



Regency Acres P.S.

School Council Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting Via Zoom

January 20th, 2022

7pm – 8:30pm

Attendees: Mrs. Grossinger, Mrs. Sandiford, Sera, Brendt, Jackie, Rebecca, Claudia, Janine, Kathleen, Cheryl,

Meeting began at 7:08pm

Welcome and appreciations by Kerry, Sera, and Brendt.

Sera read the land acknowledgement

Brendt approved the agenda. Jackie seconded the motion.

Brendt approves minutes. Jackie seconded the motion.

Kerry added an appreciation for the increased police presence around the school. Traffic has been hectic at pick-up and drop-off times.

Brendt added an appreciation to the teachers and staff at RAPS for loaning out technology during remote learning and helping to ensure safety and wellbeing of children.

New Business

PRO grant

-Sera expressed apologies for late submission. The PRO grant application has been submitted with a theme of “Healthy Technology”. This ties in with the board goals around social inclusion, parental engagement etc. We are now waiting for approval.

Pavement enhancement

Brendt explained that we will move forward with the project in the springtime (mid-April). once the snow clears. We raised some money for the cost of the project through the donation drive. We can use additional funds from some of the new fundraising initiatives to make up the difference. We also have some reserve funds.

Fundraising

Box of cards

Claudia explained that the box of cards to sell is 100% birthday cards. We will have contactless delivery (similar to picking up technology). Box will be sold for \$25. 30 cards per box represents good value (less than \$1 per card). Council needs to choose date/time for campaign. Office to set up School Cash Online for payment. Claudia will take pictures and make a flyer for advertising. Should also post to Instagram.

Krispy Kreme

Claudia explained that our cost is \$5 per box and that we would charge a minimum \$10. The committee is planning this fundraiser for June.

We could use the raised funds for the Tarmac painting - or something else?

We need to write a proposal letter to Krispy Kreme that outlines what the fundraised money will be used for because not all schools are guaranteed to get this fundraising project.

Ideas for Use of Fundraising Money

-teacher survey was shared a previous meeting and reviewed again by request from an attendee at the meeting

-Kerry explained that the biggest ask from teachers is around "technology". The school can also use money for instrument repair (though students can't use instruments this year). Grade 8 graduation also needs support. Indoor recess activities (board games, cards).

-teachers are asking for laptops, iPads

-Gym equipment (teachers who requested were particularly asking for primary grades or students with special needs).

Brendt and Sera expressed interest in supporting outdoor education initiatives rather than purchasing more technology. Could we add to the Growing Place? Could a new structure be built to accommodate an outdoor classroom or Forest School?

- Sera suggested using cut logs (open ended material, moveable to create forts, etc.)
- Sitting spots (funded by council) were purchased in past years - but are currently not permitted due to Covid protocols around sanitization
- Nature backpacks (funded by council) were also purchased in past years - but unclear whether they are still utilized
- Rebecca suggested that an initiative that promotes physical activity and outdoor education would be more likely to be approved by Krispy Kreme than technology
- Sera asked if the "Stay & Play" kits - funded by the School Council a few years ago are refreshed enough? Perhaps we could use Council funds to purchase new activities. These were intended for use during indoor recess.

Rodney asked about the guidelines for keeping students inside for recess. Kerry explained that at temperatures of -18°C/-19°C, recess is shortened. Temperatures below -20°C and windchill students must stay inside.

Brendt reiterated that he believes most parents are sick of spending money on technology. Brendt would like to spend money on something more meaningful: An outdoor classroom that teachers could book.

Kerry explained that we already have the Growing Place which was designed as an outdoor classroom. She also explained that a structure would be very expensive to build initially and we would also need funds in reserve to maintain the structure.

Another consideration: The building of a structure would need to be approved through the board. Even an enhancement to the existing space would need to be approved. There is a policy, procedure and application to be approved.

Most of the land at Regency Acres PS is city property (eg. soccer field, baseball diamond, etc.)

Sera explained that in a normal year - we have capacity to raise a lot of money (\$40K when Sera first began on Council) - though fundraising is down significantly due to the impact of the pandemic. We could look in to if we could get business sponsors to help with purchase of larger cost items. Dependent on policy/procedure and application process.

Brendt suggested that we partner with the Town of Aurora to “borrow” some of their property to build a structure. Maybe they would even contribute money towards the project? Then the space could be used for community programs during the summertime.

Kerry will first need to investigate the process through the Board and Plant Services. This may take time as there are significant delays due to Covid. She will try and come back with more information at the next meeting.

Financial Report

Rodney explained that our finances are fairly stagnant. We are not spending money - so our balance has not changed significantly (\$6800).

We will spend approximately \$4800 for the tarmac painting project.

We raised \$2420 through the donation drive (minus 3% fee for School Cash Online).

School Update from Kerry

Photo day proofs will be delivered next week. Ordering done online through the company.

Regency Acres Instagram is going well

Kerry has received positive feedback from parents and we are now up to 89 followers. It is being used as a form of communication home (instead of Twitter). Claudia suggested sending a separate email with an invitation to join Instagram. Also suggested to advertise Instagram account on sign out front of school. If we could get 50% of our families engaged on social media we should consider that a “win”.

Technology Loans

Many families have borrowed chromebooks for use during online learning. The school had 85 chromebooks - and also had to borrow from elsewhere to support families online. 47 new computers were purchased using school funds (no cost sharing this year). Technology has a limited lifespan and is often difficult to repair (reason why teachers request technology every year). Textbooks and learning materials have all moved digital - so technology become a vital learning tool - especially in remote learning and for engagement with students. After about 5

years chromebooks are beyond repair and go to ewaste. So they need replenishing and this is why teachers are requesting them. They are also a very useful educational tool.

Remote learning

Nine students were registered remote learners before the Winter break. We now have approximately 35 students online. The decision to return to face-to-face learning was not a school board decision - this decision comes from the Ministry of Education in conjunction with guidance from Public Health.

Health and Safety

After the break, we held a virtual assembly with in-person learners to review health and safety protocols and routines. We reviewed hand hygiene, masking, social distancing etc. We also took the time to stress the importance of proper winter clothing and respecting the environment (how to play safely in the snow).

All in-person learners should have received 2 rapid tests today. 3-ply cloth masks to be sent home soon.

Reporting of Covid Cases in schools has changed. Cases are not reported in the same way. School absences are being collected to be shared by the Ministry starting next week. The school is not able to share personal private information publicly. Will try to be as transparent and open as possible within ministry guidelines.

Mask wearing is going well with kindergartens (new requirement since our return to school).

Daily screening confirmation

The community has been great at doing this every morning and families are asking questions when the technology doesn't work or glitches.

All other Business

Sera invited questions/discussion from anyone in attendance:

- Fayaz inquired about process for registration for French immersion
- Kerry explained that registration runs from January 14 to February 4
- Parents of SK students should contact office
- Office will fill in registration form then the French immersion school will contact parents directly

Rodney clarified budget for Grade 8 Graduation

He proposed that we should budget \$4000. Council previously devoted \$3700 one year and \$5200 another year toward graduation. We may not have the budget this year (depends on success of future fundraising). Also depends on Public Health guidance and direction from the school board.

Adjourn at 8:27pm

Brendt motions. Claudia seconds

Next meeting: March 3, 2022