

## **Summerside School Council Meeting - April 21, 2021 at 7:00pm via Google Meet**

**In Attendance:** Jenna AuCoin, Bobby Chauhan, Colleen Dwyer, Erica Roy, Hicham Benkirane, Melissa Humphries, Rebecca Ryan, Stuart van Oostveen, Sui Ling Lee, Andrea Gordon, Saaimah Malik, Dahlia Powell, Claudia Baluch

### **Welcome**

### **Approval of Minutes from last month's meeting**

### **Principal's Report**

#### **New Policy Consultation**

Our consultation period on these draft revised policies will wrap up by the end of May.

The team, led by Jessica Young, have drafted 3 policies to replace the Safe Schools and School District Code of Conduct policies. The Safe Schools policy is divided into 2 policies now.

Some things to highlight in the Code of Conduct:

- In the new code of conduct school policy, there are clear outlines to define bullying, alcohol, harassment, vaping and use of tobacco.
- Also of note are the guiding principles, stating that all members have to feel safe, respected and valued.
- Looking at inclusion for equity seeking groups
- Standards of conduct
- Bullying prevention, safe reporting processes
- New dress code - all students have all rights to express themselves using clothing, jewelry, hairstyles and accessories that appropriately represent and affirm their varied identities

Some things to highlight in the Safe Schools Policy

- Discipline and promoting positive behaviour
- Progressive discipline - continuum
- Shifting focus from solely punitive and more towards restorative justice and practice aims to restore relationships (working with students) can sometimes replace suspensions and sometimes happen alongside suspensions
- No longer able to suspend students in grade 3 or younger
- Referrals to social work, psychologist, CHEO
- Detentions still happening, along with withdrawal of privileges
- Keeping records of dates of incidents, follow up and outcomes

Accessing the policies:

<https://ocdsb.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=31997834>

Sharing feedback:

[safeschools.consultation@ocdsb.ca](mailto:safeschools.consultation@ocdsb.ca)

### **Transition to Remote**

Last week and this week, staff have been busy preparing for the transition to remote learning; and as administrators, we've been considering many aspects, such as getting ready for some of our students in our specialized program classes to come back next Monday because they can't access learning remotely, setting up the majority of our students at home to be successful, communicating with families with consistent messaging, supporting teachers to prep lessons and materials that work differently with remote learning than in person, and, for all staff, developing timetables that align with Ministry and Board expectations.

We've come to a better understanding of what effective Synchronous Learning looks like, and it is not a straight 225 minutes per day (or 180 minutes for Kindergarten students) of the teacher lecturing or leading lessons with students, because most students don't learn well that way for that length of time, even older students!

What it does mean is that teachers and staff members are doing a combination of direct, whole class instruction, working with small groups, working with individual students, checking back with the whole class, letting students log off to work independently while the teacher stays online with "office hours," etc.

In some cases, teams are supporting learning by having breakout rooms during calls/meets where a few students go, usually with a staff member, or sometimes for a short period of time with other class members to complete virtual group work, before they return to the full classroom. The teacher may bounce back and forth between these breakout rooms and the main meeting space, or another staff member may stay in the room with a few students.

Teachers are also taking the time to observe students as they complete their work - we absolutely need to think about how we can assess students, and we need to be able to observe them, evaluate products (that we are sure about them completing independently or with staff support), and having conversations with students about their learning to determine what they understand, what connections and reflections they have made, and what their next steps in learning should be. Synchronous learning is key, and often the assessment and evaluation takes place only in small groups or in individual interactions between teacher and every student. We are very conscious that we need to be collecting assessment data all along so we can adapt teaching and learning to every student's strengths and needs, and also have sufficient data for this period when the June reporting begins. It is more difficult to assess and evaluate students during remote learning, but we're figuring out how best to do this.

We know some products are completed with parent support in many cases, and when teachers have conversations with students about these products, we can get a really good sense of what students understand, what information they have analysed and synthesized, and even if students have developed skills at evaluating their process, the content, and their own trajectory for learning, so there is a place for products (projects, smaller assignments) that are done with parent/guardian/caregiver/sibling support, but it's worthwhile asking the classroom teacher about this. Conversations also allow teachers to provide immediate feedback to students about what to do next, what their next small and overarching goals might be and conversations also present opportunities for teachers to model and guide the next bit of learning towards student success and independence.

During synchronous learning, it is appropriate for students and teachers to have discussions and dialogue, but not for parents or other family members. If there are questions or concerns, we strongly encourage parents and guardians to reach out to teachers privately via email or other means as agreed upon with the teacher.

Asynchronous learning is still important as teachers may have a mechanism to assess and evaluate some of this work, as mentioned above through conversation and demonstration or sharing of the products students have completed synchronously and asynchronously. During asynchronous time, teachers may be busy planning, or responding to parent emails, or in many cases teaching another class synchronously. Teachers are professional, and it is worthwhile letting you know that teaching remotely is very time consuming - lots of work has to be done in advance - as is the case in the regular classroom, but it does take more time when doing it virtually. Our teachers are working very hard and they are learning more and more about how to teach effectively while being virtual. It is a different skill set than what's needed in the classroom. Usually teachers rely quite heavily on non-verbal communication as we are specifically trained in many of these practices, many of which aren't available to us virtually, however, so that means earning new and different strategies, often less effective. We know remote learning is not ideal, but we're flattening the curve as we must do.

## **Vice Principal's Report**

### **Chromebooks**

The big focus since the transition to online learning has been the Chromebooks. Each time we have moved into remote learning, schools are providing Chromebooks for those who do not have one at home. Up to now we've had 85 devices requested. As a comparison, back in January it was up to 60.

We are running low, we still have about six left. If we run out, we will be reaching out to other schools to see if we can borrow from them. The process of lending them out has been going well, most devices have been picked up. They should all be gone by the end of this week. The district also had hot spots available, but centrally, they have run out. They are currently trying to get more.

### **Remote/in person learning**

The three ASD classes will be back in person the week of April 26. Both Stuart and Rebecca were in touch with OSTA (student transportation) and confirmed they will be up and running next week as usual. HEPA filters will be set up in all three classes.

Staff will continue to have to provide confirmation for daily self-assessment of COVID symptoms. The district is working on what that will look like. Whether it will be a daily survey or a book, we are still waiting to get more details. All the PPE will be available, gowns, masks, gloves.

With the stay at home measures, the district is really stressing that you may not go into the building unless you absolutely need to. The office administrative staff are each working a half day, they don't cross paths.

### **Vaccinations**

Vaccinations have started for staff who work in special education. Some of our staff have already received their first dose of the vaccine.

### **Summer School**

Information will be coming in the next few weeks for students in grade 6, 7, 8. It will be geared towards students who are struggling, and should be used to help close some gaps. It will be running for three weeks in July.

### **Grade 8 photos**

Photos were booked and we even invited OCV families. It was scheduled for April 9. We are tentatively rebooked for May 13th and that will likely be rescheduled again. The students were quite disappointed and were looking forward to it.

### **Grade 8 Graduation**

Even centrally, the plans may change. We can't give an update on what that will look like right now but as more information comes, we will make it available.

**Question** - Since the stay at home order goes to May - is there a cut off for when they may decide to say students will be virtual until the end of year?

**Answer** - Great question - there's no time frame right now. Taking it week by week. I don't see them opening the schools up until the stay at home order is lifted.

**Question** - Will there be an opportunity to pick up material from before spring break?

**Answer** - Good question, we were expecting Swarm gear to be able to be picked up and Scientists in the School but we asked if we were able to do curbside pick up and were told very clearly no. The only thing available for curbside pick up were chromebooks.

### **Teacher's Report**

On behalf of the staff, thank you to the parents, who are getting a bit of a window into the classroom that you don't normally get. Thank you for helping to support your kids during this transition to remote learning.

### **Update on wish list**

A number of the teams are spending the money.

**Primary team** - originally the plan with Scientists in the School was for them to drop off kits but now we know we are not going to be able to do that. Grades 1 and 2 were scheduled for May. If we end up back at school it will go ahead - if not, we may push to June. If rules relax about curbside pick up, we may be able to do them with everyone at home.

**Kindergarten** - spent the money and they say thank you. They bought a couple of junior tough tables for sand and plastic beads. They bought some pails and shovels for outside play and bought some small world play objects.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The only transaction since our last meeting was a fee of \$4.95. We sent the \$300 cheque for the school to buy the printer but it hasn't been cashed yet. The total in the account is currently \$8,310.55. As a reminder, we gave \$6000 to the teacher's wish list and put \$5000 aside for our long-term goal.

**Question** - Is there a division of the account in the long term goal?

**Answer**- In June 2019 we gave a cheque of \$10,000 for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school year. And we put \$5000 towards it last year as well.

**Stuart clarifies** - In the council long term funding account there is over \$20,000. \$15,800 is allocated to the playground. The remainder of the money is still allocated for the purchase of spot lights and curtains which has been postponed due to COVID. There was an \$800 anonymous donation to the school and the school has opted to put it towards the outdoor play structure.

The purdy's fundraising cheque has been received but has not yet been cashed to put towards the balance.

## **PRO Grant**

The evening event of May 12 will have to now be postponed to sometime in June. The presentation relied on having kits dropped off at the school for students to bring home, which we are not currently allowed to do. The organizers will be contacted to let them know we will postpone into June.

**Question** - Since PRO Grant was done across the board and the whole point was that everyone was doing it on a different day, how will it work if the whole board has to reschedule?

**Answer** - Some schools are still going forward with it. They are working a way around the kit drop off/pick up. We may have to be ok with a september or fall presentation

## **Printer purchase**

The printer was purchased.

## **Fundraising updates**

Purdy's went well with a profit of \$1014. It's something that we could look at doing twice next year. It was well received. Deliveries went smoothly and families were appreciative.

## **Summerside gear**

Orders have been put in, everything is ready to go, all that's in question is whether to ship to the school.

**Question** - If we are at a point where we can't do curbside pick up, can we put a group here together to do home deliveries?

**Answer** - As long as it's allowed, yes, it's possible ship it to someone's house and we can deliver from there

**Question** - Is having us deliver it within the board's policy?

**Answer** - We can cross that bridge when we get there but we have to move forward with options.

**Comment**- We need to consider the possibility of students not returning, or people who have ordered items for children and children grow so quickly.

**Question** - would it be possible for Safety House to ship directly to customer's houses?

**Answer** - Next step is finding out how big the order is and seeing if we can figure out where it can be shipped.

## **Grade 8 Graduation**

In terms of what we are agreeing to support and fund for the graduation so far we have the plaques, sign in front of school, virtual escape room.

**Question** - Who orders the plaques? Can that still roll out given the current situation? What did we do last year?

**Answer** - We gave Christine Lanos the money and the school took care of the plaques. The School was responsible for getting them engraved with council funds. In terms of handing them out, we had combined the plaques with the day the students came to collect their belongings. They found out during the virtual ceremony if they were receiving a plaque.

**Comment** - School council also purchased balloons for when they came to collect their plaques in the gym.

By May's meeting the school will have the amount needed from council. Last year we said we gave \$750 which would cover plaques and whatever else may help with virtual ceremony. The sign was a separate amount. \$514 for plaques last year. The sign cost just under \$200.

**Question** - Should we approve an amount now or wait until we have more solid numbers on May 19?  
Preference for waiting until we have firmer numbers.

We will get a quote for the sign for the next meeting. Usually the price is for a month so we can put it up for the month of June.

**Question** - Do they print a sign specifically for Summerside or is it just letters going up on a sign?

**Answer** - It's printed specifically. I had asked for the image but she never got back to me.

**Follow up** - Another option would be to buy one and re-use it every year without having the class year.

**Response** - I will ask for quotes for both and see what the better option is.

**Question** - If we're at the point where we can't do the virtual escape room - there comes a point where we have to figure out what else we could do.

**Answer** - It is a virtual escape room, so it is still doable.

**Follow up** - Is there a date that we have to confirm by?

**Response** - I don't think so. It would just need to be coordinated for all of the grade 8 students, and the grade 8 team to divide them into teams. There's background work involved.

**Question** - It was different when we were assuming students would be accessing the virtual escape room from school. Are we assuming that most students have access to a device?

**Answer** - The next step would be for Stuart and I to reach out to the Grade 8 teaching team and see if they think there would be buy in, and see what day may work for this.

We will revisit as a May agenda item.

**Question** - If we're not able to offer an activity for them, would we be able to offer a token gift for them?

**Answer** - The only thing we'd have to take into consideration is that we did give money towards the wish list. We also put \$5,000 towards the long term goal. We are not anywhere near our usual \$10,000 to \$12,000 fundraising goal with the loss of pizza and usual fundraisers. It's important to put some reserves aside for next year too. Hopefully we can make the virtual escape room happen since it fits the budget at just around \$300 but I'm not sure how much we have to stretch beyond that.

We can brainstorm ideas until next meeting

## **Outdoor Play Structure**

The slide show was shared with last month's minutes.

Right now we know we at least have a number to work with - \$15,800. We have the option to look at about \$22,000 through grants. We need to do a deeper dive on the grants and seeing when/how we can see if those are possible.

**Motion** - Is it possible to set up a sub committee for the play structure?

**Answer** - Erica, Bobby, Jenna, Sui Ling all volunteer.

## **Trees**

A teacher reached out to Andrea through a grant program for tree planting. We are able to apply for a grant up to \$10,000. We have application details and have left a message for a contact with the City of Ottawa. Hopefully we can get the ball rolling on that.

**Question** - How would we keep trees alive in the summer? Are custodians around to water them?

**Answer** - Custodial holidays usually take place over summer. We could time planting the trees earlier like September. That would allow us more time to organize a Summerside community tree program if needed.

## **Council recruitment**

Leave it to the council to brainstorm and come back next meeting with ideas about how to recruit new members.

## **Other business**

Question - Last meeting we had a conversation about the traffic, whether or not we could get a crosswalk of sorts close to the parking lot. Christine had looked into it - was there any outcome?

Answer - They did a study and the city had determined the traffic didn't warrant having a crosswalk in front of the school. The numbers have to meet the threshold and I believe it was just done last year. When they open up Portobello at the end eventually, that might be an opportunity for them to reexamine the issue

***Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm***