

Teston Village PS - School Council
Minutes - November 30, 2022
Online Meeting
5:30 - 6:45 pm

Attendance:

Janice Franklin, Shelly Mediratta, Lorraine Doran, Adil Malik, Mansoor, Najia Aziz, Mahwash Shafiq, Naeed, Naureen Adnan, Fozia Mangla, Eesha Abbasi, Sarneet, Sanobar, Ainnie, Sadya Malik, Mubarka Anjum, Ashley St. John, Asif Malik, F.A.,

Welcome:

Janice welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for the quick change to online due to the weather. Lorraine Doran who has been covering for Shelly Mediratta these past two weeks introduced herself. She is a retired principal and thanks the community for being so welcoming. Shelly Mediratta said hello and thanked the community for all of the well wishes while she has been away. She is looking forward to her return on Monday, December 5.

Principal's Report:

- Enrolment is at 401 up from the predicted 370 students. As a result, we have been allocated a bit more staffing. This allows for the teacher who supports our English Language Learners in Junior and Intermediate to increase from 25% to 50% in the school.
- Janice thanked the community for all their support during the uncertain times as CUPE negotiated the terms of their contract. The school is grateful for the wonderful support with communication and the way the council ensured that all of our parents received important information. Thank you as well for support in scheduling parent/teacher interviews.
- EQAO results from last year are in. EQAO is the standardized test that is administered to grade 3 and 6 students across Ontario. Reading, Writing and Math are assessed. The results support the school, Board of Education and Ministry to assess where the programs are strong and where the programs in schools may not be meeting the needs of the students as well as they should.

Approximate Results:

Reading: 70% of students at or above grade level

Writing: 70% of students at or above grade level (interesting that we have several students meeting at highest level (level 4) - which is different than Board and Ministry results.

Math 50% of students at or above grade level - this is concerning for us as we are also well below the Board average which is approximately 65%

Certainly COVID and VIRTUAL LEARNING have an impact but that would have impacted in all areas. For instance, we are actually seeing more students in grades 4 to 6 struggling with reading - so surprising that we are as high as 70% there

MATH will be the school focus for professional learning and action. There are two teacher leader teams (Math Leadership and Math Fluency) who are receiving intensive training

and who are responsible to share this learning with the rest of the staff. This will be occurring at Monday's staff meeting and at staff meetings throughout the school year. We are excited about the new learning and will be tracking the impact on student achievement.,

Mansoor asked why Math might be affected so much more than Reading and Writing. Janice said she cannot be certain of any one specific reason but the data shows that students are lacking a feeling of confidence in the area of math and we want to put math instruction as a focus for our professional learning so we do a better job of responding to the needs of our students.

Mansoor asked about the after-school tutoring program. Janice replied that this opportunity needs a staff member to lead it. It is a paid position but staff are stretched and no one has offered to take on this role as of yet.

- DESTREAMING: Math and Science have been de-streamed in high school. Now we are de-streaming SSC (student support centre) for students in Elementary School. The previous model of SSC would allow students who have been identified with special needs through professional testing to be withdrawn from class for up to 51% of their day. They would receive support and instruction in a smaller group. As of June 2027 - there will no longer be SSC's in elementary school. Students will all be supported in their homeroom classes. Students in grade 3 and up will be allowed to remain in SSC. As of January, no new students can be placed in an SSC. This de-streaming will also be in place for our MLL (multi-language learners). We are fortunate to have a de-streaming coach who is in our school every third week to support our staff and students in adjusting to a new model of instruction and support.
- CO-CURRICULAR activities are occurring - grades 2,4 and 7 have gone to Outdoor Education trips; Grade 7 and 8's have gone to the symphony in Toronto; area volleyball teams have competed in intermediate division and Junior volleyball is beginning. We have a guitar club. We have tried to start up a band but it has been a challenge to get students to commit to the band after two years without instrumental music due to COVID protocols. We are currently collecting new hats and mittens for donation to those in need. There is a food drive and a toy drive. Naadia will send us the toy drive information.
- Principal absence - Janice will be away starting Dec. 21 for surgery. She is looking forward to returning when she is mobile. She will likely be off for January and most of February 2023
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Constitution Review:

- We quickly reviewed the points in the School Council constitution. It was decided that members should review again at their leisure and send any questions/suggestions to the school. We will vote on the constitution at the next meeting.

Events:

- Family Movie Night didn't occur as there was so much uncertainty during the CUPE contract negotiations
- Perhaps we can look at getting this going if Farzana can get the license

Fundraising:

- Our current balance is \$268.45 (after invoice for photo booth and outdoor play items have been paid)
- It was asked how much money we made from pizza and cookie sales. This is not a school council initiative, so that money goes into our non-Board funds and gets used to support our many initiatives at the school
- It was suggested that a committee be formed to review fundraising ideas and to share these with council either in an email before the next council meeting or at the next council meeting. Ideas included: Subway Lunch, Bingo, Item Sales (ex Pointsettias)

Questions:

- Najia wanted to know about Vaping - Janice said there had been a report from a student that someone might have been vaping in the school. This has been thoroughly investigated and there was no vaping

Next meeting will be January 18 at 5:30 pm. The plan is to meet in person at this time.