

MINUTES

Stonebridge School Council Meeting

December 7, 2020 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Location: Online - GoToMeeting

Future Dates: February 1st, April 5th, June 7th

School Council Members: Garth Morris, Joanne Wang, Carmen Chan, Jun Yan, Tasneem Ali, Danli Chang, Ling Luo, Bingley Gao, Josephine Fu

Present: Kevin Merkley, Sumir Bansal, Joanne Wang, Bingley Gao, Josephine Fu, Jun Yan, Ling Luo, Micol Mihaila, Garth Morris

Agenda Items	Lead
Welcome from School Council Co-Chair	Joanne/Garth
<p>The meeting started at 6:40. Joanne brought greetings. Joanne shared that this is the first year on School Council as a Co-Chair. Joanne thanked everyone for being here this evening. Each participant introduced themselves and shared their connection to the school.</p>	
Approval of Minutes from October 19th	
<p><i>Motion: Garth Morris made a motion that we accept the minutes as presented from our October 19th 2020 School Council meeting. Seconded by Carmen Chan. Carried. 7 in favour, 2 abstain</i></p>	
<p>This vote was facilitated online via Doodle.</p>	
Review of School Council Activities	Garth
<p>The role of the school council, the council and chairs are the liaisons with the community. The different roles of the council members were discussed.</p>	
<p>We have less meetings and activities this year due to the pandemic.</p>	
<p>School council handbook/constitution to be shared.</p>	
<p>How council is different this year than previous years. Less/no fundraising activities such as Pizza lunch and probably no Fun Fair.</p>	
<p>Direct donation can still be done since it is online only. Is it a sensitive thing to do? Will meet online in January with the council members to discuss.</p>	

From our previous meeting on Oct. 19, the following was discussed regarding the purpose of Fund Raising:

Fund raising is an important part of what school council does to support the school. Some examples are Direct Donations and Pizza Lunch. Fund raising has supported improvements in the library, purchasing technology, funding towards an outdoor classroom, Grade 8 Graduation and furniture for the Community Gathering Area.

Welcome and updates from School Administration

Kevin/Sumir

Student government is operating with 29 class senators. Meetings are taking place online after school and our Class Senators are working with our Lead Teachers in our 4 areas of focus (Supporting our 2SLGBTQ+ students, supporting our marginalized students and families, Indigenous Education and Technology/Modern Learning)

Remembrance Day ceremony was held online virtually, recognizing minority soldiers from different ethnic groups, and women soldiers. Students created displays for Remembrance Day. Many learning activities related to Remembrance Day were conducted. Our school made a donation to the Stouffville Legion as we were not able to accept donations for poppies this year.

Treaties Recognition work is challenging students to have a deeper understanding of indigenous communities, our responsibilities and the action we need to take towards reconciliation. Students have been doing work to bring the land acknowledgement to life

Healthy Snack Program has started following the protocols that have been put in place. We have made perishable and non-perishable food items available to all of our students and there are snack bins in every classroom.

A Muslim Student Voice was developed by Stonebridge students and staff in cooperation with the Alliance of Educators for Muslim Students (AEMS) and Inclusive Schools and Community Services (ISCS). We had a video release party for the families as the release of the video was delayed due to school closures before releasing the video publicly. We have shared this video with our school community and have had a strong response from our YRDSB community. Student Voice is key, and centring student voice and being responsive to our students is at the centre of our work.

Questions/Discussion about the role of School Council

Joanne/Garth

At the last meeting, the roles were defined for parents that were present as we were taking a vote. Garth reviewed these roles and

the responsibilities shared with participants and asked if any Executive or Voting members had questions about their roles.

Action: Sumir and Kevin share the School Council member handbook with School Council members as we are now virtual.

Bullying prevention. Discussed at school with students: Discrimination, Racism, Cyber bullying, Online proper usage and behaviour. Kindness and inclusivity at the school.

How School Council Might Look Different

Joanne/Garth

Garth shared how school council has met face to face in the past, and has supported with fundraising (Library, Community Gathering Area, and are working towards an outdoor classroom).

We are not able to meet face-to-face, and we are meeting virtually which could have benefits down the road. School Council is a liaison with the school.

Joanne asked about how the school has supported students in the past, specifically about bullying. Sumir shared that we had a Safe Schools Assembly, which was done virtually this year. Bullying, Character, Power, what Bullying is and what it isn't was covered in these presentations shared by all teaching staff. This is important, and racism and human rights was shared. Expectations for students online was shared as well.

This year there is an online component for our Face-to-Face students. There are new expectations that are in place as well with regards to online expectations.

Co-secretary position may be added to help with the minutes. Micol is interested in helping out. The goal is to have the minutes sent to the chairs, Kevin, and Sumir, and can be voted on virtually to speed up the posting of the minutes.

Accounting Update

Joanne/Garth

Action: Kevin will send Jun, Garth and Joanne a summary of the current School Council Funds available

Other Business:

Joanne/Garth

Garth noted that we need to ensure that we are sending out minutes to our community in a timely fashion, and this is something that we need to

work on together to get the information out to the community. Our main function is to communicate with the school and inform the community of the business and discussions of the School Council and what is taking place at each meeting. Garth noted that it is important to have minutes out in a timely fashion.

There was discussion about missing minutes from February 2020 as well as October 13th 2020 which was a special meeting of the 2019-20 School Council to discuss items not discussed last year due to school closures.

Garth asked that the minutes need to be completed and shared within a week.

Minutes are shared with the Co-Chairs and the P and VP to review. Micol asked to be included in communication to support. Garth asked that this be tabled to the February 2021 meeting.

Adjournment

Upcoming meetings 6:30 to 8:00pm: February 1st, April 5th, June 7th
