Sir Alexander Mackenzie Senior PS

School Advisory Council Meeting – via ZOOM

November 17, 2020 @ 6:30pm

AGENDA:

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Principal’s Report

- Terry Fox Walk – Donation

- Beyond 8, Choices for 9

- Progress Report

- Parent/Teacher Interviews

- TPH Liaison Nurse Visit

3. Toronto Public Health Presentation – Catherine Lee

4. School Statement of Needs

5. Parent Concern Protocol

6. Parent/School Communication

7. School Budget

8. Date of Next Meeting – January 26. 2021

MINUTES:

1. Welcome & Introductions

There were 29 participants, including Ms. Iacobucci, Mr. Valles, Bessie Moranas [Chair], and in-person + virtual school parents.

2. Toronto Public Health Presentation – by Catherine Lee [SAM’s TPH Liaison Nurse]

Catherine visited SAM on Friday 13 November, 2020 and was pleased to see staff + students doing well. Face masks were being worn by all, including outside. She did a PowerPoint presentation, which she will send to Mary Ann to be shared. The presentation was very comprehensive, including:

- A team of Communicable Disease Investigators or Contact Tracers will follow-up when there is a positive case(s) or outbreak.

- Methods of transmission – indirect contact, direct contact, + droplets from coughing or sneezing.

- Importance of washing hands properly; face masks when in the community + not just at school.

- TPH protocol:

- 2 groups of symptoms and actions depend upon which group your symptom(s) fall into.

- Return to school – TDSB requires the completion of the Back to School Confirmation Form. No doctor’s note is required.

- Close vs Not Close Contact with a Covid +ve person, and what to do. The different scenarios were reviewed, including who should self-isolate, for how long, and how to self-isolate.

- Mental health concerns, and how to help teens manage stress + anxiety. She pointed out that walking and biking to/from school is a helpful strategy.

- There are many resources available to help us get through this pandemic, including the Covid Alert App which we are all encouraged to use.

3. School Statement of Needs – by Bessie Morana

The proposed SSON was shared and participants were invited to share comments + ideas. A few points that were made included:

- The draft comments on there being a large population of Mandarin speaking in our community. There was a concern that there may be other large groups that we should be ensuring we are communicating with. Ms. Iacobucci mentioned Cantonese + Tamil but will check and send the information to Bessie by the end of the week.

- A parent requested that “cultural education” be included in the SSON, and this was supported by other participants. In order to save time, it was decided that the parents would discuss this and send the information back to Ms. Iacobucci. Ms. Iacobucci offered to discuss with Mr. Valles the logistics of sharing parent email addresses.

4. Virtual School Parent Concern

A parent expressed concern that her child was falling behind the in-person school children in French. The virtual school French teacher was only present for 1 week, and has been off on medical leave the rest of the time. Ms. Iacobucci shared that other parents have expressed the same concern to her. The parent was encouraged to phone Ms. Iacobucci to discuss this individually with her.

5. School Budget – by Ms. Iacobucci

SAM’s budget for 2020-2021 is $51 570 and is based upon the number of in-person students. Ms. Iacobucci is asking for ideas of what to spend the money on. In the past, about 5% was spent on technology and Ms. Iacobucci’s goal is to have enough chrome books so that the technology to student ratio is 1:2. Other items that the budget is typically spent on include classroom supplies (pens, paper, etc.), gym equipment, taking students to events, and textbooks. A parent asked about a virtual library and Ms. Iacobucci shared that the students can use the TDSB virtual library. She will ask teachers to remind students how to access the virtual library. Unfortunately, due to lack of time, the meeting was moved to the next item.

6. Beyond 8, Choices for 9 – by Ms. Iacobucci

Guidance councillors normally assist students in preparing for grade 9. However, the guidance councillors have been moved into vitual teaching positions so are not available this year. Students are encouraged to check the Beyond 8 website + myBlueprint.ca. Students will be supported by their classroom teachers and other school based staff.

7. Next meeting will be January 26, 2021.

8. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.