**KCI Parent Council Meeting**

**Monday, May 25, 2020 7:00 PM**

**Virtual meeting via ZOOM**

Present: Dennis Haid, Cindy Desbiens, Tracy Jackson, Vivian Fuchs, Alysse Hastie, Angelica Allen, Melissa Jichici, Martina Belanger, Ingrid Bachmann, Richard Reive, Cher Mamuza, Margaret Walton-Roberts, Lisa Keeping, Christine Carmody, Barb Schlosser-Hill

1. **Principal’s Report**
* Not going back to school this school year
* Public Health has recommended less than 5 people in the school at any one time
* Staff is there to hand out additional hardware (e.g., Chromebooks) as needed
* WRDSB is trying to develop a plan for pick up from lockers (Maybe scheduled by last name …just a possibility)
* They are making a plan for September
* As part of a project in Family Studies, students have the option to sew masks. Cindy (teacher) will wash them as they are returned and deliver to the Working Centre.
* Staffing update:

§ Meeting tomorrow to get numbers as to how many staff KCI will have

§ Scheduling will be done over the summer

§ We may have to consider new caps

§ Hoping to have schedules by end of June, but probably the end of August

§ Projected numbers up by about 60 students

§ We were at max capacity last year, so we may need portables next year

1. **Questions from parents:**
* *What will happen in September if we aren’t back to school considering online learning is not the same?*

*Dennis Haid Response:* We know it isn’t the same. We are really considering how to work with the main/core classes (e.g, Math, Science, English) and how to make it fair between semesters.

* *Will there be parent email lists to keep us in the loop?*

*Dennis Haid Response:* WRDSB has asked that the Parent Council group has been set up. Non-google emails are not being accepted, so it’s on hold as we attempt to figure that out.

* *How did Drive-By Graduation work?*

*Dennis Haid Response*: Considered a “WIN” as a celebration. Abby Gingerich suggested the idea of pick-up Grad lawn signs, which came from a conference she attended. The cheers, the laughs, and the smiles from those who came to pick up signs was very positive. Signs went out Tuesday/Thursday. Other schools in our board are trying to follow suit.

* *How will summer school work this year?*

*Dennis Haid Response:* More students than before have signed up. Using a new system: Prism; all online (e-learning). Many students want to upgrade their marks and bridge any gaps. It is not too late to sign up for summer school (June 5th is the deadline). Sign up sooner than later through your guidance counsellor to get the course you want. Guidance counselors are getting a lot of emails and phone calls. Emails are your best bet for a response.

* *How are decisions made between the province, the school board, the school and the teachers? How much latitude is there? If fall turns out to be virtual, it seemed that so far teachers have been constrained, so would teachers have more latitude?*

*Dennis Haid Response:* We were not expecting this. It was originally only supposed to last 2 weeks. The minister is announcing decisions, then the board and the schools are all trying to deal with the decisions as they unfold. Teachers have been doing their best. They are constantly trying to work out better ways to move forward. Currently online learning, but if we move forward in the fall, it will be considered e-learning. So now we are at 50%, but in the fall we would expect 100% learning/class time. Right now the focus has been trying to make sure everyone is well, and preparing for the fall.

* *Would there be more teacher video/synchronous learning in the fall if this continues, to help students with managing this new routine?*

*Dennis Haid Response*: Synchronous learning has evolved: It was a “no” at the start, and is now considered up to the teacher’s professional judgement. We have to consider the different family situations, such as access to internet availability, time of day that works for families, parental support, etc. Dennis does not think it will be mandated, but video lessons might occur more often if this continues.

* *Is staggering attendance a possibility in the fall?*

*Dennis Haid Response*: I am not part of those meetings, but he thinks it’s a possibility, or maybe more of a blend with digital learning. Some days in class, some days online. Maybe some grades at school while others are online and switch. Maybe one class per month. We really need the numbers allowed in the building at one time to increase (from the 5 currently permitted to over 1400 enrolled in September).

* *Can we anticipate Parent Council online meetings to continue?*

*Dennis Haid Response:* Probably online in September. It will depend on the numbers permitted and if we can have social distancing in the library.

* *Will there be more Grade 12’s requesting an extra year?*

*Dennis Haid Response:* We were expecting it, but so far the stats don’t show it.

* *Can you update us on the teacher strike?*

*Richard Reive Response:* Teachers voted with over 90% acceptance of a new provincial contract. Teachers ended the strike immediately when this unprecedented situation began. Agreed on 2 online mandatory classes (instead of 4). Class sizes to remain the same (instead of growing). Salary increase of 1%.

* *If students encounter a problem with their Chromebooks, how will they go about getting assistance?*

*Dennis Haid Response:* Look online - there are FAQ that usually help most students. They could email Mr. Fricke, and if need be, we will get them a new Chromebook. Desire2Learn support is also very helpful.

* *Does the mandatory e-learning have a parental “opt-out” or would it be mandatory for all?*

*Dennis Haid Response:* Parents can opt out, from their understanding. It will start to apply to next year’s Grade 9 class.

* *How are our families managing?*

*Dennis Haid Response:* Some students are learning how they learn from this experience. Some students with excellent mid-term marks are no longer participating as the minister has promised no decrease in marks during e-learning.

* *To date, some parents have not received contact from KCI staff to indicate level/grade/update on their students standings, should we expect it?*

*Dennis Haid Response*: Parents can feel free to reach out to guidance or individual teachers if they would like communication. KCI staff is looking to get current and ongoing contact information for those students who will be leaving the board- ie graduating, so we can stay in touch to relay graduation/commencement information for the fall. As of July 3 their WRDSB email account will be wiped and we will no longer have communication capabilities via email. If you know a graduate, please have them forward their personal email to guidance so it can be updated for future reference. With a few exceptions, guidance counsellors will continue with their currently assigned students next year.

3. **WRAPSC Report (see attachment to minutes): Christine Carmody**

Meeting closed at 7:42pm.

See you in September.