

Wednesday, November 24th, 2021

Present: Jothy Thavabalan, Amit Vig, Andi Bharani, Karina Shi, Rajbavan Rajkumar

Staff: Donna Franklin, Ethan Andersen, Fayza Prebtani and Kevin Merkley

### **Welcome and updates from School Administrators**

Kevin welcomed everyone at 6:30. A picture of the school sign was shared that says "We are all treaty people on Williams Treaty 13 land". We talked about our work to help our school community to understand our responsibilities as settlers on this land.

Ms. Prebtani shared updates from the school including the construction that took place on the garden bed in the Kindergarten area, the Dance workshops that took place in the gym for our students Kindergarten to Grade 8. Mr. Merkley noted that this workshop was paid for with Non-Board funds from the school (money fundraised by the school). We shared the work that our Grade 7 students did to create a Fairy Villiage for our Primary students, the Rangoli that was placed in our front lobby and the learning that the Grade 7/8 shared with the school. Mr. Andersen spoke about our Remembrance Day Assembly and it's impact on our students, and we thanked our families for joining us for Parent/Teacher conferences.

Mr. Merkley and Mr. Andersen shared that we are having Student Council interviews, and that there are amazing leaders at EFPS. We have a group of Grade 7 students who have been working with our Performance Plus team to promote having school-wide Spirit Days. They are working on setting dates and a communication strategy for classrooms and our community. We anticipate that the first Spirit Day will be the Tuesday or Wednesday of the last week before the holidays. We also have a group of students who are working together to plan for a Winter Activity Day. They have tentatively set Tuesday, March 8th for this whole school activity day. This team will be seeking advice and guidance from staff as they plan for this great opportunity to come together as a school! Details to follow!

### **Our School Council**

Notes started as Mr. Merkley shared the details about the parent council positions and how they are assigned. Delineation of each role by Mr. Merkley - Chair, co-chair, secretary, and treasurer. Mr. M suggested that we need to create a constitution for our school council, as one is not currently in existence.

Rights and expectations of Voting Members explained, and the importance of the role was highlighted: how important it is for us to have a universal view of the school as we engage as voting members. Our own children's needs are important, but the global view is key. As well, participation on committees and subcommittees is also the responsibility and right of voting members.

Google form has been created and is available for voting, if necessary. It is understood that a leadership role might not be in the interest of all members of the committee, and only those who would like to put themselves forward are being requested at the time.

**Amit Vig** has put himself forward as secretary. His wife acknowledges that he would be a fine fit for the role. Acclaimed by Mr. Merkley.

**Karina Shi** has put herself forward as Treasurer. Confirmed.

**Jothy Thavabalan** put herself forward at School Council Chair. She spoke to how important this work is and that it was her son who encouraged her to nominate herself. She is looking for the support of Ms. Franklin and Mr. Andersen to assist her in this role. Confirmed.

### **School Council Forum**

Amit gave a rundown of his experiences around the Parent Council symposium, focusing on the breakout rooms around the Parent-Child connection, around dismantling Anti-Black Racism, and touched on the Parent Reaching Out Grant.

### **Parents Reaching Out Grant (PRO Grant)**

Move towards the Parent Reaching Out Grant. Fayza spoke to the grant. \$800 grant towards parent and student initiatives that highlight Mental Wellness, around Math curriculum, etc.

Donna spoke to how we used the money last year, highlighting the 5 session events we ran in the evenings last year, focusing on wellness events and who the school brought in and the events that took place.

Our goal this year was to bring the two schools together, and as such a survey was sent to families to ask for guidance as to what the focus of this year's events should be. Forms were translated in the hope that all families' voices would be included in the feedback.

Survey results were shared:

Most interest was towards looking at Mental Health and Wellbeing, Financial Literacy, and the New Math Curriculum.

The goal is to work together with Markham Gateway to maximize the impact of the grant money. Deadline has been moved to December 16th for our project application.

End of standard agenda. Floor is opened to questions and concerns.

Future meetings have been set for the next two (Feb 16th, April 20th). Seconded by committee.

Questions raised by Karina about what our work should be for the next few months. PRO Grant application, Student Wellness Events, and work towards parent goals in the survey will be the next work we will engage in. The Parent Council will be engaged in this work.

Interest in Pizza Lunches, and other fundraising events is raised by Jothy and Karina.

Adjourned