

Suddaby School Council Meeting 17-01-22

Present: Rita Givlin, Sarah Taylor, Andrea Maxwell, Stephanie Meyer, Katherine Akins, Kate Leslie, Wendy Saulesleja, Katha Broschek, Tara Bedard, Nadia Ursacki, Angela U, Sue Campbell, Karin Korth, Anjali Misra

Regrets: none

Principal's Report - Rita Givlin:

COVID: Our safety measures continue to be in place - cohorts, masking, sanitizing, distancing, daily screening for staff and students, windows open, HEPA filters running, ventilation system working longer, and all students facing the same direction whenever possible. In addition, there is the increased use of Rapid Antigen Tests.

Online Learning: Approximately 230 devices were handed out to students.

Suddaby families have chosen to keep about 30 of our Stars in virtual learning for the next little while.

Suddaby Cares: Thanks to our students and families for donating \$635.75 to the Toonies For Tummies for Food For Kids. This is enough to provide 64 of the weekend packages to local children.

Thanks to all for donating approximately \$185 to the Toonies for Tummies campaign on behalf of Nutrition For Learning

Staffing Updates: Congratulations go to Hilary Lehman who competed for and earned a promotion. She is the new operator for the Easy-Connect Desk and will be managing absences for the extended-day programs. We are very pleased about her promotion and proud of her success. She will be sorely missed!

We look forward to welcoming Mrs. Himanshi (Mrs. H.) as our new secretary. Mrs. Himanshi has been volunteering in the library with Mrs. Reiman at Brigadoon and comes highly recommended. She speaks several languages including Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu and a bit of French as well as English.

Congratulations also go to Lisa Bender who is currently on a leave of absence until April. She has been pursuing her dreams by taking courses to become a Social Worker and is off on her practicum placement. Kerstin Frehe will be joining Suddaby as our

newest EA while Lisa is on leave. Ms. Frehe has been supporting students online in the last week or so.

Facility Updates: More Period Product dispensers have arrived - we are grateful that period products will now be available in the main girls' washroom at Suddaby. (Please note the products have been available to all students, we just didn't have the dispenser in the washroom.)

PRO Grant: Connected with Scott Norton from The Healing of the Seven Generations. In an outdoor evening event, he will provide caregivers with a similar experience that he will then share with students when he comes the next month to do student workshops. The student workshop will focus on grass dancing and drums. The caregiver workshop would include this information, as well as focusing on generation traumas that come from residential schooling. It would also include extensions for caregivers to use with their students, both before and after the student workshops. In our PRO Grant application we asked for \$750.

Workshop Opportunity: We have been working with our Indigenous Learning Team at the Board to help us plan for our student workshops with Scott Norton from The Healing of the Seven Generations. Scott will share his experience with grass dancing and drumming. He will also answer questions that our students develop ahead of time. Checked on costing with our Indigenous Learning Team - \$1500

Mitten Drive: Bethany Church reached out and asked how they could support our Stars before the winter holidays. They gave a very generous donation to support the Mitten Drive approved by motion at the November school council meeting. Thanks to Wendy Saulesleja who purchased 60 pairs of Hot Paws mittens using those funds and sent a thank you note to Bethany Church.

Kindergarten Registration: About 27 new Stars have already registered. We appreciate everyone's help in getting the word out about kindie registration. Please encourage families to register ASAP.

French Immersion Registration: The deadline for kindie families to request FI and be in the lottery if needed is the end of January.

Transportation Change: Letters were mailed to impacted families and the message went out to all families on SchoolDay. I reached out to the head of transportation asking

if there could be another reprieve. His response included the following points:

1. I have reviewed the archives related to the closing of Victoria School and the grandfathering of transportation. The archives show that transportation was on the agenda of the meetings leading to the actual decision however there were no mentions of grandfathering transportation in the motion and decision related to the closure and redistribution of the students from Victoria School.
2. We appreciate that the change is a difficult one for these families. We have been communicating for several years about the implementation of the new walking zone and have performed several observations of the walking routes. The upgrades to the infrastructure, the introduction of the ION and the very low volume of traffic do not support the continuation of the transportation services to these families.
3. The multiple walkabouts have only illustrated that this area does not differ significantly from other urban areas and needs to be serviced equitably.
4. We need to move forward and enact the removal of transportation which has been communicated for many years as we have no grounds to delay further.

Financial Report - Katha Broschek:

Total budget: 39 869.10

To be kept in account: 10 000.00

Outdoor equipment: 2 000.00

Thank you bench: 1 000.00

Equity initiatives: 5 000.00

Schoolyard: 8 559.59

Total to spend: 13 309.51

Teacher's Report - Andrea Maxwell:

- 1) A survey will go out to teachers with respect to the \$2000 to be spent on outdoor equipment for the spring.
- 2) Mrs. Shantz has requested \$200 for a virtual field trip for all grades .

Motion to release \$200 for virtual field trip PASSED

WRAPC Report - Kate Leslie:

➤ The WRAPC meeting on 04-01-22 addressed the WRDSB's approach to equity. The history of equity within the board was discussed, and the general take home message was that there is still learning and improvement required. Attendees were directed to the WRDSB website's Guiding Principles.

➤ Questions were submitted about the Board's messaging surrounding Halloween, it was acknowledged that messaging had been confusing. The Board's position on Halloween was suggested as "the day should not center on any one celebration".

Mistletoe market:

In light of the WRDSB's tweets about other schools hosting markets similar to Suddaby's Mistletoe Market, ways to make the Mistletoe market more inclusive were discussed, it was suggested that this question be sent to the board for further information.

Fundraising/Playground Report: Wendy Saulesleja, Katherine Akins, Kate Leslie

➤ A survey asking parents, teachers and students for input on the next schoolyard revitalization purchase has been created, with plans to send it out in February.

➤ Domino's Pizza Fundraiser will be held for the month of February.

Equity Report: Tara Bedard:

➤ The Equity Committee has planned outreach with groups in the community to find out what they do that could be brought into the classroom to support teachers and students.

➤ The School Council Equity Committee was informed of the existence of a Teacher Equity Committee and has requested contact information for them, in order to facilitate collaboration.

School Nutrition Committee Report: Sue Campbell

Nothing to report at this time. Will serve the community best when students are back in School.

StrongStart: Katherine Akins

StrongStart is planned to begin either the week before or the week after March Break.

Strongstart is an early literacy support program run by volunteers in the school.

Volunteers will be paired with children for 10 30-minute (typically weekly) sessions.

Training is provided (and mandatory), free of charge. Given the pandemic-induced disruptions of the last 2 school years, a higher need than usual is predicted. If you can help, please see the link below, or contact Katherine Akins at kakins@rogers.com

<https://strongstart.ca/programs/letters-sounds-and-words/training/>