

School Council Minutes

November 3, 2020

Present: Irama Ahmed, Minakshi Das, Nadira Soud, Nancy Kim, Sarah Butterwick, Trisha Quammie, Patrick Boland (CSW), Andrée Alexander (teacher rep.), Sherron Grant (Principal) and Ann Marie Romanovich (Vice-Principal)

Introduction

Welcome back to 2020 year

No set agenda for tonight's meeting as the priority is to determine the school council and elect members for the executive positions for the 2020-21 year

Afterwards Sherron will present the Principal's Report and Patrick will look at the School Statement of Needs (SSON)

Nominations and Election

Nadira Soud nominated for treasurer

Nancy Kim sent in her nomination for treasurer

Minakshi Das & Irama Ahmed nominated for co-chairs

Members of the School Advisory Council- those parents/guardians who are here tonight will be the general voting members for 2020-21 year

Description and Elections for Executive Positions:

Chair/Co-chair- works with members of the executive to set the agenda, contact between the school and parents to make change for betterment of all students in the school

Treasurer- looks at items coming in and out of the financial account by pairing with our Office Administrator

Secretary- takes minutes for our meetings and sends to the Principal, minutes are posted on the school website and are posted on the School Council bulletin board

Nominees for election spoke, sharing their skills and desire to run for council

Elected Co-Chairs: Minakshi Das (Fl) & Irama Ahmed (Eng)

Treasurer: Nadira Soud

Secretary: Sarah Butterwick

Everyone who attended the meeting was asked to e-mail their name, current contact # and preferred e-mail address to Ms. Grant

Principal's Report (Sherron Grant)

Council is not just fundraising; important to understand how the school and school advisory council work together

Parents are here for school interests and to represent the school community

TDSB Committees with School Council representation:

- Safe & Caring Schools
- Budget
- Staffing Committee
- School Improvement Planning

Pillars for School Improvement planning: achievement, equity & well-being

Students have adjusted to physically returning to the building; proper protocols are in place; students are used to the new protocols with masks and handwashing

Special Education team is creating calming kits per student; students taught how and when to use the kits

Money spent on technology; projectors to access videos and online resources

We had 1 outbreak with Covid positive case however it didn't involve any students

Teachers need to be ready to teach remote at any time; Google classrooms are set up

Gift of 10 student chromebooks from a youth initiative

Chromebooks: 2 carts on the second floor and 1 on the first floor
i-pads for primary and FDK use

Every child has access to technology

Ms. Naik (music teacher) & Ms. Romanovich are working on an application for a grant from Music Counts

EQAO is cancelled for grade 3 this year

We have completed Canadian Achievement Test for students in Grades 2, 4 & 5

We have not heard about Universal Screening for gifted testing for grade 3

Any moves of students from physical school to virtual school has been moved to February

Safe & Caring Accepting Schools

Mme Alexander, Ms. Grant & Ms. Romanovich are a part of the committee as well as the co-chairs

We are starting Mindful Minutes in class and school-wide
Opportunity to focus students and centre themselves for learning
Community circles in the class for discussions, calming kits, DPA sessions to meet the students' needs
Teachers have built in time to allow students to share how they are feeling re: Covid

Staffing

Lost 3 teachers after the realignment on October 13th: French Immersion SK (1 teacher), Grade 2 French Immersion (1 teacher) & English primary track

Some staff have been moved to virtual school
We don't know what January will hold

Budget

Last year= \$73 000
This year 2020-21 is \$41 000
There is a \$12 000 carry over

Decrease in budget amount is due to having 200 less students
We are using money to continue to support school improvement plan
After technology we don't have any big-ticket items to purchase
No field trip or busing
Status quo with budget spending for remaining items this year
Math Strategy monies are still TBD
Model Schools monies are still TBD

6 cameras were installed
2 additional card reader access points were installed
Personal protective equipment (PPE) does not come out of school budget

Teacher professional development and release time- we will not be spending money there this year;
difficult in our call out system to get teachers for supply work; very tough to get French-qualified teachers

Teachers are meeting at lunch and their prep-time to support student learning needs and a continuum of learning

Extracurricular activities- none this year

Summer school was very successful and popular this year (July 2020); many French students participated

Parent thanked the school and staff for the learning opportunities and support being provided since the return to school

Community Support Worker (Patrick Boland)

Presented the School statement of Needs (SSON)

All community support workers are currently working on a parent survey that will be sent out; asking parents to identify 2/3 issues they would like to have brought forward

Link to the survey will be provided

Issues that are relevant and pertaining to parents (e.g., mental health, Anti-Black & Indigenous racism education, accessing community resources, navigating the school system)

The Role of the Community Support Workers (CSW's):

- have all Learning Centres & network areas connected across the TDSB (especially since CSW's are not in schools this year)
- talk to parents
- provide and share resources with parents
- easy to find resources & links
- safety, mental health, homework tips, mental health, skill development

Due to COVID, CSW's can collaborate with other schools via Zoom meetings (e.g., Elia M.S., Brookview M.S., Driftwood, Lamberton)

Different Learning Centres are collaborating

There are 6 Community Support Workers

PIAC Conference; November 21st & 22nd

Service Canada website link (Nov. 11th)

Everyone can participate in various school workshops

Ask parents, friends, or neighbours to participate as we can reach out more with virtual platform

Brightspace presentation from Community Support Workers

Future School Advisory Council Meetings:

Minimum of 4 meetings/year

Tuesday meetings: November 3, 2020; February 23, 2021; April 6, 2021 & June 1, 2021