

# Zion Heights MS - School Council Meeting



ZION HEIGHTS MS  
**SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Wednesday October 22, 2020

## **Attendance**

Key Kasravi, JP Ngana, Elsie Mandadakis, Katherine Whang, Aaron Iravani, Banasha Shah, Jen Gillick, Smason Chiu, June Leung, Gayathri Samaroo, Vince To, Ken Ng, Karen Yang, Chickita Ngo, Michelle Liu, Hilda, Hosseini, Dickson Liu, Ali Lila, Phouvieng Sackda, Ramin, Wendy, Linda Wang, Fanny Young, Ada, Kateryna Khavan, Geetanjali mathur, Rogert Co, Theresa Takaskai, Tejal Mody, Jenny, Hennedy Eng, Principal Chi Le.

Regrets from: Mr. Philip Dykshoorn, teacher representative.

## **New Council Election:**

### **Voting Members:**

Hilda Hosseini  
Banasha Shah  
Karen Yang  
Phouvieng Sackda  
Katherine Whang  
Dickson Liu  
Jean-Paul Ngana  
June Leung  
Key Kasravi  
Jen Gillick  
Gayathri Samaroo  
Aaron Iravani  
Samson Chiu

### **Executive Members:**

Co-Chair: Aaron Iravani  
Co-Chair: June Leung  
Treasurer: Key Kasravi  
Secretary: Jen Gillick

## **2020/2021 Meeting dates:**

Meetings will all take place on Wednesdays and are scheduled from 6 – 7:30 pm (hard stop at 8PM)  
November 18, 2020  
December 9, 2020  
January 13, 2021  
February 17, 2021  
March 24, 2021  
April 21, 2021  
May 19, 2021

Question...will Zoom meetings be recorded? Mr. Le not sure of board policy on this. We would need approval from all participants in order to do so. Decided that notes taken will be sufficient.

Welcome from Aaron:

What does council want to achieve this year? Hands are currently tied in terms of fundraising. Trying to sort out what can be done and what can be implemented to keep everyone safe.

- Has been some mention of IExcel. Is this needed for our students?
- Fundraising is our top priority as is the safety of our children

## **Principal's Report:**

### **Safety Measures:**

Updated health pass:

24% were using the app., but they were finding it very glitchy. Having better success using paper only.

Children are now encouraged to wear face shields while eating. Not mandated, but it is safer for everyone. Mr. Le has been explaining the benefits to everyone in wearing the face shields.

-- it can not be required, but it is heavily encouraged.

Principal can now dismiss a class without waiting for approval from TPH, in the case that a child tests positive for COVID. Will be sending out a letter to Zion families asking permission of parents to make such decisions should an instance occur.

### **Next Available Switch**

Next switch date (virtual to in class and vice versa) February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Selection deadline for parents to request a switch will be in late January.

### **Facilities:**

New PA system was installed over the summer.

Boys changeroom is still under construction. Expected to be finished by the end of the year.

### **School Reorganization:**

After the last switch, we are now :

272 students

12 Homeroom classes

22.6 students average class size

6 regular classes, 6 special education classes.

Lost one teacher (Ms. Park) and our VP to virtual learning.

### **Upcoming Events**

OCTOBER 29<sup>th</sup>. Virtual assembly. Responsibility. How students can be responsible for themselves and others by following safety measures.

October 30<sup>th</sup>. Costume Day! Students encouraged to come to school in costume. There will be class competition to see which class has most participation.

Health and safety committee to review outdoor zoning

Mr. Miller's class is organizing a virtual Remembrance Day assembly.

### Questions:

1. How will we be dealing with class **separating outdoors** in the winter when the paint can no longer be seen? Shovelling, Pylons,...will be making a concrete plan as needed.

Larger indoor spaces will be used during inclement weather (cafeteria, gym)

2. What will happen for coats/boots in winter?

Not sure as of yet. No direction from the board level.

3. Has the TDSB provided any guidance to Principal Le with regard to the 'hybrid system' that is being imposed on secondary school students who switch from in-class to virtual? Any indication that the hybrid system will be imposed on elementary schools?

- what if teachers have to adapt to this model?

Secondary Schools are not accepting any more virtual students.

All classrooms are set up to go remote if needed. In the event that a teacher/class has to self isolate, they will still be able to communicate via Bright Space or Google Classroom.

4. **Cafeteria**...concerns from students that the kids weren't keeping far enough apart, 6 classes in gym, 6 classes in café during inclement weather.

- will be increasing signage regarding distancing and having better supervision to remind children of the rules.
- will try to keep them in lines so that they space themselves accordingly.

Safety of the children is the top priority. Trying very hard to keep everyone apart and safe.

- getting used to recess again, as the school didn't have recess previously.

Parents asking...Is it better for them to be wet or to be dry but crowded? If kids are dressed appropriately, they should be able to be outside despite the rain/snow/cold temps.

Are there other options? Drama room? Hallways? -- Supervision becomes an issue if the kids are spread across too many spaces.

There is always a learning curve. This was the first inclement weather day. Will be reevaluating to make sure they're using the best option.

5. **Face Shields**. Zion has gone above and beyond reopening requirements for students in providing face shields. Is this optional or mandatory?

It's an expectation...Zion can't make it mandatory, but they're asking children to be mindful of others and use them during lunch.

- Faceshields are mandatory for teachers when in close proximity of the children for more than 15 minutes.
- French teachers and other teachers that go from class to class wear them to protect themselves and others.

**6. Kids in the science lab...**stools are causing problems. Are kids going to be able to rotate through the classrooms, as the uncomfortable stools are causing back problems for some students.

- Children have been advised that they can stand up and stretch if need be.

Mr. Le asks that if there are questions pertaining to individual students or classes that they be brought up privately for further discussion

## **7. Chrome Books...**

How many did we lose, how many did we get back, how will they be replenished?

Loaned out 145 devices (45 iPads and 100 Chrome Books)...only 29 have returned.

Tech budget has been exhausted because of virtual learning.

Chrome Books that we as a council bought through fundraising seem to have been taken as "Board property". This is not acceptable. Is this something we need to speak with the board about?

We need to go to the TDSB and make sure we get these devices back!

Interim director of TDSB is calling these devices board property. This is concerning.

75 of these devices are with ZHMS students.

Do we want to fundraise for more? What are the chances the school will be asked to hand these over again? Is this the best way to spend our money if we might lose them again?

Can we use outside vendors now that we are in a bit of a dire situation?

Will allow bring-your-own-devices, but they will not be imaged and inventory from TDSB. They will be thought of as a student's own device.

This is good news...Aaron may be able to get his hands on second hand devices at a very good price. Perhaps we can have students sign them out and return them at the end of the year.

Aaron asked Mr. Le to give us a list of the school's needs to see what we can do to help.

Mr. Le has asked for an additional 29 devices...should be getting back 145 + 29 devices once things are all returned.

8. Reports of **inappropriate language** being used at recess. Perhaps the lack of assemblies is contributing to this? How can this be addressed by the staff? (i.e. potential racist/bullying/derogatory type language)

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Approximately \$8600 cash in accounts.

Got a \$650 refund from the sweatshirt vendor  
\$440 still owing for purchase of supplies for last pizza lunch.

\$560 cash in cash box.

\$9150 in cash available to council.

How will we use this? Waiting for direction from Mr. Le as to what is needed.

## **Discussion regarding needs:**

HVAC System at school...air filtration at school.

Wintertime...many people indoors for long periods of time. Aerosol aspect of COVID is quite worrisome.

Need to get filters to get the aerosols out of the air. MERV 16 or higher. Might not work with our older HVAC system.

High intensity UV light that kills things that are biological might be our best option.  
--need enough intensity to disinfect what's in the air before the air is recirculated.

Diffuse the air coming through the vents.

Key, Chi and Aaron have been looking to see what the best option for our school.

Free standing HEPA filters? Are these a viable option? In terms of availability and portability would this be a better option than trying to retrofit our existing system.

- better than nothing, but not as comprehensive?

Zion has boilers. 11 fan rooms. Windows don't open.

Danby...has donated HEPA filters to TDSB. Has it been determined these are helpful/useful? Private schools are using them too. TDSB has accepted donation. They must be beneficial if this is the case.

Mandate that TDSB has implemented about councils spending money on HVAC improvements. They were paused until November 1<sup>st</sup>. Is this still the case?

There is a plan being worked on between the board and the ministry, so they don't want us to spend any money as of yet. We have been told by TDSB Facilities that the TDSB and the Ministry are working a plan to improve ventilation in schools, so more information should be coming shortly on this matter.

Mr. Le explained that Key and Aaron have spend a LOT of time and energy consult with TPH, the board, the trustees etc. regarding the safety of our students and staff over the last several months.

Thank you to the both of them for their dedication and determination and bettering this current situation.

Meeting adjourned: 7:35 pm.

## **Next Meeting**

Wednesday, November 18, 2020