

**Country Hills Parent Community Meeting**

September 15, 2020

Virtual meeting on Google Meet

20 people in attendance

1. Call to Order – Karina Gumz Carpenter
2. Approval of May minutes: *J.Williams*
3. Approval of Agenda: *T.Stumpf*
4. Teachers Report - Welcome Joanna Kneale - *no lanyards, unsure at this point what the teachers need from CHPC*
5. Principals Report - Q&A with Rob and Birgit *board wide ban on lanyards.*

Parent Questions:

1. The physical support some of the younger students require in and out of the classroom, i.e. changing clothes, trouble with masks, and outerwear. How will that be managed?

*Managed by classroom teacher/EA. Children supported; teachers able to provide assistance. Children will still be able to change soiled clothing. Children are wearing mask as required for the most part. Children given 5 mask per individual. Week by week, unsure what winter will look like. Will continue to communicate changes.*

1. What is the notification protocol with respect to a COVID-19 case in the classroom/school or family member of a student?

*Individual with covid symptoms will be isolated, parents called, region is notified and takes over, region will direct communication via wrdsb. Students are removed from classroom for sanitization before students allowed back into classroom.*

1. Will there be any COVID testing taking place at the school level?

*Wrdsb at this point will not be doing swabbing/testing in school. Testing takes place at region facilities. Teacher sanitizes hands, screens student as student enters classroom. Parents are required to ensure student is not sent to school is unwell, family is the first point of screening.*

1. How will lunchtime be managed?

*Students will be eating at their desk and will be supervised. Lunches are boomerang. Juniors outdoors first while primary eat, and then primary outside and juniors inside to eat. Outdoor area has been segregated. Students are required to wear masks indoors AND outdoors.*

1. Is there a change to attendance policy?  If students are absent due to illnesses and self-isolation, I assume that the board is making accommodation for those?

*Every teacher will have google classroom and children will have access to classroom activities while at home for prolonged period.*

1. If a parent feels unsafe to continue with in-person instruction (what they signed up for at the end of Aug) during the fall when community cases increase, what are the choices that parent has before the next entry point to transition between in-person and online learning?  It kind of relates to my previous question - will families be "penalized" for keeping students home due to safety concerns?

*No penalty for remaining home. Info to be posted via google classroom.*

1. What happens to classroom sizes if parents wish to enrol their child(ren) back into an in-person learning? If my child is already enrolled at the school will they have to switch classrooms or be assigned a new teacher to make room for these students?

*Unknown if classrooms will be reconfigured, not a fan of moving students from their classroom they have become comfortable in, the decision will come from upper mgmt., not our principal. November 10 is the date physical switch can happen.*

1. I understand the reasons why students will not be disciplined for not wearing face masks.  Face mask is an added layer of protection when physical distancing is difficult.  Some students would also be exempt from wearing face masks.   Is there a safety concern posed when a small portion of a cohort does not wear face masks?  Follow up: Are there procedures outlining how health and safety is handled when a student (or some students) of a particular cohort does not wear a face mask?

*Majority of Students are complying. Very limited number not wearing face masks, an alternative for the students not wearing mask is in the works. Policy states there can be medical exemptions for not wearing mask.*

1. What will outdoor recess look like? What will the cohorts be permitted to do in terms of physical activity? If students can’t use the outdoor structures will they be provided balls or other resources?

*Outdoors, walking, fresh air. Playgrounds are closed due to extensive cleaning protocols determined by regional policy. Balls are an option, CHPC willing to provide , principal will keep it in mind but wants to see how the kids interact sans “toys”*

1. After school parents have been asked to leave the school yard for physical distancing measures. Is there a time that parents can return to the school yard after school hours in order to their children to use the climbing structures?

*The region has not closed school structures. Structures are usable outside of school hours. Right after or right before school should be avoided.*

1. Is WRDSB planning on closing the school play structures during the school term? Or will it continue to be use at your own risk?

*See 9 and 10*

1. There is some concern about ensuring that masks are regularly laundered. Is there a policy in place if teaching staff suspects that masks are being worn and are contaminated? What happens if a child has not brought enough masks to get through the school day?

*There is no laundering policy. If teacher sees visibly soiled mask or child has lost mask school will provide disposable as needed.*

1. Response for suspected covid case*?*

*Student removed, isolated, parents called. Other students removed until classroom sanitised. There are available empty sanitized classrooms to use as a back-up. Sibling of covid child will be removed as well. Direction for handling suspected covid student will be given from the region. Direction for a positive covid swabbed student will come from region. Return to school for positive swab student will come from region. Region and upper board mgmt. collaborate. Students who test negative are required to remain home for 24 hrs after symptom free.*

1. Distance learning question*.*

*Principal states it is going well and has chatted with the VP of distance learning who is still figuring things out.*

1. Will there be field trips this year?

*With all the protocols and distancing currently required field trips would be difficult to conduct.*

1. Indoor shoes??

*Indoor shoes discussion: In the near future there will be decisions made about indoor and outdoor footwear. Rainy and snowy weather are coming and Rob is discussing options for the kids. Rob is interested in what others school’s solutions are. The shoe issue at the forefront, especially for the kindie staff.*

1. Further school council meetings

*Rob received notification that no school council meetings are allowed until further notice. This includes no fundraising. Our CH Parent Community and Rob went ahead with the town meeting to provide answers to parents and provide reassurance that kids are taken care of at school.*

1. Discussion Items

* Fundraising ideas for fall 2020/winter/spring 2021: *What would parents like to see County Hills Parent Community spend fundraising dollars on? Karina will email CHPC about fundraising ideas that were sent from the school secretary.*
* New members and volunteers?
* 20/21 CH Parent Community Member Elections – Date TBD ?
* Country Hills School greening and weeding – *Bethany and Tarra will get the flowerbeds ready for the winter*
* Next Meeting TBD