

**Southridge Public School
School Council Minutes
Tuesday April 27th 7:00 - 8:00 pm**

WELCOME EVERYONE! In attendance; Taryn Dowsling (Principal), Beth Creighton (Vice Principal), Tracey Henkenhof (Staff Rep), Mat Fretz (Staff Rep), Alaina Standring (Staff Rep), Kelly Farrell Mueller, Pam Sherman, Natalie Finn, Andrea Oliveira, Kelly Roberts, Alicia Bennett, Meredith Blunt, Jackie Araujo, Brenda Roth, Emily Pike (all parent / community reps)

FROM THE OFFICE / STAFF UPDATES

Introduction of our new Principal, Taryn Dowsling and our new V.P Beth Creighton! We are so excited to welcome you both!

School updates from Ms. Dowsling– Since arriving she has been focusing on ensuring that indoor and outdoor health and safety is up to date. New walkie talkies have been purchased to ensure that staff have them while outside teaching or on duty.

Southridge will be welcoming Teacher Amy Anderson who will be in the Gr.1 French Immersion class.

Update from V.P Beth Creighton – reminder about the deadline of May 3rd put out by WRDSB for families to decide about mode of learning options for next year. Online communications have been sent out this week and more will be sent out in the coming week as a reminder for families.

Discussion about this and how it may affect FI learners. Some further clarification may need to be gained about what options are for FI learners if they chose an at home option and then want to return to FI.

Update from Alaina Standring – Jump Rope for Heart Update. This is usually the biggest fundraiser for our school, typically raising over 10K for Heart and Stroke Assoc. This year the goal is 5k because of covid restrictions which we hope can still be achieved. The date will be determined once we have a better idea if / when students will be back or whether we will be doing it online.

Update from Mat Fretz and Tracey Henkenhof – not as much to update currently, but certainly all staff are hanging in and making the best out of online learning.

Council would like to express our gratitude to all Southridge Staff for the incredible efforts being made to keep our children safe. We see how hard you working to make this impossible situation the best experience possible for all students. We wish we could thank you in person!

FROM COUNCIL

Introduction of all members – Welcome to Council to everyone, we are so glad you are here!

Discussion of New Roles -

Team Liaisons: Pam Sherman & Natalie Finn

- Communicate with Admin as needed
- Chair meetings
- Create meeting agendas

- Monitor and send communications via gmail, facebook group & twitter regarding upcoming meetings, agendas, events, newsletters, etc. (Jackie Araujo is also willing to assist with this task)
- Distribution of meeting minutes

Secretaries: Kelly Farrell-Mueller & Andrea Oliveira

- Record proceedings & decisions of school council meetings
- Distribute Meeting Minutes to Team Liaisons and Ms.Dowling for approval

Treasurer and Grant Applications: Kelly Roberts and potential for this to be a shared position

- Communicates with Team Liaison & Admin regarding council financials
- Research and apply for eligible grants that are available to help school programs, outdoor space/gardens etc.

Fundraising and Special Events Coordinators: (open for 2 or more shared positions here)

- Brainstorms and coordinates fundraising initiatives, special events for students, staff, and families of the Southridge community (guest speakers, cultural nights, etc.)

WRAPSC Representative: Alicia Bennett and potential for this to be a shared position

- Takes turn attending monthly virtual WRAPSC meetings and provides updates to council members at meetings

RECAP OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Discussion about the playground being condemned etc, conversation about giving thanks to staff during covid, picture day etc.

DISCUSSION ABOUT OUTDOOR SPACES - Play Structure, Clean-up, Gardens, and Learning Spaces

Ms. Dowling shared that the Facilities Dept has been out to see the playground as well as the rest of the school. This is on the radar with the school board and we are still waiting for decisions about what will happen next. There is a proposal before them that we are waiting on hearing back about. Ms. Dowling will ensure that they are aware that we are most interested in a more natural space and ensure that we have more details about what this would entail once a decision is made about what will be made available from the board.

Discussion about other school clean up issues – fence, damaged brick etc. This is being cleaned up by the school board. Also some painting will be started this week and the walkway along the back Kindergarten area is also being fixed.

Discussion about things that council can do – gardening (aside from grass and tree trimming) would be welcome as well as things like garbage clean up.

ONGOING PARKING LOT AND STREET CROSSING SAFETY CONCERNS – updates provided to new council members regarding the traffic / crossing guard issues. We will forward our communications with the city and Ward 8 Councillors etc to Ms. Dowsling and she will invite Leslie from transportation planning to be part of the conversations.

Back parking lot signs – they were designed, were they ordered? There is no information about this. Discussion about bringing back the parking lot attendant position. This will remain an ongoing discussion.

MISCELLANEOUS

Students from the new housing development near Ottawa St and Trussler Rd will be designated to our school as we are a holding school until a new school in that area is built in approx. 2024. This will initially mean that we will welcome approx. 25 students and this will increase each year until the new school is built. Most likely this will result in portables being added as they have been in the past when we were a holding school for other new development areas.

Discussion about year end celebrations for graduation etc – messaging from the Board is that things need to stay equitable and consistent throughout all schools. We can discuss further what gets approved and possibly council can look at something like a lock for the kids to take with them to middle school.

Discussion about Fundraising, kindergarten night etc. Are there things we can do this year towards fundraising or further council involvement? We discussed the Domino's Pizza fundraiser – Kelly F has agreed to look into this for this year if possible or early next year.

OPEN FLOOR DISCUSSIONS

Discussion about the future of FI across the board – some media info is out there about this. Ms. Dowsling discussed that reviewing programs is to ensure that they are meeting needs and equitable to all but not aware of any discussion about FI not continuing.

Next meeting will be Tuesday May 25 at 7:00pm.

See you all then and feel free to invite other Southridge caregivers too!