

Alpine School Council Minutes

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

6:30 p.m. Library



Welcome Back

Present: Rita Givlin, Heike Koester, Lea Becker, April Cousineau, Jessica Beaucage, Mandy Clark, Andy Slough, Samantha Hanley

Regrets: Donald Mann, Jennifer McCuaigh, Dawn Koehler, Mya W-G

Council Elections

Alpine's 2019-2020 School Council

Co-Chairs: April Cousineau, Jessica Beaucage

Secretary: Rita Givlin

Parent Representatives: Donald Mann, Andy Slough, Samantha Hanley, Jennifer McCuiag, Jennifer Smerek, Mandy Clarke, Dawn Koehler

Bulletin Board:

Facebook Page/Twitter/Instagram: Samantha Hanley

Principal: Rita Givlin

Teaching Staff: Lea Becker, Heike Koester

Non-Teaching Staff: Marjolein Wijbenga-Groot

Treasurer: Sherry Mahon

New members always welcome!

Draft: Alpine School Council Mission Statement

The Alpine School council strives to:

- *Support learning outcomes by providing enriched opportunities (e.g., off-campus trips, guest speakers, playground enhancements, new or improved technology)*
- *Build an inclusive, welcoming community by engaging parents and guardians and creating fun events for students and their families*
- *Improve the school through volunteering and promoting student voice*
- *Serve as an advisory committee to the school administrator*

Council members enjoy:

- *Getting to know school staff and feeling part of the team,*
- *Learning about school initiatives and goals,*
- *Influencing school decision making,*
- *Volunteering to make the Alpine school community stronger, and*
- *Making their own children proud.*

Communication

Council members belong to an email group and communicate informally with each other on Messenger.

Council also maintains:

- Facebook Page - Alpine School Council
- Community Bulletin Board in the front hall

Social Gathering for Parents

Dawn's idea: Playdate at the school with child care provided; parents get information on school council; council members provide snacks and coffee- date TBD

Financial Update

Council Account	1759.02
WEFI	807.11
Balance	\$2566.13

Principal's Update

- We currently are 272 students strong and have 13 classes. Our size is a great advantage as we can get to know each of our Alligators.
- Thanks to council for arranging coffee on the first day of school. Parents and guardians appreciated the warm welcome and warm beverage that you provided.
- Overall, the beginning of the school year has been very smooth. All of our kindergarten students began on day 1 this year and our Alpine staff did an amazing job of keeping everyone safe, happy and learning.
- In the 7 classes using **agendas**, 20% of our students have not paid despite 2 reminders. This creates a cost to the school which takes away from other areas of need.
- **Leadership opportunities** for our students are getting underway: morning announcers, office helpers, PALS leaders, and lunchroom helpers are all up and running.
- We are pleased to have YMCA's **SHYFT** program again for a group of 10 of our junior students. SHYFT (Shaping and Helping Youth Form Tomorrow) is a 12-week program available to all youth between the ages of 8 to 12. The program is rooted in our confidence that youth have the ability to change the world around them. By providing an opportunity for discussion and action and allowing youth to foster critical thinking, outlets are created for valuable change to occur both within themselves and their communities. Through art-based activities such as graffiti, videos, magazines, and button and poster campaigns youth have been able to amplify their voice to share their message.
- After-school **ArtShine** programming is once again being offered. ArtShine provides 2 scholarships and we have had 7 requests from families for this opportunity for our students. A draw has been made and families notified.
- Alpine Alligators will continue to focus on developing **hope, efficacy, resilience, optimism, gratitude, empathy and mindfulness** for a second year. At our recent PD day, staff identified how we will try to develop these attributes in ourselves, our immediate students, across our school and in our broader community. (We will not be working with Plasticity this year, so we can not call ourselves a HERO school.) While these attributes seem simple, developing them in ourselves and our students is truly complex work. We are finding that even as adults we have much room for developing our understanding and personal growth.

- One of the junior division strategies to foster growth of these attributes is to invite guest speakers to inspire our students. Our first guest speaker, David Carroll, ultra runner and author, reinforced hope, optimism, resilience, and efficacy for our grades 3-6 Alligators on September 23. He shared that he did two “impossible” things - ran a 100 mile race and wrote a book (he described himself as a “meh” student). He challenged each of us to not listen to the voice in our brain that tells us we can’t do something, we are not good enough, or to quit. He was very impressed with our lovely new playground and intrigued by the GaGa Ball pit! Thanks to Mrs. W-G for arranging this opportunity.
- WRDSB has purchased 25 **Lexia** licenses for our students and we have also purchased a few more to support students in developing literacy skills. We are grateful for the financial support from WRDSB.
- All grades 1-6 students will be using **DreamBox** again. Our teachers unanimously requested this as we feel it is having a very positive impact on student outcomes in Math. DreamBox is just one part of the comprehensive math programs we are striving to deliver.
- Terry Fox run is coming up this Friday. Our goal is to raise \$1200.
- Alpine’s **EQAO scores** continue to show that our Alligators are capable of achieving at provincial standards ((75%). Our scores are generally trending upwards and Alligators are performing better than the average in WRDSB and Ontario where results are flatlining or decreasing slightly. This is a good trend for us to challenge! We are very proud of our Alligators and our staff for all of their hard work! In a small school, variation in scores is expected from year to year as each student group is different. This year, our focus is on improving math scores in grade 6 especially and preparing our grade 5 students to perform much better in grade 6 than they did in grade 3. ISR or Individual Student Reports for the students who wrote EQAO last year will be sent home to parents in the next few weeks.

Alpine PS	Scores from 2015-2016, 2016-2017, 2017-2018, 2018/2019		
EQAO	Reading	Writing	Mathematics
Grade 3	76, 77, 66, 82	79, 84, 66, 90	52, 63, 44, 79
Grade 6	71, 83, 89, 87	82, 83, 89, 81	39, 53, 73, 61

Planning Ahead

Meeting Dates for 2019-2020

Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Alpine library.
All dates are on the Alpine PS calendar.

October 23, 2019
November 27, 2019
January 22, 2020
February 26, 2020
March 25, 2020
April 22, 2020
May 27, 2020
June 17, 2020 (location TBD)

Events

Dance-a-thon - February 14, 2020

Fundraising

Factory Shoe Fundraiser

Council Lead: April Cousineau

Already under way and ongoing, extra cards are available at the office; all families are asked to share the cards with family and friends who would shop at Factory Shoe; the cards can be used over and over again

Mabel's Labels

Lead: Sherry Mahon

Go to mabelslabels.ca

Search for and click on Alpine PS

A banner will pop up saying, "You are now supporting Alpine PS!"

Shop!

MacMillans

Council Lead: Jessica Beaucage

Order forms home week of Sept 30-Oct 4

Order Forms due: October 22, 2019

Products Delivered: November 7, 2019

Rheo Thompson

Council Lead: Jennifer McCuaig

November 25- December 13, 2019

Other Ideas

<https://www.esns.ca/about-us>

<https://www.getmykit.ca/fundraising-2-0/>

Agenda for October 23, 2019

1. Principal's Update
2. Financial Update
3. Mission Statement review
4. Parent/Student Survey
5. Community Building Event
6. Fundraising
7. Council Photo