing stations will be mounted in the hallways in various places. The stations are coming but haven't arrived yet. Currently there are desks situated around the school with bottles of hand sanitizer on them.

A suggestion for more donated snacks was brought up as it seems as though students are still adjusting to the new routine of eating at set times; however, donated snacks must also follow the nutritional and current health and safety guidelines, and must be individually packaged.

Technology

Some new iPads were recently distributed, but there may be a need for new technology.

Outdoor fundraising thoughts

Mrs. Brown suggested that it might be nice to have a ball throw for the kindergarten outdoor area. A ball throw is similar to a basketball net but for smaller students. The ball goes in and then can come out one of a few holes.

A suggestion was given to fundraise for an outdoor classroom.

Another suggestion was to get "Buddy rocks" for the yard. These are rocks students can play on or sit on when they don't have a friend to play with. If a student is alone on a buddy rock it clues the other students in to encourage that student to join in their play with them.

Outdoor activities or play equipment often take awhile to become a reality. Often a site plan design needs to be made, even for something like a ball throw. Big changes also must go through LKDSB Building Services which can take awhile as well.

It was said that perhaps this year would be the perfect year to enhance the outdoor space at the school.

Perhaps teachers could share what they would like in the yard, and then council could come up with a plan and then pass the plan to Principal Parnham to send to LKDSB Building Services.

Overall feeling at the school

A question was raised about what the overall feeling at the school is about all the new protocols and everything new.

Mrs. Brown shared that things are different, but it is not negative. Teachers are adaptive. They modify and accommodate to follow all the rules set out, but they are still finding ways to have those moments that count with the students. Even in pictures students are finding other ways to show their excitement despite wearing masks and social distancing.

Principal Parnham shared that things are starting to feel like school again, even though it is different. There was a learning curve for the beginning as everyone had to figure out what their new norm is. It seems now that students and staff are finding their place within the new normal.

7. Adjournment

Next meeting: Tuesday November 3rd, 2020 at 7pm - Virtually on Google Meet