

Elgin Street Public School
School Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 25, 2020.
4:30 P.M. Google Meet

Member Attendance:

- Allan Mackay, Principal
- Amanpreet Dhaul, Vice Principal
- Lorraine Isaac
- France Leclair-Kekes
- Zaida Moss
- Sabeen Khan, Parent
- Heather Fischer, Parent
- Emily Jaarsma, Executive Director for Greenway-Chaplin Community Centre
- Melissa Schrader, Teacher
- Rose Kowalczyk, Teacher

1. Welcoming Remarks

- All members present introduced themselves to the group.

2. Elections

- Description of the positions provided via Google Slides
- Elections results:
 - School Council Chair: Frankie Isaac (all in favour)
 - School Council Secretary: France Leclair-Kekes (all in favour)
 - School Council Treasurer: Zaida Moss (all in favour)

3. Setting Dates and Times for Future Meetings

- School council members agree to meet on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m.
- Future meetings scheduled for:
 - Wednesday, December 9th at 6:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday, February 10th at 6:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday, April 14th at 6:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday, May 12th at 6:00 p.m.
 - Wednesday, June 9th at 6:00 p.m.

4. Principal's Update (Allan MacKay)

- Staffing
 - Amanpreet Dhaul, Vice-Principal (VP), will be a twinned VP moving forward. She will split her time between Elgin Street P.S. and Manchester P.S This is a temporary assignment scheduled to end February 21st, however, there is also the possibility of the assignment being extended.
 - Mark Slade (new head custodian).

- There are no other staffing updates.
- Administrators are anticipating changes to staffing in February 2021 due to movements to/from Distance Learning - In Person.
- Facilities
 - WRDSB has paid for fencing and pathways near the Kindergarten playground. School is waiting for installation.
 - The School Council budget will be shared by the School Council Chair and School Council Treasurer at the December School Council meeting. The purpose will be to discuss funds for the Kindergarten playground.
- Staff Professional Development Update
 - Professional Development Day for WRDSB staff was on Monday, November 23rd
 - Greg Sorli, Junior Educator, led a 45 minute coding session and tied expectations to the new math curriculum. He provided cross-curricular connections, resources, tools and strategies.
 - Equity Minutes: Discussed recent all staff memo re: Demonstrating Culturally Relevant Pedagogy and Awareness to address bias around the holiday season.
 - Divisional Meetings: Kindergarten, Primary and Junior divisions met virtually in breakout sessions following the whole staff meeting to discuss staggered entry, nutrition breaks and assess the needs and supports required, if any, to maintain safety and abide by Public Health Protocols as the winter season sets in.
- Technology
 - Developing a strategy for tech deployment, as schools are required to provide families with devices in the event the school board moves to remote learning.
 - Elgin is at a 1:1 student to device ratio for all in person learners.
 - Staff are gathering data to determine which students will need devices in the event of inclement weather days.
- Covid-19 Health and Safety
 - Public Health involved as there was 1 confirmed positive case at Elgin 3 weeks ago. As a result, 1 cohort is required to quarantine for 14 days. The other 2 cohorts are required to be home for 24 hours.
 - Custodial staff has done a tremendous job with cleaning measures. The school has received additional support to assist with cleaning throughout the day.
 - All staff are reviewing health and safety procedures, and will make appropriate changes for the winter season. For example, revisiting visual markers outside, spacing of hooks for outdoor clothing, staggered entry etc...
 - Families are supportive of the masking requirements and respect physical distancing on school property.
 - Staggered entry and dismissal is working well.

5. Teacher Update (Rose Kowalczyk and Melissa Schrader)

- Raz Kids
 - Raz Kids licences were purchased for all Kindergarten and Primary students, as well as some junior students. Charity Bingo funds were used to pay for 11 classroom licenses. This program is a temporary replacement for the Home Reading program.

- Charity Bingo
 - Run by the Cambridge Bingo Centre through the OLG
 - A volunteer program where 2 volunteers help at the Bingo Centre. The centre is closed right now due to Covid restrictions.
 - Elgin St. P.S. gets a portion of the funds for 2 hours of volunteering once per month.
 - Bingo typically brings in between \$600 - \$1300 per 2 hour shift.
 - Total funds raised from Bingo so far in the last 3+ years is \$33,000. At the present time, there is \$29,000 within the Bingo account.
 - The 2020-2021 Bingo Permit will cover expenses for the following:
 - Raz Kids licenses
 - Dreambox licenses
 - New Sound Equipment in the gym for assemblies
 - \$10,000 for the Kindergarten playground
 - \$1,000 for a guest speaker/programming
 - Multicultural Resources
 - 25th Anniversary celebrations (when possible)

6. Vice Principal's Updates (Amanpreet Dhaul)

- Truth and Reconciliation Committee
 - Organized and led by VP. Committee members meet once a month to discuss educational opportunities to incorporate within the classroom to involve Indigenous peoples and their lands and resources. This committee is responding to the Calls to Action, as put forth by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

- Remembrance Day
 - Remembrance Day virtual assembly was more equitable and inclusive in nature.

- Book Club
 - The focus will be on culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy (CRRP). The plan is to start January 2021.

- Diamond Class
 - Positive affirmation strategy to acknowledge students who demonstrate WRDSB and Elgin character traits.

- DreamBox:

- Administrators will try to secure licences of this math program for students that require intervention and additional support. The goal is to close gaps in learning in the Number strand of the Mathematics curriculum. The program is well designed to serve Primary students.
- Holiday Season:
 - There are some days of significance that have traditionally been acknowledged, celebrated, and centred in ways that have not been inclusive of all the students and families we serve. Staff have been encouraged to approach the holiday season with an equitable and inclusive lens, and consider poverty, mental health, culture, and religion, etc., in their decision making of delivering certain events/activities.
 - Morning announcers will continue to acknowledge the days of significance after the playing of the national anthem, in an effort to be more inclusive of students and families.

7. YMCA Update

- Information shared on behalf of Eleanor McCoy, Supervisor for Elgin Street YMCA Child Care.
- Space still available in YMCA Child Care.

8. Question and Answer Period

- Question from Sabeen Khan (Parent) - If schools close, will School Council meetings be held as planned?
 - Answer from Allan MacKay (Principal) - Not anticipating school closure at this time, however, in the event that schools are closed, School Council has the option to meet via Google Meets.

9. Requests/Proposals

- DreamBox Licences (Rose Kowalczyk and Melissa Schrader)
 - Administrators will use the school budget to purchase 60 licenses for students requiring intervention in the area of mathematics.
 - All primary staff would like to secure a licence for every student within their classroom. Why? The program does a great job personalizing and differentiating math instruction to student needs.
 - Requesting that School Council members approve the purchase of 65 DreamBox licences, so that each primary student has access to the math program.
 - Response from School Council Chair and Treasurer: Revisit request at December 9th School Council meeting. This will give the chair and treasurer the opportunity to review financials.

10. Adjournment

- Meeting concluded at approximately 5:30 p.m.

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