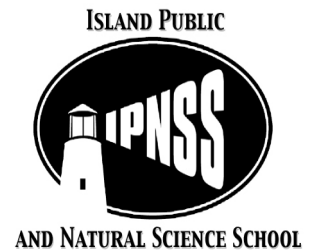




Island Public / Natural Science School

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Island Public/Natural Science School Caring, Safe, and Accepting Schools Committee

Tuesday January 31, 2023
11:45 am - 12:45 PM

Present: Gary Pieters, Cori MacFarlane, Joel Seaman, Maggie Maloney, Brooke Mann, Chantal Regimbal, Kasia Blaszak, Michael Miller, Kate Valiquette, Adelle Karim, Jeffrey Mclaughlin

Minutes recorded by Joel Seaman

Agenda and Minutes:

- Welcome and Introductions
 - Purpose/Mandate of Caring, Safe and Accepting Schools Committee
 - Frequency of Meetings (4 Meetings for 2022-2023)
 - Current Initiatives and Possibilities
 - Discussion – Feedback, Suggestions and/or Concerns
 - Next Steps
 - Adjournment
- *Minutes will be on school site by end of day*

Welcome and Introductions

- Meeting started with introductions. Each participant shared brief self-introductions

Purpose, Scope and Parameters of the Committee

- Gary read TDSB requirement for each school to have a Caring, Safe, and Accepting Schools Committee

Frequency of Meetings and Time of Day

- Discussion on number of meetings and whether 4 meetings was a good goal. Consensus that we will continue with 4, unless more are needed on a case-by-case basis.
- Gary asked about meeting time - do we prefer lunch or after school? Staff prefer at lunch; parents are happy to go with what works for teachers (thank you!!!)
- Next meeting will be Tuesday Feb 21 at 11:45 am

Current Initiatives

- Gary outlines existing caring, safe, and accepting schools practices already in place at IPNSS: These include...
- 3 fire drills completed (September - December 2022). 3 more planned in the coming months

- Upcoming lockdown/hold and secure drills (details coming soon). By next meeting we will have lockdown/hold and secure drill completed, and we will be able to share contingency plan for if we cannot access school due to bus cancellations or ferry service suspension, and revised emergency evacuation plan
- Student medical needs including Anaphylaxis/Medical Alerts posted in office in a location accessible to staff working with the students
- Working on new 'severe weather' and contingency plans for ferry/bus cancellations
- Supervision on playground - Gary fills in gaps where needed
- Island Public/Natural Science School has 7 exterior cameras/video surveillance at the front and back entrances/exits, and the bus loading zone. If wanted/needed, we can look into hall cameras in the future. Doors are locked and access cards for staff, along with a buzzer at the front entrance serves that allows the office to screen anyone accessing the school through the main office.
- Would like more volunteers in school, TDSB requires a police record check
- Student voice matters, would like to include students in these meetings moving forward
- Bus safety: sent online link to each classroom for bus safety presentation
- Ferry safety – ongoing
- Heritage months – recognition of heritage months and themes as a way to foster a culture of respect for all diversities, and for the school events to be reflective of the strength of our diversities
- Safe and Accepting schools also looks at equity, ensuring school is a welcoming and inclusive space for students, staff, and families of all diversities

Questions and Response/Discussion Points

- Gary takes questions from the committee
- Questions from Kate re: ferry safety and bus safety, do bus drivers help with bus evacuation? Is it possible to organize something with the Toronto Island Ferry on how to put on life jacket/where they are located? Potential for parent volunteers on ferry? Wonders about dedicated ferry just for students - this was a focus before, is it still being looked at?
- Gary responds: Yes, we can schedule K-6 bus drills with buses and drivers during the day - can get started next week. Ferry staff have visited school in the past - we will look into having this again, Gary will email them to find out more information about scheduling presentations on ferry safety, and will inform parents when it is happening. Gary is responsive to the idea of extra supervision on the ferry commute, and explained that the more community members available to ensure a pleasant and safe ferry commuting experience, the better it will be for school and student safety. We will need to wait for police volunteer checks to come through. With regards to dedicated service, the delay in securing new ferries is a pressure point, and the city has not yet acquired new boats, and there have been no significant movement so far, in terms of a dedicated school ferry. Currently, IPS students have priority boarding on the Toronto Island Ferry during school commuting hours at 8:15 am; 9:00 am and 3:45 pm, meaning that our students are able to board first before the general public who also commutes to the Toronto Island by ferry. Kate asks about getting a designated time for our school as our school numbers are currently over winter boat capacity. Jeffrey wonders if numbers are split because Kinder and Siblings travel together. Kate says this is not happening at the end of day commute, only in the morning. Gary clarifies we do not have enough staff

supervision to split students in the PM the way we do in the AM. Gary will continue to have discussions about Winter ferry capacity, and is receptive to discussions pertaining to whether we want staggered return home schedules for the next school year (2023-24). The capacity on the Toronto Island Ferry Winter vessel 'Ongiara' is 220 individuals. Kate wonders if we can have designated time so that non-IPS commuters are not faced with an over capacity boat and left behind to wait for the next ferry. Gary recognizes this is difficult for Island residents as well as city workers. Another option would be to use the Billy Bishop Airport with the school buses shuttling students across the airport runway, and driving to Westin (as a designated drop off and pick up area for city-side students). We are open to discussing this idea, without committing, as this would have to be one that requires additional layers of decision making at the Senior TDSB level, and the Ports Toronto leadership.

- Kasia asks about days of recognition - last year we would work on school wide displays to connect our learning to these days and unify across school (orange shirt cutouts, sock cutouts for Down's Syndrome Day). Gary responded that this is an immediate and implementable idea for staff to lead, teacher leadership in teams can get the ball rolling, will leave it with Joel as chair (Joel will follow up with Kasia)
- Brooke asks about student-led conflict management modelling - in the past we did PALS (Playground Activity Leaders in School) program, giving student tools to independently demonstrate conflict resolution skills. Gary has reached out to our school's public health nurse, and have requested that they implement this program at IPS this school year and moving forward into the next school year. He will invite them to next meeting to speak to us about what the implementation of the PALS program would entail
- Jeffrey raises point to include Montessori in discussions around ferry capacity. Gary wants to include them in our next meeting
- Kate speaks about including Nursery as well
- Michael wonders about adding our visiting science schools to our days of recognition events. Gary says this is a great opportunity for collaboration and he would like this to happen

Meeting ADJOURNED at 12:45 pm