

GPS School Council Minutes: Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Meeting commenced: 7:06

Attendees: Heather Purcell, Lorne Boyle, Queenie & Philip Shang, Shanaaz Hasanali, Loretta Lee, Beverly Maybury, Mark Quan, Jaime Lee, Joyce & Peter Wong, Kevin White, Barbara Peters, JP Wu, Melissa Niewenhuijs, Sophia Ali, Carol Wong, Bettina, Carla Leo, Teresa Kenn, Manjit Parma, Jaina Negandhi

Indigenous Land Acknowledgment (7:06-7:07)

We affirm that we are all treaty people and acknowledge that the York Region District School Board is located on the lands of two treaties. These treaties are signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the First Nations of the Williams Treaties who are: the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha, Scugog Island; and the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Rama, and Georgina Island our closest neighbour and partner in education.

To honour this agreement, we will take up our responsibility to be respectful of their traditions, knowledge, and inherent rights as sovereign nations. We will respect their relationship with these lands and recognize that our connection to this land is through the continued relationship with these First Nations, and we acknowledge our shared responsibility to respect and care for the land and waters for future generations.

Welcome to attendees and new members (7:07-7:10)

Elections for New Executive Positions (7:10-7:20)

- Shanaaz reviewed the different roles on student council - and we voted in members for the roles of Chair, Co-chair, secretary, and treasurer.
- Co-Chairs: Queenie Shang & Shanaaz Hasanali
- Secretary: Aminah Baig, Jaime Lee, Jaina Negandhi
- Treasurer: Joyce & Peter Wong
- Community Representative: Kevin White

Welcoming Loren Boyle (7:20-7:31)

- New VP. Mr. Boyle shared his experience history with us.

Principal's Report (7:31-7:45)

- **School Council Forum** will be held on November 10th, 2021, more details to follow
- **Meet the Teacher night** will be in October, more info to follow
- From class reorganization, we added another junior class 4/5 and hired Ms. Patel (she was at Greensborough previously). She is in the 4th portable.
- Debbie Taylor is on leave for the year. We have 3 new office administrators (Julie Mallinos, Mary Scelsa and Mary Tirogiannis)
- Greensborough was chosen to have a visit from the Director (Louis Sirisko), Superintendent (Kien Nam Luu), and Trustee (Allan Tam) to see how hybrid is working out. They went to different classes and debriefed in the office. Challenges to staff and

students were discussed. They plan to return to hear feedback from students. They're also interested in attending a School Council meeting

- Caretakers are working hard to keep the school clean and safe
- There are over 500 students on site and 134 online
- School has hired assistants to help in kindergarten classes and during recess/lunch, one helps in the office
- Recess and Lunch is split into two groups to help with social distancing
- **Crosswalk update:** GPS has found a new crossing guard (parent). Melissa Niewenhuijs emailed the town re: getting a traffic light installed at Bur Oak and Alfred Patterson. It would be good if we keep pressing this topic and if parents reach out to the town.
- **Kiss and Ride update:** admin in talks of re-booting way kiss and ride flows. There aren't enough parking spots for staff. Talks of a new design to improve flow. Families are parking and entering live lanes. Pylons, etc. are going to be brought in to help with flow. Talk of expanding parking lot. Crosswalk is going to be re-painted and new signage. There will be blitzes on Bur Oak to deal with students jaywalking.
- **Covid protocols:** students are in cohorts, different zones in the yard for each cohort, every 2 weeks zones changed for the different cohorts. There is increased cleaning by caretakers. Rooms and hallways have been decluttered. Class sizes have decreased since the reorganization and teachers are spacing students out as much as possible.
- Heather shared that kindness, mattering and the mental health well-being of students and teachers are very important to the school and will continue to be promoted and encouraged through the year to help with student success
- Terry Fox Run was on Wednesday, September 29th
- Orange Shirt Day representing Truth & Reconciliation Day is on Thursday, September 30th
- Mental health of staff and students are a priority. Staff is working hard on connecting virtual students with those in person. Staff is working with IT departments when technical difficulties arise. Each staff member was given headsets.
- Students have been doing random acts of kindness. They're aware of the struggles many might be going through.
- Cornerstone generously donated a \$50 gift card to each staff member, thank you's were given to Kevin on behalf of Cornerstone
- Families encouraged to submit photos, etc. for the weekly newsletter
- Extra curriculums will happen once directions from board given
- Intramurals might happen
- Cross-country might happen but not with other schools

Treasurer's Report (7:45-7:47)

- \$1820.95

Meeting on Hybrid learning (7:47-7:53)

- Brief discussion on the #hybrid hurts kids meeting that happened last week (September 22nd). Summary of the meeting outcome is that parents are encouraged to advocate to let trustee know that hybrid teaching is challenging for both teachers, parents & students.

National Caretaker Appreciation Day and World Teacher Day (7:53-7:56)

- Shanaaz indicated that Friday is National Caretaker appreciation day, and Teacher appreciation day is coming up next Tuesday Oct 5th. School Council to consider ways to appreciate those at the school in those roles, as it may boost student/staff morale. Email with further details on these events will be sent out

Other matters (7:56-8:26)

- Parents of students online gave suggestions/voiced concerns about hybrid (might be helpful if staff shared schedule ahead of time, morning announcements hard to hear, technical difficulties occurring)
- Parents want to support staff during these difficult times (encourage staff to reach out)
- There will be follow up on using council funds to purchase outdoor equipment for kindergarten pen
- It is easier to switch from online to in person
- Discuss recruitment ideas for new members and events for the year at our next meeting

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 20th

Meeting adjourned: 8:26pm