LEXINGTON SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, February 01, 2023 TIME: 6:30 pm

**ATTENDEES:** Erin Bechtel, Heather Bezovie, Andrea Hill, Ozlem Samuels, Barb Tomkins, Emily Van Giessen, Denise Wismer, Yohne Yogeswaran, Katie McDonals

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – (Barb)**

Recording of K1’s land acknowledgement.

**REVIEW OF MINUTES - (Erin Bechtel)**

Council reviewed last meeting’s minutes.

Council voted to approve the minutes.

**TOPIC ONE:  Principal & Teacher Report (Barb)**

* February is kindness month – this is the character trait we’re focusing on
* Report cards coming home Feb 15th
  + Take the time to discuss the comments on the report cards with your children, focusing on their strengths and next steps
  + Learning Skills are very important as they are the skills needed for all areas of development
  + If you have any questions or need clarification, feel free to reach out to your child’s teacher
* Parking lot – parents should not park here – children walking home often walk through the lot; only enough parking for staff. Kiss n’ drop zone is at the end of the bus loop in front of the school sign
* Hot lunch days – no longer providing cutlery, please bring your own reusable cutlery
* Healthier choices for hot lunch days – if you have a suggestion please email Barb
  + Pita pit
  + Freshii
  + Cultures (restaurant in Conestoga mall)
* Screen time presentation for parents – Feb 23 from 6:30-7:45
  + Encourage families to attend considering today’s world of children being on devices, watching TV, etc.
  + It will be led by our board psychologists: Anna Polotskaia and Lisa Bechtel
* Anonymous bullying reporting tool – on Lexington’s website
  + report safety concerns related to bullying for themselves, or on behalf of another student. This is one pathway, among many, available to students to report student safety concerns related to bullying.
  + The Anonymous Bullying Reporting Tool is not meant to replace school supports available, but rather to provide an option for students. Students are encouraged to continue to reach out to their teachers, principal or other school staff when in need of assistance.
  + The Anonymous Bullying Reporting Tool is not monitored 24/7 and is not meant to replace urgent or emergency services. If students are in an emergency situation, they should please call 911, contact Here 24/7 (1-844-437-3247) or go to their nearest hospital.
  + The Anonymous Bullying Reporting Tool can be used by any student to report occurrences of bullying in WRDSB schools.
  + The administrator will then receive an email with the incident and will have to follow up on the incident according to a set protocol
  + It can be reported anonymously, however, if it is, it may make it difficult for any follow up or investigation to happen-still good to make school aware, as it provides data with the number of occurrences, etc.
  + Again…always better to discuss with teacher and/or administrator rather than the reporting tool…this is just another option if someone is not feeling safe to report in person
* February is Black Brilliance month –
  + each class will choose a Black hero to learn about and share with the rest of the school
* February 22nd is pink shirt day
  + Wear a pink shirt in support of anti-bullying
  + Classes will participate in discussions of what bullying means and how to be a stand up citizen when witnessing bullying
  + Encourage kids to bring in a toonie to donate to a local counselling/mental health organization – if anyone has a suggestion of an organization to support, send an email to Barb
* New library clerk – Mrs. Martinez
* Family day Feb 20
* March Break - March 13-17

**TOPIC TWO: Pro Grant (Barb)**

* If council wants to apply, it has to be something that will encourage parents to get together
* Last year we did an unlearn workshop for parents
* Up to $500 available
* Artist in Waterloo – activity with parents
* Must apply by February 24
* Parents Reaching Out
* Research some ideas – Barb will send out some ideas
* Emily volunteered to help write the application
* Denise will look into potential Indigenous presenters
* Council voted to apply for the Pro grant

**TOPIC THREE: Dance-a-thon**

* A teacher volunteered to be in charge of the music
* One block each for primary, junior and kindergarten
* Donations wouldn’t work through school day, will use WEFI instead
* Ideas of what the fundraising could go towards
  + Outdoor equipment, mud kitchen for kindergarten
  + outdoor classroom
  + resources and books for teaching – science of reading curriculum
  + equity library for teachers
  + STEM resources – makerspace in the library
* Council voted that funds raised will go towards updating our outdoor space and resources for literacy learning to support the science of learning
* Volunteers for the day of the dance-a-thon – Denise, Yohne
* Denise will make a pledge form – this will be an option for anyone who doesn’t want to donate online
* Barb to ask for more volunteers through school day
* Denise to order glow sticks
* 360 kids in the school
* Council discussed providing refreshments – popcorn for each student

**TOPIC FIVE: Meeting Dates & Venue**

Next meeting April 5th virtual

**TOPIC FIVE: Q/A**

No questions.