

Minutes

Danielle, Jenni Frenki, Alison, Erin, Lisa, Alison, Jody, Chrystina, Jan,

Financial

Teachers Report

Chrystina sent a message to teachers for input to add tonight, thumbs up as response, nothing to add. Staff all seem to feel the same way, just waiting to hear today's announcement from the provincial government. Staff are feeling a little overwhelmed, having pivoted to online leaning then back again. But we are all doing our best and we are very grateful for the support we receive from our administration.

Principal's Report

CR Gummow is very excited to welcome our new Vice Principal, Jody Wallace. Jody has a rich teaching background, coming from Northumberland Hills PS, she has background as a literacy coach & SERT. She has worked all over the board, often taking role as math coach and spec ed. As well she has French ability, which is always welcomed. Welcome! Jody's first project has been around pickup at side / kindergarten door. This is not a small job!

We are still waiting for direction from the board after today's Provincial announcement, as to which school s are open and which remaining online. It depends on which Health Unit the school operates under. It does appear that we are back on Monday. Many parents are fearful of that, so this is an unsettling time, so we are trying to support as best we can and keeping our focus on wellness.

We have applied for experiential and learning grant; we are hoping to purchase \$6000 worth of keva blocks. There is a dream of a rotating their use in the gym come the spring. They are amazing play value. We would need 3 sets (for quarantining & sharing).

We did get the PRO Grant and will be setting up the virtual online yoga for the upcoming months.

Jody share the new pick up plan for the south parking lot/kiss n ride. Tthere are some safety issues around pick up at kindergarten door. Jody has witnessed some near fender benders and near misses with adults crossing from between tightly parked cars, which is a huge concern. We will be using pilons to make parking unavailable right in front of the south gate. There has been lots of feedback since the fall, especially with more students than usual getting dropped off. We ae able to manage the morning drop off because of the drop and go.

Some parents are saying that they cannot back out of parking lots when people are parked by the dumpsters. Original intent of the parking lot design was for that to be a place to park, allowing for backing out. We will test this before it is implemented. Much bigger issue after school, with lots of families picking up rather than putting the kids on the bus. Gravely street pickup – people can go there, but it does tend to be busier. Older Kids tend to be older at that entrance.

There is supervision at the South gate on Gravely St. Older student can easily go to that exit for pickup.

Fundraising

As mentioned, we were successful getting the PRO Grant. The virtual yoga sessions will be with Francesca Bonta, and they will be based on mindfulness and stress management. The dates are Feb 10,

17, 24 at 6:30pm. We will work with Natalie to set up a notification plan/notification plan to go home. We are looking for feedback for books that purchased will be around that topic for parent/child reading. A shared resource to be signed out from library.

The bottle drive went well, not too much to say. We earned \$900.00. We will need more volunteers for the next bottle drive. Then it comes to doing the returns at the store, it would be better to have at least 3 adults to help. The afternoon shift was fairly quiet, with a quick rush at 3pm. The trailer is a must! A big thanks for Erin and Gord!

Our reusable bags fundraiser is scheduled for the spring, and they will be mail directly to people. Flipgive -has been slow, but we have \$200 earned. All the money earned is kept with Flipgive until we request it. We should add it to the newsletter to remind families to use it.

There was discussion about having the newsletter as an attachment. People who want the newsletter will seek it out, but they are good to have as a resource. The printable pdf is helpful (and pretty), but having a hybrid model may be useful; the important pieces would be in the body and a printable copy attached.

Fundraiser (Sondra/jenni)

New business

1. Review of schoolyard work and goals – we haven't used the sandbox at all (done over March break 2020). The shade sail was taken down and not put back up yet. Once the pandemic is done, all will open up.
2. Fenced yard on south was installed at the perfect time; Kindergarten kids have used it extensively.
3. Pandemic zoning at recess is a real work in progress. We have to assess the needs of the students continually, making sure most needs are met. The music zone worked well when the weather was better and the students could have class outside.
4. We need get a more defined plan in place for our money. Not just accounting for our 'regular' expenses (ie graduation).
5. Ask Martha McMurray about the grant a school got for their outdoor classroom. We are looking at raised gardens/planters for the school grounds. South lawn was one area; suggestion to have students be able to walk to the park on D'Arcy to plant and tend that garden. The Cobourg garden committee is a standing committee, if some are interested then we could pursue that. There are grants that are specific to food growing.
6. A lot of change of focus and how to improve for students and staff. We need to create a subcommittee to look at grants/playground/plan for upcoming fundraising.

Motion to adjourn Danielle, second Jan

Next meeting Feb 24