Nov 2021

Thursday, November 25, 2021

7 PM

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| **Meeting name:** |  School Council Meeting  |
| **Meeting purpose:** | School Council is a group of parents, school and community members who are committed to working together to support their local school. School Councils typically deal with agenda items such as the following:* development of bylaws and procedures for the school council
* code of conduct and safety initiatives for students
* fundraising policy and programs, etc.
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| **Meeting date & time:** |  Nov 25, 2021, at 7pm |
| **Location details:** | Google Meet |
| **Meeting Chair:** | Beth R |
| **Minute Taker:** | Karen Power |

**AGENDA**

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| **Item #** | **Time** | **Agenda Item** | **Owner** |
| 1 | 5 mins | Approval of Prior Minutes & Acknowledgement | All |
| 2 |  20 mins | Admin updates | Nancy/Scott |
| 3 | 5 mins | Grants | Nancy  |
| 4 | 5 mins | Financial Updates | Nicholas  |
| 5 | 10 mins | Discussion items | Beth/Nancy/Scott |
| 7 | 5 mins | Conclusions | All |

 **MEETING MINUTES**

**Participants**

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| Karen P | Nancy M | Laura Y | Dorota S |
| Scott D | Ibilola O | Katie S | Joanna M |
| Cindy B | Tanya F | Kerri P | Heather M |
| Natalie N | Nicholas S | Beth R |  |

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| **Agenda Items** |   |
| **Item #1****Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes** | * Land acknowledgement from Mr. Stewart’s class. Students have been working to develop their own territorial land acknowledgements
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| **Item #2 Admin Updates** | Staffing updates – K1-Beata BorowskaK2-Mila Raghunandan & Jelena KrsmanovicK5-Extended Day Class-Kristy Rinzema1C-Christine Heisler1/2A-Vanessa Taylor3C-Nick Ioannidis3A-F1-Katie Dechert4/5B-Jack Cui* Remembrance Day virtual assembly. External community members joined to view (approx. 34 households).
* Water bottles – need eco friendly solution for students who have forgotten water bottles at home. Have purchased plastic cups for the classrooms which are washed and reused
* Virtual bus safety program has begun. Cannot do in person sessions yet.
* Food Drive – public health has provided direction on how to do this safely. Information should be coming out soon on how we will be supporting the effort
* Organizations supporting vulnerable families – our school has many needs, and we are working to support them
* SCIS – (safe, caring and inclusive schools) – committee has several parents and educators and students. Have had 2 meetings so far. Will have student reporters go around and share things that are happening in the school. Will interview classes and give a tour of the school. Will do monthly report to provide a window into the school. Thinking about parent information sessions to support the community. Topics include technology addition, confronting racism and how to have conversations at home, and will do survey to see what topics are of interest. May have guest speakers online (may require funds)
* Equity work with staff – there are some identities that may not feel seen or heard, so we’re working on identifying blind spots and understand how to provide a safe space where everyone is seen and heard. One method is through a company called Unlearn. Teacher’s show poster and ask students questions to spark conversations and speak freely. Have clothing line with shirts that help start conversations.
	+ - * Breakout rooms to go through an exercise. Poster to spur conversation about social media
			* Why are we drawn to social media, is it helping or hurting us – dopamine hit, validation, keeping up with the Joneses, putting the best face forward.
			* Helps us keep in touch with people, but what people are posting isn’t real life and people compare their real lives to people’s fantasy lives
			* Seems less social now and more news and corporation focused
			* Kid specific Facebook is concerning
			* This changes the way that kids communicate. Not communicating face to face or over the phone, just through text. Takes away the ability to have difficult conversations. Shifts how we connect with one another
			* Pandemic has shifted how kids relate to technology. In order to get through the pandemic, they had to use it more than they did before. Wonder what this generation will be like in the future after having been exposed to so much technology.
			* If we don’t allow our kids to access social media, but their friends do, they end up comparing themselves to others and don’t understand why they can’t have what their friends do. Its hard for them to accept
			* Pressure to post
* Staff equity board was created. Days of significance calendar, conditions of learning (learning environment, relationships, pedagogy/assessment) surrounded by the plate of human rights and equity, direct tool to support educators in conversations when racist or homophobic language is used, quotes to inspire thoughts, an Unlearn poster, books, etc.
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| **Item #3 Grants** | * $250 Pro Grant for parent involvement, remove barriers that prevent parents from being involved in their children’s schooling. If anyone has any ideas for this initiative, contact Beth and Lola and they will approach Nancy and Scott who will submit an application
* Parent Involvement Funding Grant - $500 to support communication with parents and to ensure greater involvement of parents in education. Could be used in SCIS workshops mentioned earlier. Some speakers are very expensive, but if anyone has ideas, contact Beth and Lola
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| **Item #4**Financial Updates | * Bingo fund addition of $597 for September
* Bingo account at $2627
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| **Item#5 Discussion Items** | * Change to volunteers being allowed in the buildings? - week or so ago, received direction that they are slowly and cautiously bringing them back. First, we are allowed to bring in Strong Start volunteers, likely early in the new year. Nutrition for Learning is starting, we don’t have a formal program, but we ensure we always have snacks and water for students that don’t have any or enough.
* Can we do something for the teachers? Teachers would rather we provide donations to underserved communities. Nancy recommends sending an email to teachers to thank them. Create a thank you video for staff
* Parent teacher interviews – would help to connect with teachers. Educators are feeling this too. Public health is still saying that we need to be vigilant, so hands are still tied. Reach out to teachers by phone, Google meets, etc.
* Bingo nights – added sign ups for 2022, please sign up if able. If we each do one, it alleviates the burden.
* Motion to forward meeting to January as there is not much happening in December – seconded, passed.
* Thanks, from Nancy and Scott for attending.
* Thanks, from council to Nancy and Scott for support
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| Next Meeting Scheduled for: | Beth to send poll for date, Thursdays seem to work  |
|  | Adjourned at 8:02pm |