

## **Minutes of Meeting - Wednesday February 16, 2022**

**Present:** Jothy Thavabalan, Amit Vig, Karina Shi, Rajbavan Rajkumar, Ankit Mittal and Rajwant Kaur

**Staff:** Donna Franklin, Ethan Andersen and Kevin Merkley

**Regrets:** Fayza Prebtani

### **Welcome**

Kevin M. welcomed everyone at 6:35. The first slide was of the school sign. There was mention of the news from yesterday of more unmarked graves discovered in Saskatchewan. Kevin spoke of our shared responsibilities and our cultures that we pass on through our children.

### **Introductions by Council**

Greetings were brought by Jothy Thavabalan, the new Co-Chairs of the Council. There was talk of parent feedback and specifically appreciation of daily updates provided by staff through email correspondence.

Amit greeted everyone, sent appreciation to the staff for their contribution to meetings

Rajwant greeted everyone, sent appreciation to Jothy for her contribution to the meetings

Karina greeted everyone, asked a follow up question to the financials of the school

### **Motion #1 re: Minutes**

Amit brought a motion to approve the minutes of the November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting. Karina seconded the motion. All were in favour and it was approved.

Kevin M. demonstrated the newer and updated version of the website, including new tabs. Rajwant asked about the possibility of a quick access link to the school board calendar. Kevin M. Will circle back on this.

There is a new parent, Eric, agreeing to volunteer in the mornings outside of the school in assisting offload children from cars. We're very grateful to him for his help. He does not volunteer inside the school

### **EFPS Student Government**

Ethan A. highlighted the new student council and how significant their presence has been.

Donna F. mentioned the online team and wellness team that is running the wellness fair coming up.

There are a lot of new initiatives coming up. We are encouraging students to be self represented and independent so they can push the schools' initiatives. The student government includes the online students as well as the online students. When we meet it's in cohorts in the gym with both F2F and Remote students participate together. We plan on creating videos highlighting the work of our three student government teams for our next meeting.

## **FAST Program**

K to G3 children in person program to share a meal together. During non-pandemic time, children go up and pick food for their parents to eat. Now that it's virtual, we have pivoted to share recipes, colour pictures etc, all while parents meet and talk and build connections.

## **Tune in YRDSB - Podcast**

Donna F and Ms. Ginsler were on the Spotify podcast talking about having an open and safe school as it relates to inclusion.

## **A Different Book List Program**

An exciting new program. Each class gets \$300 to spend from a bookstore. These texts can be shared between classrooms. Intended to help instruct/teach tools to help. These texts represent diverse identities and will help both teachers and children engage in learning about equity and inclusion.

## **Saidat**

Videos that hit on Canadian black excellence, historical moments, key times. Students will be asked to make their own connections to the pieces provided. Will highlight the rich black history, with a focus on Canadians.

## **Tamil Heritage Assembly**

Raj's family performed a neat performance/dance. Students spoke about their celebrations and the foods they liked. We're trying to more of this in a virtual environment, as best as possible.

## **Budget**

18% reduction in the budget from traditional budgets. 4 million budget deficit from the past that is causing in part the reduction. The money goes to, in part, consumables, subject specific items, computers and technology, school management, etc, Kevin M. went over the carry over money from the last budget that is being used towards Identity Specific classroom libraries, chromebooks, mathup (a program for staff to improve on teaching math to students – online with 2021 and future model for teaching math) subscriptions and divisional purchases. The carry over from last year is assisting greatly in the budget for this year. We are close to having a chromebook per child in the school (knowing the younger children are less likely to require it because they are play based)

### **Boundary Change**

Kevin M. updated council on the new, small boundary change. Anticipating 14 new children for the 2022-2023 school year. There is sufficient space in the school to accommodate the slight increase in registration.

### **EQAO Grades 3 and 6**

This year EQAO will be for students learning in person only.

### **EFPS Spirit Wear**

More information will follow from Ms. Prebtani in future meetings.

### **Staff Appreciation**

Think of ways to appreciate the staff with a small gesture, coming from parents (example, a chocolate with a note). Ethan A suggested a video memory as an example. Amit V will send out an email to Rajwant and Jothy to initiate a brainstorming session before presenting a few ideas to Admin.

Next meeting April 20, 2022

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50pm