

## **Parent Council Oct. 5, 2021 2 6:30 pm Virtual on TEAMS**

### **Welcome & Introduction of current members (new members always welcome)**

**Attendance: Ann Balkwill, Chantelle Lumley, Deb Roberts, Kristen Newman, Nicole Janisse, Paula Deboer, Rebeca, Devon Core**

**Chair of Student Council** - only one nomination, Bev W. (accepted the position)

**Secretary/Minutes** – Paula D. offered in future, Devon C. Tonight, Chantelle L. offered to take a turn as well in future

### **Safe return to school**

- enhanced cleaning -some custodial staff specifically for this
- Hand hygiene – lots of hand washing and hand sanitizer
- Cohorting of students -can't be together inside, but joined with one other class at recess (except 1 class)
- Physical Distancing -challenge at time with # students and spacing. Doing best to facilitate this as much as possible (and good hand hygiene when sharing materials and Physical distance not possible)

### **Visitors to School**

- All must follow PPE (medical mask)
- One time visitor doesn't have to disclose vaccination
- Frequent visitors (with direct contact of students and staff) must disclose vaccination status
- Volunteers must show vaccination proof

### **Classroom Organization**

- 348
- Had some reorganization that had to occur due to changes in enrolment
- Only one grade assignment change to SK/1
- Some more movement in FI (15-16 kids had to be shuffled), approx. 16 students in English also had to be reorganized.

### **September PA Days**

- Had 2 PA days with staff prior to start of school
- Good as staff to come together to talk about H&S for pandemic, mental health supports, student re-engagement, student achievement, cyber bullying, anti sex trafficking (what it looks like, signs to watch for, hotlines need to be aware of) , equity and anti-oppressive education (indigenous, anti-racism, etc.)

### **Truth & Reconciliation Week (Sept. 27-Oct. 1)**

- Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> -National Day
- Orange Shirt Day recognized Sept. 30
- Used variety of resources provided by indigenous lead teacher at LKDSB

- School community made large orange shirt and then each student put their own orange shirt on the bigger one
- Learning was for all grades appropriate to their level of understanding
- In a kindergarten class, taught kids their Indigenous name and that their name is important, then tied orange ribbon onto fence as reminder of our past for all
- Still much to learn as educators and listen to indigenous voices
- Sharing of learning examples
- See newsletter for further information about occurrences for Truth & Reconciliation day/week
- Q re: land acknowledgement change A: There are a couple versions (shorter to longer), we decided to read the longer version this year now that the kids have learned more about the importance of the acknowledgement.

### **Sense of Belonging**

- Mental Health & re-engagement of students was one discussion at PA day
- Staff decided they wanted to dive deeper with this. “If you don’t have their hearts, you’ll never get their heads”. They need to know they belong before you can teach them.
- Everyday Mental Health Classroom Resources (also found in October newsletter) -different activities that can be done
- Focused on the first 10 days of school with different “themes” to help students settle back into school. Staff committed to the first 10 days of activities with the students. Some will keep this for other years
- Collaborative school project -showcase sense of belonging. Multi-disciplinary team talked about idea where classes could create something that symbolized “sense of belonging”. Wanted kids to see that they matter and belong in the school (unique, special).
- Student Wellness Council (intermediate students so far) will be doing special activities and announcements.
- Sampling of examples were shown to parent council of school wide project found around school
- Q: how did the students in upper grades respond? A: Seemed to have great conversation and participation

### **Climate Survey**

- Voluntary opportunity for anyone to participate (mandatory for school board to have every 2 years)
- Feedback overall about the school climate
- Help understand what supports needed in the school and how to move forward
- Pulse on how kids are feeling

### **COVID Protocols (Sick Students)**

- Parents reminded to use pre-screener every morning before school (green = go to school)
- If sick in day, student goes to “isolation” (empty classroom) then parent called to pick up
- If +ve case present, vaccination status is key to staying in person
- If +ve in older grades then if fully vaccinated (and no symptoms) can likely stay in person, otherwise need to go home (same for staff)

- Online learning platforms are ready to go and can pivot to online in a day's notice

### **Wish List for the School**

Building services wants feedback:

- What part of facility makes you proud (don't want to lose or more schools should have)? Staff ideas: Woodlot and trail are response from staff
- Realistic wish list for facility? Staff ideas: -glass backboards, outdoor covered pavilion
- One item Love to see in school (think big)? Staff ideas: outside volleyball court, full scale basketball court outside
- Anyone with ideas, welcome to send to Ann Balkwill and she will take to her meeting next week with the staff "wish list"

### **New items ordered last year for school**

- Spike ball (kids take out for recess, students love!)
- 4 square volleyball nets (kids love it, not easy to put up/take down, but kids have been responsible about it and enjoying it)

### **Tentative next meeting**

- Tuesday, November 16 at 6:30 pm can maybe do in person (will decide as we get closer)

### **Any questions?**

Comment: Thank you for sharing what's going on in the school. Since parents can't currently go into the school it is nice to see what the climate is like there.

Q: Back baseball diamond bench -vandalism has been noted A: will take care of as soon as possible, thanks for bringing to their attention

Q: Fundraising goals? A: need to have a fundraising goal, unsure about field trips, etc. Can talk about needs for school (technology, big wish list items, etc.) school could maybe raise funds for these types of things. Can discuss at later date once year gets underway further.