

School Council Meeting Via Zoom-
September 29th, 2020
7:00 pm

Principles Report-Paolo Burzese:

- Busy first month
- School growing before COVID-19
- SLSS is the biggest school in York Region
- Just under 1500 students
- 300 students opted to go virtual
- Went from 5 to 4 periods
- New cohorts coming up next week, being finalized
- Some staff went to virtual learning
- There were 9 openings before school started, plus hired 4 new staff
- Students have been great with masks, very responsible
- Crowds only at the end of the day
- Entry morning keeping apart, everyone is doing their share
- First case of COVID-19 confirmed at Stephen Lewis
- Working with public health to ensure we are in-line with practices
- **Building community-what we are doing**
 - Biggest focus is to stay up and running
 - When someone gets tested it can take up to 6 days for results
 - When we get used to the rhythm we can start getting things going at school virtually
 - Lots of decisions and consultations with Board and public health
 - Decisions done at Board level that used to be done at school level
- Graduation announcements coming soon
- There are virtual college/university forums being planned
- School is currently every other day, balance is efficient
- Currently, no discussion to go to any other model

Council-Question and Answer:

- **Contingency plan if there is an outbreak?**
 - Plan would be for teachers to go virtually for all 4 courses
 - School can switch quickly
 - Public health directing if and when schools get shut down
- **Volunteer hours**
 - Recommending to sit tight at this point, not recommended to go out just now
 - Modifications may take place

- **If there is a second case of COVID-19 will the school be shut down?**
 - Public health looks into this and we follow their protocols
- **3 sessions in the afternoon with no break**
 - Work time at end of each class
 - Some teachers have a break in class to get fresh air or go outside
- **If a student chooses to go virtual after a confirmed COVID-19 case, how does the school support?**
 - Becomes students responsibility to catch up
 - If there is a missed test, teachers can't make another arrangement
 - If students are not on top of catching up, staying home may present a challenge
 - Can't modify programing as of now since it is hard enough for staff to keep things at par
- **Physical textbooks?**
 - Physical textbooks were given to some students during their face-to-face block if they were available
 - Some classes do, while others don't, depending on the course and if it makes sense
- **Clubs**
 - No clubs starting at this point
 - DECA operating virtually
 - As per board protocol after Thanksgiving there will be new direction
- **@SLSSYRDSB Instagram is where you are able to get club and daily announcements**
 - Phasing out twitter this year
 - Experimenting with Facebook but not quite ready to launch
- **Guidelines for teachers to engage students at this time**
 - Teachers feeling disconnecting as not all students are turning on their camera
 - Trying to strike a balance between privacy, but continue to feel connected
- **How does staff check for attendance if cameras are off**
 - Checks throughout lessons
 - Asks questions
 - If no response from students, teachers contact family
 - Students log on, but then log off
- **Music classes**
 - Staff handing out instruments next week
 - Instruments such as flutes that need to be blown into can't be used at school
 - Music theory
- **How are cleaning measures taking place?**
 - Caretakers are working more often
 - High touch areas such as handles and bathrooms are cleaned more frequently

- Deep cleaning done in rooms
- Teachers have wipes in room
- Also wipes for computers and electronics
- Desks and all hard surfaces are cleaned daily
- Students use same desk everyday
- **Volunteers**
 - Can't have volunteers in building as of now
- **School got permission to use Zoom as of last week**
- **Full time in school**
 - Not likely this semester
 - Create small groups
 - Create as little contact as possible
- **Class time of 2.5 hours is the ministry expectation**
- **Some staff are doing live streaming**
 - They were given an option
- **When one cohort is at school, what is the expectation of the other cohort online?**
 - Different for each class
 - Live streaming lessons
 - Giving assignments
 - Each course works differently
- **School photos**
 - At this time photos will not be taking place
- **Yearbook**
 - Not sure at this point
 - Last year's yearbooks will be coming in, in the next week or two

School Council Elections:

- **Co-chairs**
 - Elanit Kritzer and Nicky Yuval
- **Secretary**
 - Liat Waisenberg

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Next meeting TBD