

**ADRIENNE CLARKSON PUBLIC SCHOOL
68 QUEENS COLLEGE DRIVE, RICHMOND HILL, ON**

**SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES – TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2020
6:00PM-7:35PM (via videoconference)**

Attendees

Nika Daei, Myra Chow, Jolyn Commisso, Manisha Gandhi, Helen Bullingham, Svetlana Tziunel, Mojgan Nemati, Shelley Harpur, Aroon Baksh, Dana Turculet, Ying Tomaso, Pedram Madahian, Mehry Khanicheh, Melissa Cheng, Matthew Cutler, Victoria Kim, Jane Park Salwa Steitieh, Jennifer Fang, Janine Moore, Nadia Russiello (Principal), Anthony Thornton, Ruth Walker-Rosewood.

Regrets

?unknown

1. Co-Chair Welcome (Nika and Myra)

- Welcome and thanked everyone for joining our last meeting

2. Approval of February Minutes

- Approval of minutes (Mojgan)

3. Principal Report (Nadia)

- This was a year that rivals any other year. Acknowledged there had been more to deal with: plane crash in which we lost Reera, work to rule action, covid-19 pandemic
- Now most recently with the happenings in the US/George Floyd and feelings raised with staff and students/families
- Staff had joined a half day Anti-Black Racism PD Session in October and hoping to expand with a small team to promote anti-racism
- Challenging year and appreciative of support from council
- ACPS is in the middle of planning for next year, keeping track of numbers, expecting ~550 students (currently 558)
- Some teachers are leaving, which will be announced at end of June
- No traditional newsletters because leveraging weekly updates; plan to have an end of year newsletter
- Synchronous learning vs asynchronous learning is a personal choice for teachers but recently asked that some sort of synchronous learning is occurring (could be in different forms)
- Proud of staff because of their initiative taken during this time and participation in PD sessions offered by the board; Many staff trying new things so there's lots of new learning
- At beginning of school closures, 77 chrome books were distributed to support those who needed it; grateful there was enough tech to lend out
- Grade 8 Graduation Planning has started with creation of a Grade 8 planning team:

- Assigning awards
- Banner being put up in front of school
- Grad Apparel for Grade 8s found a company that would take orders/signatures virtually
- Grade 8 Teachers putting together a video
- Never got to do Grad photos, working with Edge Imaging for students to get Grad Photos (asked about the Fall but photographer not willing to commit yet)
- Nadia will let families know only once she has confirmation so as not to give false hope
- Next week material retrieval in school, went live on Edsby today 4pm; if more than one child need to book more than 1 slot; clear directions given e.g. bring own bag
- Grade 8 Quebec Trip
 - Company wanted 8-12 weeks to process \$800 refunds for families but Nadia felt that was not reasonable given the current circumstances
 - ACSP office processed refunds in advance, for families from the ACPS school budget, with expectation the school will be refunded by the company the ~\$50K total
 - A lot of conversations with the board and company
- Report Cards, there will be a June Report Card
 - Board will provide a letter to explain
 - Use of letter "I" for strands that have insufficient data
 - Marks on report cards are based on February 1-March 13
 - Any material covered during school closer can be commented on
 - Lots of scenarios to accommodate
- A/C installation underway in the library with plans to install later in gym and office

4. Teacher Report (of Mr. Thornton)

- Thank you for support and ongoing feedback, hoping everyone has settled in and are doing okay with their responsibilities at home
- For material retrieval, teachers will provide a dedicated location library books in the classroom for return

5. Treasurer Report (Helen & Svetlana)

- No copy of treasury report available (Svetlana) so reading from chat and provided as attachment to these minutes.
- Over \$15,106 surplus, unsure if it includes BBQ Deposit of \$500. Had to refund Term 2 Pizza funds to ACSP families. Very little spending happened as a result of shortened in-person school year.
- Unsure about future of food in fundraising plans for September due to covid-19 and will have to wait for guidance from the Board about this.
- With physical distancing measures, we may need to go entirely to virtual fundraising e.g. virtual annual donation drive.

- Nadia proposing Meeting of outgoing council to occur in September for elections and budget recommendations as we will have a better sense of what will be needed.
- Re: Student Agendas. Does council want to pay for Agendas? Many teachers use agendas in their classrooms and we could vote as a council. Estimated cost ~\$2400.
- How many students would get agenda? Always ordered for Grades 2 and 3, often ordered for grades 4, 5, 6 and they usually use Google Classroom for grades 7 and 8. Agendas offered to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the school population and if council covers it there is no cost to the students.
- Council agreed to wait until we know what the year looks like, no sense in paying for agendas now until we have a clearer picture in September
- Discussion ensued about leaving earmarked funds i.e. Jungle Sport and BBQ, with the vendors who have agreed to carry the deposit over to next school year.
- Should we ask for refund or do we leave it and use the deposits for next school year's events?
- Re: BBQ Vendor deposit it's a \$500 deposit, Dana said yes they will honour a date for us next year but if council felt it was warranted she could try for a refund. Questions that arose: Is this a long term vendor? Relationship with vendor? Will they be in business?
- Yes this is the same vendor as last year and we sure hope they will be in business and can we help keep these companies afloat with our deposits? Many council members in favour of keeping money with company.
- Re: Jungle Sport deposit, should we also keep it with the vendor. Concern about losing this amount, as it's more significant than BBQ, costing us \$x
- Nadia explained there would be no ability to book until next year because waiting to see what school looks like in fall.
- Re: Basketball nets? Council had earmarked money for basketball nets (~\$3000) but we can't order anything right now as the school budgets are frozen, and we need to wait until we have guidelines in September for what recess and physical distancing will require, so it may not be possible to add any basketball nets.
- Wanted tarmac painted but holding off because of uncertainty. Will need to revisit in September so clearer picture

6. Other Business

- Re: Book date for first council meeting 2020-2021
- Within 30 calendar days of school year council needs to have its election; School resumes Sept 8 so before October 7.
- Nadia proposed **Monday October 5** to meet as an outgoing council and to hopefully have a sense of what things look like for the coming school year.
- Re: Date for Grade 2 Welcome Evening
- Wait until September to determine a date once we have more clarification; Perhaps as early as August, Nadia/Ruth can determine a date then.
- Re: BBQ and Jungle Sport Vendor deposits: Jennifer commenting: Businesses are trying to preserve funds, but not our responsibility to keep vendors in business and unlikely our

deposit will keep them in business so we should ask for deposits back. Significant amount of money for Jungle Sport and given the situation, we may need cash for our own school

- Re: YRDSB Survey requesting Parent Input (Jennifer)
- It is important that many parents provide feedback about the current situation and planning for coming year. Hopefully we will be better to be equipped to deal with a second wave.
- A lot of reminders went out to parents to complete the survey, can there be another reminder and link sent to parents to ensure we get as many parents to submit it?
- Any thoughts from board if we need to continue with online learning in the fall? Will there be a higher level of teacher-led instruction? Universities are better equipped but can we be the same way? Concern about discipline and learning habits. Not a lot of teacher/student interaction. Loss of student learning habits concerning.
- Nadia: Minister provides guidance, board creates learning plan based on that, synchronous learning can look different, teachers use professional judgement and follow guidelines of union and often messages don't align. Teachers make a professional/personal judgement. Sometimes that's why there is disparity as it is not mandated. Teachers told to move to synchronous (live) learning in June and this can include a variety of instructional styles i.e. google meets, collaborating on google documents, live teaching, and instructional videos provided). This is not a decision for Administration or Council to make as there is not one answer or solution possible.
- Q: Is there any way we can provide feedback for more live learning? Can we send something out as a council?
- Nadia suggested we can write to trustees, superintendent. Nadia said not a good message for a council to be promoting opposition to factors including the unions. Ruth emphasized that as a council, we can encourage people to complete the parent survey, and it gives a collective response. Public Education has shifted in the last ~11 weeks. Every classroom is now online across the system. Universities are not always interactive. A lot of demands by 4 weeks in, there has been a huge amount of change/movement forward. Not fast enough for some but a lot of areas, it's not always accessible. For some families, live synchronous not accessible to all based on personal circumstances. Important that parents complete survey as a collective voice.
- Comment about York Region being only board not doing live. Ruth responded that many other boards have same policy, and Jane shared that TDSB same idea.
- *Many components: Ministry, Board, Union partnership. All letters about live teaching should be done individually, not from council as some may not be comfortable being included on that. Need to encourage parents to submit survey to have voices heard
- Re: Yearbook (Ying)
- Is there any way to have a yearbook for the kids? Maybe one developed in September?
- Nadia: Teacher/Group of Teachers volunteer their time to work with small group of students to put together at lunch, not during day. It involves teachers taking pictures, bulk of this happens after March Break, and its contingent on a teacher to do this
- In October, work to rule began and no teacher was able to volunteer and many class trips where pictures are taken did not happen. So there are quite a few classes with no photos and there are no Grade 8 Grad Photos. Not a good feeling to have some classes with no pictures.

- Union agreement came after March break, and the plan was for the teacher who volunteers to pick up in March, but it was closely followed by Covid-19 pandemic and school closures.
- Nika: Why no pictures from November? Why couldn't a parent take over? Nadia explained that we cannot have parents creating a yearbook with school pictures of kids.
- A lot of disappointment expressed from some council members, certainly on behalf of the Grade 8s having missed out, but it was made clear it was not left off because no one wanted to do it, it's just the timeline and set of circumstances.
- Re: Gifts for Teachers (Myra)
- Can teachers be given gifts?
- Gifts are not mandatory no protocol. Not an expectation from educators and no direction from the board.
- It can be left for the teacher after 48 hours based on Covid-19, but no protocol in place.
- Teachers should be in before the end of the year, can be picked up then.
- Can we send email to teachers YRDSB email to contact? Yes and can also use EDSBY.
- Any other business?
- Have we decided on deposits? Nadia: would like to keep \$500 deposit for Jungle Sport with them because we are fulfilling our contract. We could lose our deposits if we cancel, and we should expect to get our deposit back if they cancel. Let's keep deposits until we know what happens for next year. Agreed we need to just follow contract.
- Dance-a-thon (Professor Jamz) \$100 deposit was returned to us.
- **Grade 8 (Nika/Mojgan)**
- Can we work with another photographer for photos? With Grad Apparel?
- Nadia: Grad Photos with gowns, and we have no apparel, and Edge Imaging is a board approved provider. Privacy Issues. Vetted and insurance. We don't know if other photographers have the same security. Edge will work with us along with following public health. Parents can take own photos at private studio on their own or at front entrance with the banner but no one can come into the school right now to take these Grad Photos.
- Mojgan expressed her gratitude for the banner that is going up next week and will be kept up until end of month.