

Minutes Willy SAC meeting Nov. 23 2021

Present via Zoom:

Anita Davis
Kelly Short
Janet Theunissen (Chair)
Mark Duwyn (Principal)
Frances Anderson (School Administrator)
Annick Cardinal
Carla Southward
Gina McCubbin
Tamar Rotem
Karen Hoskins
Kate & Mark St. Cyr
Leo Lagnado
Nikki Stiavnicky
Shah Ruby
Sydney Richardson
Tayal Leybman
Xandi Neville (Vice Principal)
Sarah Charters
Priscille Yancich
Simon Yau

Regrets: Jennifer Black, Diana Harrington, and Dave Winkler

Opening

Janet called the meeting to order and shared a land acknowledgement.
Everyone introduced themselves

Update from Mr. Duwyn & Ms. Neville

Mr. Duwyn began by thanking the SAC noting that it's been difficult with COVID and he appreciates the Committee's work. He noted that he, Frances, and Xandi work together on the weekly updates and share information within the school community.

COVID Impacts

Bookings for appointments for COVID vaccinations for 5-11 year olds began today and may affect the school programming. For example, Mr. Semes, the junior gym teach and Mr. Violo have started co-curricular activities. Classes have the opportunity to do additional physical activity (pickle ball/soccer) with their cohort. In the future, this may be able to be offered in mixed cohorts.

The school's Superintendent will do a walk through the pool to see if swimming can safely resume. Detailed explanations of processes and protocols will be made available as this goes forward.

All teachers have online classrooms ready to help students who are absent from school either as part of the COVID protocol or for other reasons. This means that teachers are prepared in case of closures and any school closures will pose as little interruption to classes as possible.

Playground

The playground designers are backlogged and Mr. Duwyn hopes that this winter we will see the designs. Asphalt painting will likely happen in Spring.

An artist is working on the mural in his study and will put it in place next month.

The playground committee will meet in the near future and hope to add members and begin to fundraise for the work.

School Improvement Plan

School improvement plan needs to be submitted and has four pillars: Academics, Equity, Well-being, and Indigenous education and practices.

Goals:

Academic

- Grade 1 reading goal - all grade 1 students are reading by the end of grade 1. COVID has made this quite difficult.
- Implement the new math curriculum.

Equity

- providing special needs assistance and universal design for learning - how do they plan for the students who need the most support - students who need less support will fall in line
- diagnostic assessments show reading gaps because of pandemic and virtual learning - need to address the unevenness

Mental health & well-being

- more co-curricular activities within cohorts - hopefully will be able to mix cohorts in the future.
- There are more interpersonal issues because of the limited interaction with children in other cohorts and staff are trying different strategies to help kids maintain good relationships within classes

Budget:

The budget is not quite finalized - staff assessing needs for classroom and refreshing and replenishing the library

EQOA & CCAT

Ms. Neville provided information

EQOA - Education Quality and Accountability Office - students in grades 3, 6, 9 and 10 are tested to see if they meet the levels expected in the province (B/70+). It is based on literacy and math knowledge and skills. In French immersion, the grade 3 test is only in math. The test continues to be paper based. It is done the last week of May and is completed over several sittings to help the children better complete the test. It is only in English. Parents do get the results in the course of the following school year. The Government of Ontario will not share results publicly as they have in the past as they are not necessarily reflective of the strength of a particular school as there are many factors affecting overall school performance.

CCAT, Criteria Cognitive Application Test is now completed online as opposed to being paper-based as in the past. It is done in English. This is a screening tool that screens all grade 3 students to determine if they are gifted. Giftedness is a very narrow measure of a person's cognitive abilities. This is a more objective and inclusive assessment than in the past. If the test indicates the potential for giftedness, further screening happens in consultation with the parents/caregivers. Gifted programs are available only in English and only in other schools.

Students are prepared for both tests through their classroom work and learning and sample questions.

Jersey Day

Frances Anderson shared that in collaboration with the SAC, the school is hosting jersey day on Friday. Families are encouraged to send in photos of them wearing their jerseys and the SAC will draw a random winner for a \$50 gift card.

Frances expressed gratitude for the \$800 raised on Remembrance Day for veterans. She also noted that in the next few weeks, the school will begin raising money for the Daily Bread Foodbank and Centre 55.

For the Daily Bread Foodbank the school will collect cash donations through the "Coins not Cans" campaign. The goal is \$1,000 and the school has surpassed that goal every year since the campaigns started.

The school also supports Centre 55's Adopt-a-Family and Teen Angel programs. Both programs support families during the holiday seasons through gift card donations for any store (grocery, drugstore, etc.) in any amount. Centre 55 distributes the gift cards to families in need in their programs..

Funding Allocation

Today, the SAC has \$28,000 to disburse. \$2,500 has been previously allocated to recess bins and ping pong paddles. That leaves \$25,500 that must benefit current students. The requests submitted by the teaching teams and community total nearly \$20,000

Requests

Physical Health Education Team requests: approx \$1,077

- 3 pickleball nets \$140/net= \$420
- 2 portable soccer goals =\$259.90
- Tetherball set = \$166.90
- 2 spring return stumps for cricket - indoor/outdoor use= \$229.90

APPROVED

Scientists in the School - \$3,530

Indigenous learning

McMichael Gallery - programs \$6/student; split with parents \$3/student for virtual field trip 525 students = \$1,575

Grade 2/3 Team \$690

Resources for math and science - LEGO and gadgets

Grade 4/5 \$67/class = \$200

Oryx online french program

Grade 5/6 \$500

French games and resources

Kindergarten team \$1,000

Outdoor play toys

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Admin team - technology \$1125

Headphones for students in classes

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Events & Other

\$800 Willy Reads - pays for authors to do presentations, support for read-a-thon

\$2,300 Graduation event or gift

\$750 Garden -soil, herbs, vegetables, tools for beds at the front of the school

\$1,000 visiting artist - Indigenous presenters - dance, music, etc.

\$124 to purchase plastic totes for council room supplies to protect from water damage

\$7,000 - \$250/teacher top up for classroom budget for school supplies (paper, pencils, scissors, etc.)

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Total approved \$22,000

The remaining monies will be used for the playground, asphalt painting and refreshing the art boards at the front of the school.

Janet closed the meeting at 8pm with thanks for all the participants showing up and sharing their opinions.