

AGENDA with MINUTES

Ballantrae P.S. School Council Virtual Meeting

January 13, 2022 — 7:00pm

Council Executives: Indu Bains, Chair |

Community Attendees: Indu Bains | Kathleen Major | Marny Watson | Maggie Kobold | Carly Grant | Diana Lem | Jessica Taylor | Denise Lewczuk

Staff Attendees: Sandra Angell-O’Grady, Principal |

Item	Owner	Action
Welcome and Happy New Year! <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of minutes from last meeting<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Indu and Marny• Motion to adjust times/dates for Council meetings	Indu Bains	Indu will send an email to see about changing to Tues and if not we will keep Thurs; do it month by month
Principal’s Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School & Board Status<ul style="list-style-type: none">-same link for screening form-back to process at the beginning of school year where families need to complete online screener and send it in before school-completed screeners monitored by the school in the past but not yet sure how the system will run moving forward• Virtual learning ends – in-person Monday January 17th<ul style="list-style-type: none">-schools given short notice and board is still sending info out and providing webinars tomorrow (PA Day) so not all info available• New guidance from Ministry<ul style="list-style-type: none">-public health no longer closing classes due to COVID• New protocol for “sick”<ul style="list-style-type: none">-classes can still be closed if school not able to staff them-symptoms now in 2 categories-if you have 1 major or 2 minor, and have been fully vaccinated AND their family have to isolate for 5 days-if NOT fully vaccinated then it’s 10 days-if you get sick during the isolation the isolation time starts back at the beginning (either 5 or 10 days more)-if someone leaves school with symptoms they get sent home with PCR tests to be done at home-student masks available 1 per student (cloth that can be	Sandra AO	

washed)

-maintain cohorting, not mixing classes, unless absolutely necessary and then contact tracing has to be tracked

Question: if 30% of school absent is school closed?

Answer: the 30% school absent school has to notify Public Health, but that is not a new policy, but happens extremely rare; at our school would mean about 80 kids away at same time and then take Public Health guidance

Question: what is the logic behind parents not being told about COVID cases in classes

Answer: Gov doesn't share their logic so we don't really know; going to prioritize high risk situations (long term care, etc.) and schools not considered high risk; personnel limits

Question: TDSB has said they will still report cases, will YRDSB?

Answer: reporting is done provincially with a special password, O'Grady would have to report all absences in school (staff and students) but in early Dec. province said you only had to report if you have a case; now it's changed

-Additionally; DDSB also reporting internally

Answer: likely school will continue to track own absences and when people went for tests, shared results, etc. so "probably" will continue to do that

- School Lunch Assistant update

Lunch Assistant update: cannot change the rate, but we can change the hours an assistant is on site

-will extend the hours for when people are supervising kindergarten

-have another application where we are waiting for the employee number from HR

Q: do lunchroom supervisors have to be a certain age?

A: have at least graduated from high school because they can't hire YRDSB students to work during the school day

-Sandra has been tracking missed lunches and in Dec only lost 1 lunch because of not enough supervision

-suggestion: on days when supervision is an issue can Sandra let teachers know this is a great day to get kids outside during class time

-Sandra already doing this

-lots of DPA already happening outside since COVID

- Yard Flooding Update (Indu has info as well)

-happens every year for the last decade

-before the pandemic Cathy and Indu had been working with the town to get something happening but the people working on it have left

-Town has retained senior staff in the role responsible for this

-snow now to be piled on west side of Community Centre instead of East

-school needs some kind of drainage

Sandra AO will confirm if SDSS students can work as Lunchroom assistants

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -board has plans to redo the parking lot and kindy play area -Dec 10 surveyors were at the school measuring and will be working with town -need a collaborative solution with community centre because it sits a bit higher than the school -was on the books for last summer -plan is in motion, but can't do anything until kids aren't on property -accessible parking not to code 		
<p>Fundraising Plan Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundraising Update (totals to date) • Application to fundraising plan • Aging Smartboards (hard to see) • Prioritize projectors (on Technology SIP) instead of the smartboards – free up space for classroom play & greater distancing b/w kids <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -3 fundraisers in the fall were \$1.80 short of \$1800 -council would like to have more fundraisers in the Spring but we'll have to see what happens with COVID -any fundraising done with a 3rd party eats into profits -best ones are done by the school -suggestions: all done too quickly in the same stretch of time at Christmas so need to spread out in the future -response: pizza fundraiser was meant to happen earlier but we encountered hiccups with board approval -pizza was a big hit and community would like to do it again -applying to the fundraiser plan, younger kids families are saying the SMART boards are hard to see and take up space in the classes and would like to see projectors -Principal O'Grady has not purchased any SMART boards since she arrived because they are old and unsupported and at this point they are just grandfathered in to the school -once SMART boards die, they will go, and projectors are a part of the technology purchase plan for the school -board canceled cost-sharing programme and projectors are too expensive to buy all by ourselves so school went with Chromebooks -the 2 projectors in the fundraiser plan are not directly for kindy classes but to replace other projectors that didn't work -very close to being 1:1 with tech for grade 2 and up -school keeps having to purchase more as they get worn out -will not be buying anymore SMART boards <p>Q: can parents/community make donations directly to the school, and let people know what we need (i.e. projectors)-></p>	<p>Sandra AO</p>	<p>Sandra not aware of staff having problems with SMART boards but will check in with kindergarten teachers</p>

<p>A: Sandra tried to let community know donations are available, if it comes in a private cheque and over \$25 school would issue a tax receipt</p> <p>-Q: have we ever done the gift basket of gift cards that we raffle off?</p> <p>-A: not done it through the school, worth looking in to but there could be gambling rules with raffles in the school</p> <p>-Q: can we offer prizes for fundraiser?</p> <p>-A: would need it to be equitable, like the prizes this year from fundraisers were for top sellers, not top seller from divisions; divisions are different sizes and primaries tend to sell mor</p>		<p>Council to add information to Community Brief "Tidbits" about accepting donations directly from families</p>
<p>Financial Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of current financials • New items coming up/to be spent <p>Q: total profit from each fundraising</p> <p>Net: _____?????</p> <p>-only thing school has bought is Forest of Reading</p> <p>-family made a private donation to school which paid for half the Chromebooks so we won't need to take as much from the school generated funds</p> <p>-Sandra sent a written thank you to the family from the school and she doesn't think they want anything done publicly</p> <p>-next things coming out are 2 author visits (1 took place today for junior students) Rena Singh "Grandmother School and 100 Trees"</p> <p>-kids asked phenomenal, deep questions about her inspiration and process</p> <p>-another author visit next week for intermediates, twin sisters, Serena and Sasha Manua "Sisters of the Stake"</p> <p>-presenter booked for Black History month, same speaker as last year and got last year's price</p> <p>-primary author still being investigated, tried to find someone from Forest of Reading because they are current and reflect diversity</p>	<p>Sandra AO</p>	
<p>Teacher Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher update • What can Council do to support our teachers? • Share current & future happenings in the school <p>-Sue not able to make it</p> <p>-biggest thing we can do to support the teachers is let them know we appreciate them</p> <p>-council shared some positive things their children have done during virtual and we are so going to reach out and let staff know</p>	<p>Sue McKnight</p>	<p>Council Tidbits in Community Brief also to include thank-you to staff for their amazing efforts during virtual learning</p>
<p>Council Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February Food Bank Donation – ideas? <p>-last year did a Dec food bank donation but Feb is when</p>	<p>Indu Bains</p>	<p>Marny and Maggie to take on Feb food</p>

<p>there is a need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -has to be a cash donation, which would be collected through SCO and we send them a cheque -could make a BINGO card where families fill spaces by completing tasks, which includes donations to food bank but also other things that don't cost money -council to provide incentives, gift cards? Rename the school mascot? • PRO Grant Application – see attached proposal -Indu suggestion Matthew Jones as speaker, combines lyrics and hip hop into presentation -JK-3 and 4-8 for 2 separate presentations; recommends parents participate with kids too -would cost \$750 plus HST which fits budget -PRO Grant application due by Jan 19 so Indu needs feedback by Tuesday morning -Marny says go with Matthew -we do feel like Matthew would engage kids and parents • Whole Kids Foundation \$3,000 Grant – Opens Feb 14 • -kids build an edible garden -application is tedious -school already has 2 upright gardens in meditation area -Indu will take the application on but does anyone else want to join? -discussion around needing staff and minimum 10 kids involved and concerns about mixing cohorts -school has had success with gardening in the past so worthwhile idea -money comes for following year so if the application is done Feb the money is for next school year -council thinks it will be a great experience for kids, but we will need staff support • “Science Project” – Comparetto Cubes -could create it as a science project -not sure if this will pass regulations -is an air filter -prototype created by 13 year old from found materials tested at 90% filtration -barriers: not allowed to use fans in class -even if can't create them now, something to look to for the future • OFFICIAL School FB Page for strictly school-related and council-related happenings • Spring Community Cleanup with Lions Club (Saplings) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -we want to do a community clean up around school and community centre 		<p>drive project, but Indu to reach out to whole council for other volunteers</p> <p>Indu to complete application</p> <p>Sandra willing to speak to staff about teacher support for project</p> <p>Sandra willing to ask about approval of creating Cubes but is doubtful it would be approved right now</p> <p>Sandra to ask staff whether they want to do the clean up</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lions club willing to help out and give saplings to whoever brings the most bags -could it be paired with Earth Day in April? -will aim for April and revisit at Feb meeting to see if we want school day or weekend -Lions club says April is okay • OPEN DISCUSSION -no new items 		<p>as a school effort or as a community project</p> <p>Indu to confirm timelines with Lions' Club</p>
<p>Meeting Adjourned at 8:41 p.m.</p>	<p>Indu Bains</p>	