

Suddaby Parent / School Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, March 9th, 2020

Location: S.P.S. Library 7pm

Attendees:

Katherine Akins	P	Kathryn Blair	P	Katha Broschek	P
Amanda DiBattista	P	Annie Doran	P	Sue Campbell	P
Bryan Grimwood	A	Brennan Hardy	P		
Carlie Leroux	P	Kate Leslie	P		
Wendy Saulesleja	P	Paul Radford			
Tara Bedard	A	Rita Givlin P	P		
Samantha Hutchison VP	P	Karin Korth	P		
Vanessa Schultz	A	Stephanie Meyer	P		

1. Welcome and Introductions

- MaryLouise Skornyak and Lisa Lynch -
miskornyak@gmail or mary-louise_skornyak@wrdsb.ca
EFTO Message
 - Phase 7 starting today
 - Asking for more parent participation with reaching out to community and Members of Parliament
 - Buttons
 - Emails, letters to politicians
 - Wear “red for ed” Fridays
 - Clarifying purpose of protesting (not about salary/benefits)
 - Cuts to elementary schools proposed \$150 billion

- Full day kindergarten (JK and SK), Ford gov won't commit to protecting current model (class sizes, etc.)
- Special education funding
- Fair hiring for teachers (licensed to teach in Ontario, qualified for subject, seniority) no movement by unions to change current hiring practice
- If no agreement is reached, there will be a strike day Monday following March Break.
- (Katherine Akins) has postcards to mail to politicians
- **Leslie Maxwell (WRDSB)- Transportation Changes**
 - School Travel Planning Supervisor
 - Student Transportation Services
 - Looks at impediments and obstacles to getting to school
 - Decision about infrastructure made by Consortium Management Committee
 - King West deemed as walkable as King East, in interest of equity
 - Consortium "walked" the area in a school commute time before Christmas
 - Main concern was LRT. it travels about 25 k/h, stops at lights. Took along an LRT employee who would answer questions.
 - Did not observe young children en route
 - (Parent delegates) noted crossing Cedar at Charles has a very short light, Region currently has no plans to lengthen that light, even parents crossing without children are having problems. Stephanie noted that the lights at Frederick were lengthened
 - (Sue) The walk signal for the children starts five seconds before the green so that the pedestrians establish control of the intersection. HOWEVER, when a group of 15 kids try to cross the intersection, you can only go so fast as the slowest child
 - (Parent delegate) how is distance measured?
 - Doesn't know the history of why there is currently bussing
 - (Parent delegate, Sally Gunz) when Victoria PS school was closed, the Board created bussing, so only the Board can cancel bussing. Condition of School Closure Motion. Not a grandfathering in for kids in the system at the time.
 - Available to talk about Walking School Bus
 - (Samantha H) programming in curriculum for students to provide sidewalk smarts
 - Letter sent to parents of families who would be affected, no one responded
 - (parent delegate) nothing in the letter asked for feedback, only "questions and comments"
 - (Sue C) this affects everyone in the school because it will increase vehicular traffic, especially on Otto. IN other words, more dangerous for everyone, even though they are not directly affected by the bussing cut

- (Katherine A) questions “equity” as family was not given bussing option
 - (Sue C) measurements taken closest corner of lot (which is halfway down Lancaster)
- Leslie and parents continued the conversation in another room

2. Approve minutes from previous meeting (January 20, 2020).

- (Carlie) Must include passed for allocation of money towards the remaining Suddaby Star markers.
 - All in favour
 - Approved

3. Financial Update

- Coming
- Steph doesn't have access to balances
- Discussion of how much detail to put into the minutes
- Decision to continue providing updates on how much is raised month-to-month and updates on balances

4. Principal's Update

Principal's Update - School Council March 9, 2020

Award of Excellence Winner

Suddaby PS has been given an Award of Excellence Winner in the 2019 National Creative Writing Contest for young writers aged 5-11 from the Poetry Institute of Canada. Students from Mlle. Ball and Mrs. Morton-Westwood's classes submitted original pieces of writing last year and were published. One Star even won a personal Award of Excellence. Bravo Stars!

Terry Fox Run

I just got an email sharing this news:

Our 2019 Terry Fox School Run was a great success!
 We are proud to announce that Suddaby Public School has generously donated **\$1,282.35** for cancer research! The Terry Fox Foundation sends a big thank you to our school community for our generosity and support. 40 years later, Terry's message of hope lives on and stronger than ever!

Suddaby is a very generous community!

Carnaval

Thanks to school council volunteers, Carnaval was a great success! Students enjoyed meeting Bonhomme, playing games outside, and the hot chocolate. This whole school event is just what we needed! Quite a few pictures were shared on Twitter. If you are not following @sudwrdsb, we encourage you to do so.

Going Above and Beyond

Not that she would share this herself, but I know from a parent email that Mrs. Skornyak was outside in her stocking feet during the fire drill. She gave her shoes to one of her kindie friends who was not wearing any when the alarm went off.

Many of our grade 6 students were also kind enough to take off their hoodies to keep our kindie friends warm.

These beautiful examples of caring are common occurrences at Suddaby!

Late Arrivals

A warning bell goes at 8:58 a.m.

The school day begins at 9:00 a.m. Students should be in their lines before the bell rings. Students are late when they are not in the class line up at 9:00 a.m.

We communicated this last month in the school council minutes in an effort to have a common understanding of being late.

Students are asked to come to the office to sign in and get their late slip.

Parents and caregivers are asked to respect that after 9:00 a.m. it is not a time to check in and chat with the staff. Educators need to be able to focus on students and learning.

On the past two Mondays we have had 55 (rainy day) and 65 (right after the time change) students arrive late or 12-15% of our students. While these numbers stood out, there is a high number of late arrivals every day.

We have added a second iPad and adjusted the form to speed up the sign in process. We can add a third but it would be another iPad taken from student use for an office purpose.

We completely understand that students have appointments and that there are "off" days when a parent or caregiver truly deserves applause for managing to get the kids to school at all!

We ask that families make every effort to be at school on time and for your patience if you find yourself in a "sign-in" line-up. Thanks also for understanding that the office staff is busy first thing in the morning completing the Safe-Arrival check for all 475 students.

- (Sue) Irwin side of the school lines start going in at first bell rather than waiting for second bell
- (Rita) Will confirm with staff that the first bell is for lining up and the second bell is for coming into the school

Frito Lay

Frito Lay will donate free chips to Suddaby fundraisers. Contact information will be shared with council members.

Staffing

- Congratulations to Mrs Sara Collins, our office manager, who was the successful candidate for a year-round position at KWCI. Mrs Lisa Blundon will be our new Head Secretary and will be joining the Suddaby team on March 11. Mrs. Blundon is joining us from Ryerson PS and is experienced in the role.
- Ms. Agres' leave has been extended into May and we are thankful for the great work that Mrs. Helen Smith is doing.

Kindergarten Registration

Many thanks to our families who have already registered our new JK friends for 2020-2021. If you know families with children born in 2016 who have not yet registered, please encourage them to register online at www.wrdsb.ca or call the school at 519-578-3840.

5. Staff Representative Report

- (Samantha H)
 - Less to report than usual due to strike action...
 - Room 9, Mrs. McLauchlin, had an artist come in
 - Go Transit in tomorrow
 - Grades 3s and 4s doing Sidewalk Smarts, looking for adult volunteers, run by Board, 2-hour commitment
 - Artwork on display on whiteboard
 - Thank you for supporting Carnival

6. Subcommittee Reports

Fundraising (Kate, Steph, Wendy, Brennan, Karin, Kathryn, Katherine, Katha)

- (Kathryn) Make it Sow. (last year raised \$2,000) Told Don Gayford that we are postponing. He says there is no cut-off date.

- (Kathryn) Bag 2 School. (last year raised \$276) Council/Rita need to finalize the week so KB can book truck.
 - Campaign June 15 to 19
 - Tentative pick up Friday, June 19
 - Rita will look at gym stage schedule for that week, confirm with Kathryn by Thursday of this week
- Funfair- firm up date, explain a few ideas, silent auction (kate)
 - Thursday June 11, 4:30 to 7:30
 - Kate to put a working Google doc to generate ideas and commitments
 - BBQ? WE have two BBQs, meat has to be pre-cooked, M&M sells pre-cooked meat, Pillars and Frito Lays have other good programs
 - Raised about \$2500 last year
 - Will also set up a working spreadsheet to see who has contacted which businesses for donations
- Danceathon, April 17 (Steph)
 - Kids will be encouraged to bring donations to gym (tbc)
 - DJs: Steph and Wendy

Grant Writing Committee (Tara and Karin)

- (Karin) Review of Current Grant List / Status of those grants in question / upcoming and available to us
- Amanda and Carlie available to help with writing

WRAPSC - no new meeting

Reading Support Group (RSG)

- Still working on this
-

Playground Revitalization

- Samantha polled students and staff about what they would like to see in the outdoor playground
 - Tables were popular (not all kids want to run around)
 - Fruit trees
 - Gardens
 - Water, ponds, rivers
 - Pathways
 - Chalkboards (eg, on the walls of the toy shed)
- (Rita) Spinner was very popular at Alpine
 - (Paul) schools tend to take them out because they get misused after school hours.
 - (Paul) they also require a large safety footprint around them, which may not be a concern for us
 - (Paul) does provide a different type of play for students on the spectrum

- (Paul) Would be far more expensive to install after the fact (staging, surfacing)
- (Katha) we could do this at a later date and in a different location (e.g., between outdoor classroom and back)
- We are not adding this to the playground site at this time. Will look at in the future.
- (Annie) kids need to be told not to pull plants out of the container gardens or dig in them
- Need to regroup, who wants to be on the “outdoor classroom & garden(s)” subcommittee? (kate)
 - Steph, Katya, Wendy, Katherine A, Annie, Paul, Kate Leslie, Karin, Tara
 - Email everyone in above bullet
- What are the main fundraising focuses right now? (kate)
- Do we have a clear picture of what we want the outdoor classroom to look like? (kate)
- Where are we with the garden? Nicole has offered \$1000.00, are we moving forward, now, later? (Kate)

7. Focus Items

Strong Start (Katherine A)

- *Started today*
- *12 kids currently starting*
- *MOre kids bringing on board*

8. Other Business

- Board games (Katherine)
 - We'd talked about purchasing a cabinet and stocking it with games
 - Rita's survey showed that teachers want games
 - Holding discussion to next week.
- We Stand With Teachers Poster Board (Katherine)
 - Interested council members can sign
 - Contact Katherine if you have ideas on how to promote this
- (Kathryn) Huddle-Up
 - Expressed our interest in September. Will reconnect with Chris Bertoia in late March.
- (Kathryn) Hohner Avenue Porch Party, Saturday, May 30, 2020, 3-8 pm
 - (Last year raised \$556 despite torrential downpour) (not all profit)
 - Do we want to do this again?
 - Does anyone want to take this on?
 - Confirm with Laura MacBride, Amanda says that the org committee has tents
- (Kathryn) Minutes
 - How can we expedite the process for approval and posting to [School Council/Minutes](#) ?
 - Most recent posted is September 16, 2019
 - We will approve this via email
 - Rita will post them on the Suddaby website

- Nick Merhing - Prep Academy Tutors of KW (Carlie)

Nick Mehring Inquiry - I own and operate Prep Academy Tutors of Kitchener-Waterloo. We do private, in-home tutoring with students in the region. Our tutors are Ontario certified teachers. I'm looking to expand our presence in the community by getting involved with local school fundraisers whenever possible. In the past, I've donated prize baskets which include free tutoring and other age appropriate prizes for school silent auctions, fun fairs, etcetera. Further, I'm always open to being a physical presence at things like fun fairs by sponsoring and running a game or activity. If something like this interests you, I'd love to speak more about these opportunities in the future. I know things are currently up in the air given the labour dispute, but I'd love to at least start a conversation regardless.

- Discussion about the appropriateness of using "tutor" business as funfair prizes in this labour climate
- Movie Night / parental supervision and General Liability for Council (Carlie)
 - Need to note in the advertising that parents need to be on site
- (Carlie) Liability
 - Rita to look into whether the Board covers us when running Council events
- Minutes
 - Approved