

Meadowcrest Public School – SCC Virtual Meeting

November 18, 2020 6:30 PM

Sixteen attendees, including Admin: David Marchand, Principal and Wendy Pokupec, Vice Principal; SCC Executive: Brian Rees, Chair, Lisa Miller, Treasurer, Tracey Rees, Secretary

6:30 PM Welcome and Introductions (Brian)

- Welcome everyone. Mention of previous postponed meeting.

Review of Minutes from last meeting (Brian)

- Everything in previous minutes looks good. Call for questions or concerns. Minutes were posted on school website.
- **Motion** to accept Minutes. Accepted Lisa M & 2nded by Tracey R. **Carried.**
- Overview of last year's accomplishments:
- SCC funds provided for Grade 8 Graduation - annual contribution of \$500 budgeted – **Action:** an overage that needs to be discussed

Treasurer's Report (Lisa)

- Screenshare by Lisa to share transactions on account
- Balance and records starting Sep 16... **\$19,812.99**
- Teachers have utilized the gift card voucher arranged in 2019. David confirmed all teachers should have used now so should be wrapped up.
- A few transactions have gone through that have not been official voted upon. Discussion followed.
 - Payment for pavement painting \$3,500 and \$1,500 – to vote at next meeting
 - Remembrance Day wreath \$80 – to be paid by school block budget
 - Grade 8 Principal Award engraving for Plaque \$15 – to be paid by school block budget
 - Grade 8 Graduation charges (beyond the \$500 allotment) \$95.23 – SCC budget
 - Cupcakes for 2019 grads \$100 – SCC approved, but paid by school block budget
 - Mme Dabrowski wooden board (David confirmed this is error and should come off) – to be paid by school block budget
- Transactions of SCC funds should only be those which have been voted and approved. As we have not had opportunity to vote on transactions David said 5 items will be reimbursed from Block Budget. Going forward to discuss future transactions.
- No further questions re: transactions.
- **Move to accept treasurers report.** Brian suggested wait for updated statement prior to accepting Treasurer's Report. **Tabled** to next meeting for corrected numbers.

6:49 PM Administrator's Report (David and Wendy)

- Things going well at school. Kids excited and happy to be there. Protocols mostly status quo.
- Yesterday request sent for parents to **review reminders of protocols and mask wearing** with their children and reinforce. Kids have been pretty good in school but starting to forget. School regularly reminds mask wearing and hand washing
- There have been **questions from K-3 parents**. Likely 90% of those students are wearing masks, some visors. These grades are not required by the Board to wear masks, but they are encouraged to do so. Students can have mask break outside but if near others they are asked to wear masks.
- **Remembrance Day** virtual ceremony at the school. Cenotaph next to school and great weather but unfortunately with COVID the students could not be there. Students did go outside and see the Trenton fly by. \$180+ donations collected to go to the Legion.
- **Feed the Need food drive**. Food and cash were collected. Very successful; food and cash huge turnout
- **REORGANIZATION**
 - School notified everyone of reorganization changes taking place. Although it did not directly affect the school as a whole, it has an impact; one teacher has gone virtual, a grade 1 class collapsed and distributed. Now there is an additional split, and a larger class. Impact most felt on grade 1 and grade 5. David was not happy about.
 - Advised we were to lose VP but David has argued with Board and for now we still have VP in place.
 - Admin are committed to families and students and their commitment to the school.
 - Have any students moved back from virtual? No. Five moved from school to virtual. All schools have been impacted; staff has been lost at every school. The reorganization will happen again after Christmas when the next shift date comes around for switch to virtual. Changes are a challenge and especially early French Immersion. Current Grade 2 students were impacted by closing schools last year in what is often a key time to benefit from FI; impacts their full immersion and ability to speak confidently. Grade 2 teachers are working hard to help close gap for those students and re-org does not help.
- **Engagement & equity** at school - Wendy. Group of students in discussion. Discussions around issues with gr 6/7/8 social media, cell phones, and the power of words. Wendy & David are outside at most recesses and hearing things going around. They realized the need to discuss power of words and healthy relationships. Consulted the Board. Addressing immediately social media – police officers came and discussed cyber safety.

- A 3-part education virtual series from board (safe schools facilitator experienced doing these workshops) using school's newly purchased cameras etc. Started with grade 6 healthy relationships & boundaries. Intermediate this week workshop on privilege and what it means and how some people struggle because of this. A 2nd workshop will be healthy boundaries & relationships. A 3rd will be Power of Words before Christmas. Subjects will continue with homeroom teachers and discussions. Suggest parents continue discussions at home; school messaging parents. Most effective with presentation to students, staff meetings discussion and will also have a parent engagement series through the school year.
- Hope to tie subjects into SCC this year to work as team and discuss, equity anti-black racism, community interest topics. Will survey as to what the community is interested. Parenting in social media age will be the first to present. David & Wendy deal with many things that are carried over from school into social media. Before extended March break Wendy was working at board level on French Immersion engagement and will be looking for parents to represent FI parent community. Wendy will share info as more is available.
- Will look at rolling these things out to junior classes too but first addressing an immediate need in Grade 6 then do 7/8 and then will look to target juniors too.
- David shared that next SCC meeting someone is scheduled to present on social media, parents and social media, safe schools perspective, and one of high school teachers, great presentation. Grade 4 students do have cellphones and connect on social media. Not all parents monitor or realize their children have accounts. Parents are not always aware that kids have 'other' accounts not shared with parent. (Good reminder that phones should belong to parents not kids and they should have all passwords etc.) It will be a good presentation of reminders how to handle. Enlightening. Scary. Heavy content. *Disclaimer: Presentation is for adults, not kids.* Will be about an hour. After will survey for additional topics to cover in future. Anticipate SCC discussions at 6:30 pm and then presentation from 7:00-8:00 for presentation. Can have question & answer after too.
- **French Immersion** engagement.
 - Smita N. shared teacher perspective. If FI parents can speak up on surveys it would be helpful as the feedback seems to be less in FI than English tract. Need more parents to speak up so the FI programming is moving forward. (Decisions to be made at end of November).
 - Query if a recent survey was this one. Wendy said she believes the parent feedback is now closed, if not she will resend the link for the survey. It was looking at options such as what grade should FI start, late entry points, teacher shortage of qualified FI and Core French teachers. Looking at

options due to the teacher shortage. These will be some big decisions at board level affecting FI program. David agreed important for FI families to have their voices heard. FI, re-org, impact on children, impact on language learning. Trustees will make decisions which are often impacted by budget. They need to hear parent voices so decisions are made taking all perspectives into account.

- Superintendent of our school is also for FI – can contact her regarding having voice heard regarding FI program.
- What could we be losing? Structure, if we do not have enough teachers the model could change and FI start later than current grade 1. They may explore ways to run program with less teachers. Kindergarten start, grade 2 start, grade 4 modified start, status quo lottery, may all be considered. Wendy felt these were options based on administrator survey questions.

7:20 PM Upcoming holiday things – like prior holiday concerts.

- Question asked if there will be anything expected for parents / families to interact with school. Not yet addressed or discussed through admin at school.

7:21 PM Vote on Spending (Brian)

- A few items on agenda to vote on. Discussed to vote on the initiatives that had already gone through the statement which David has said can be reimbursed.
- 2019 / 2020 SCC committed \$500 to 2019 graduation. Can this be put toward the awards \$595? **Motion** forward Jessie Gaudreau to cover the balance \$500 already committed and \$95.23 to pay complete bill. **Seconded** by Chetan Parmar.
- \$100 for cupcakes to 2019 grade 8 grads. **Motion** forward: Elphie G. Jennifer F **seconded**. School decided to pay for this.
- David said no need to worry about the other smaller items. He will cover the other items, but SCC should consider pavement painting. **Tabled** to next meeting: Pavement painting to be considered; wait for final numbers in account as it is larger expense we need to ensure we have correct funds first.

Spirit wear

- Until the school logo etc. is complete we cannot move forward with spirit wear. Logo design is still being decided upon.

7:32 PM Fundraising Discussion (Brian)

- Normally we would have fundraisers going on including Healthy Hunger and Vandermeers at this point, but these can no longer take place due to COVID.
- **Vandermeers** currently only offering gift card with a portion of sales going to SCC. This requires physical gift cards to be purchased and distributed.
- **Fundscrip** – physical & electronic gift cards to consider. Can purchase gift cards via website and portion goes back to SCC. This may be more hands off than Vandermeers option.
- **Flip Give** – make purchases and a portion is then transferred back to SCC. Perhaps this could be used year-round and not just seasonal. There is a phone app and website to use for online shopping. Parents said from prior experience, it is easy to use.
- David said with regards fundraising, he is cautious to put things out to families as many are in troubled positions. He does not want to put too much pressure on families especially as so many do not know what the coming months may bring. If we have money in SCC we should consider spending it. The websites which go with purchases people are already making are better to consider than asking people to buy something specific, and provide a contactless option. Flip Give – no pressure to use it but if people are already shopping...
- Wendy discussed the Brooklin United Church hamper program. They do not want physical toys. Cost of \$200 to sponsor a specific family. The school is hoping to support 5 families. They are being cautious as families may be looking toward no working time in months to come. David mentioned the great thing about the church program is the support stays right in Brooklin - community donating to our Community.
- Previous years, year-end surplus of SCC funds purchased iPad for the school and technology purchases. David shared that tech is hard to come by at this time. The Board has a backlog of tech waiting to come in (they are waiting for 24000 to come in!!) Even SEA equip is backlogged in the board. SCC should not carry over beyond \$1,000 at year end. Spending can look toward what the students need to carry through COVID times, pavement painting, music ideas.
- Caution students in grades 7&8 to be extra careful with their Chromebook & chargers, as replacements are not available.
- Discussion of what are staff looking at in these unusual times, what equipment do they need?
- David has request for **ukuleles** in the school. Suggest to order 30. They can be signed out to kids for a set time, then cleaned and move on to another class. David confirmed ukuleles would be a cost of \$2,000. As far as he is aware ukuleles are not backlogged for purchasing so should not be a problem to acquire. Do we have staff trained to use/play ukuleles? Usage would start in

grade 4/5/6. It is not as challenging as guitar to play. Staff would “all be proficient in ukuleles.”

- Jennifer F **motion** forward to proceed with covering purchase of 30 ukuleles with cases for \$2,000. Tracey, Jessie, Elphie seconded. **VOTE:** Jessie, Elphie, Tracey, Jennifer, Lisa (5 voting members). David to proceed with purchase.
- Jessie asked if we could give a set amount to each teacher to use as needed for their specific class. Whether they need tissues or, whatever. Giving teachers a say in how the money is spent is important and a good way to consider using some of our funds. Brian – we can discuss again doing \$100 per teacher as we did last year. David – cost of \$100 per teacher would be \$1,900. **Tabled.**
- Recorders – cannot be used in school this year as you blow into them.
- David said we still have boom whackers and are using them.
- Lisa asked if we should now commit on \$500 for graduation 2020/2021. **Motion** – Jessie. **Second** by Jennifer Finlayson.
- Next meeting to vote on pavement painting.

Additional Items

- Question asking for updates on **kindy playground**. David - Sandbox was emptied, refilled, and a cover ordered. Sandbox will be covered as kids are not allowed to play with sand at this time.
- Brian question – will there be **winter restrictions for outside recess** in winter months, what kids can and cannot do. David – not expected to change. If there are needs for ‘pavement only’ due to weather, it becomes an indoor recess with classes rotating some outside time as we do not have pavement space for everyone. The yard can ice over badly in winter.
- Wendy - **Lunch Room Supervisors** are still needed. Can be any number of days a week! If someone wants 1 day or 5 days, they will take any help! Especially needed with intermediate grades.

8:02 PM Closing

- Next virtual SCC meeting is **December 3, 2020 6:30 PM**. Includes presentation; details forthcoming. Thank you for coming.
- Stay safe and bundle up.

Meeting adjourned