

EZ Parent Council Meeting

May 11, 2020 – 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. via ZOOM

Attendance

Voting Council Members

1. Joanna Thiessen
2. Corrie Ballantyne
3. Ryan Gulka
4. Erin Heimpel
5. Meaghan Gibbons
6. Jen Topham
7. Brooke Spearn
8. Anneliese Schwartz
9. Krista Hunter
10. Davis Neable

Non-voting Council Members and Guests

1. Susan Marchiori (Principal)
2. Sarah MacNeill (Vice Principal)

1. Approval of minutes from Feb meeting and today's agenda

-motion to approve Feb meeting minutes - moved by Erin second by Anneliese – voted in favour by all voting members

-motion to approve today's agenda - moved by Ryan second by Jen – voted in favour by all voting members

2. School Update – by Susan Marchiori

-all direction/info is from Ministry of Ed to school board then out to staff

-teachers all have virtual classrooms up and running – most are using Google Classroom, some kindergarten classes using See-Saw

-huge learning curve for everyone

-weekly meetings with entire staff and then smaller meetings with groups of teachers

- recognizing that everyone has their own unique situations with various challenges
- trying to get as many families and students engaged – participation rate with the online programming is good
- “kids come to the Google classroom for the relationships and they stay for the learning”
- committees – Spirit Day committee is trying to engage the kids with different events
- also a Vulnerable Families committee – staff raised money to help 9 EZ families
- given out over 90 Chromebooks and a few iPads
- there are 2-3 families without internet and we are working together with them and the ministry to try to work that out
- focus on how to connect with the kids, help them feel secure, safe, sense of belonging
- synchronous learning – means using live video with students – this is an individual teacher decision and there are many issues that need to be worked through before each teacher embarks on this journey
- weekly meetings with superintendent
- there might be an announcement from government this week with more info about the next few weeks
- students without access to school supplies have been send packages from Staples with all the equipment they need for their learning
- families without internet are having learning packages printed and sent to their homes
- want to make sure that everyone has access to the learning – really want to make sure we aren’t leaving kids and families out
- question from Jen about tour of MacGregor for the grade 6’s which would normally be happening this year – Susan says the school board has a committee working on what to do with this, but not sure at this point what this will look like
- question from Jo about getting access to the school to pickup items/clothing that students left there – Susan says access to the school is very controlled and the rules are set by the board. As soon as the board lets Susan know about allowing parents access to the school to pick things up, she will let us know

3. Virtual Grad for Grade 6’s

-in the past we got gifts for the grade 6 students – locks for their lockers – is this something we would be able to do this year?

-it would be great to have an update of our finances – maybe Joan can generate an update for us – **Corrie to ask Heather to connect with Joan**

-before making a decision about the locks we should get a sense of where we are at with our finances because we don't want to spend money that we don't have

-there are 85-90 grade 6 grads – Susan offering to have the locks delivered to her house

-Jen's idea – mail out (or email out) a gift card from Staples for the grads to help them buy school supplies for grade 7

-Motion to approve allocating up to \$800 for grade 6 graduation gifts for the year 2020 – moved by Jen, second by Ryan, approved by all voting members

-decision to go ahead and order them and then we will work out the details of distribution once we know more about what June "rules" will look like

4. Vulnerable Families in EZ Community

-is there a way that families in the school community and in the neighbourhood can help the more vulnerable EZ families

-there is an organization called "Food for Kids" – they have been giving out gift cards (instead of food) during Covid

-Meaghan asking about the Nutrition for Learning program that is still coming to EZ once per week – how well attended has it been?

-Anneliese went today and they were handing out a huge amount of food to each child

-Susan to reach out to the families in need in our EZ community to tell them about Nutrition for Learning – also reminding teachers to tell students via google classroom about Nutrition for Learning time/day at EZ

-Susan can also post a message on School Day from Parent Council

-Sarah suggesting that we re-tweet, re-post any of these messages about programs that are helpful such as Nutrition for Learning

-idea about posting on the EZ parent FB group asking if anyone is able to donate grocery gift cards – we could have them drop them off at Corrie's and then she could get them to Susan

5. Playground Update

- received \$2500 from KW Rotary – this brings it to around \$37500 or more!
- FlipGive is still happening – so use this when buying online!

6. Wrapping it up

-June 1st at 6:30pm

-motion to adjourn raised by Anneliese second by Davis, voted all in favour by all voting members

ADJOURNED!