

Suddaby School Council Meeting Minutes - 28-02-22

Present: Steph Meyer, Katherin Akins, Rita Givlin, Sarah Taylor, Andrea Maxwell, Karin Korth, Wendy Saulasleja, Katha Broschek, Tara Bedard, Sue Campbell, Angela U., Lisa Farlowe, Jesse Thomas, Sam Leban

Regrets: Kate Leslie, Nadia Ursacki, Anjali Misra

Admin Update

Kemozy Inspire Tour presentation

Recommendation from Bring on the Sunshine, which is "an organization that promotes Black Heritage and Black History through an authentic and accurate African lens." We contacted them because of parent feedback and this also was an organization that our School Council Equity Committee had planned to reach out to as well.

Presentations occurred today and focused "on celebrating the contributions that black people have made in innovations, arts, and culture..." There was a "trivia game that teaches [students] about the many inventions that we love and cherish to this day that were created by black innovators, creators, and engineers." There was also dancing and singing as well.

The cost for 2 assemblies (Grades 4 to 6 and Kindergarten to Grade 3) is \$700. Because of some technical difficulties with the first assembly, they've invoiced us for \$650.

Motion to pay \$650.00 PASSED.

The Healing of the Seven Generations

Continuing to plan our student workshop opportunity with Scott Norton, from The Healing of the Seven Generations, with assistance from our Board's Indigenous Learning Team. We would look to have 6/7 workshops, outside and split up by grade level. Scott will share his experiences with grass dancing and drumming. He will also answer questions that our students develop ahead of time as a part of classroom learning and discussions. Checked on costing with our Indigenous Learning Team = \$1500.

Possible Workshops (times approximate):

- 1 hour for our kindergarten students
- 1 hour to 1 ½ hours for our grade 1 and grade 1/2 classes
- 1 hour to 1 ½ hours for our grade 2 and 2/3 classes
- 1 1/2 hours to 2 hours for our grade 3/4 classes
- 2 hours for our grade 4/5 classes
- 2 hours for our grade 5/6 and 6 classes (may have 2 sessions here)

Also spoke with Scott about how we at Suddaby can get more involved with The Healing of the Seven Generations. He shared some thoughts regarding fundraising for firewood, helping to

move firewood, and perhaps inviting those in the Suddaby community to a sunrise ceremony (7:00/7:30 am). He was also very interested in any student-generated ideas.

Motion to pay up to \$2000.00 from the Equity Subcommittee's funding allotment for Healing of the 7 Generations programs PASSED.

Pro Grant

Our PRO grant for \$750 was approved. Plans continue for our collaboration with Scott Norton, from The Healing of the Seven Generations. We are looking to meet with Scott and Nicole Robinson, the Board's Equity and Inclusion Officer with an Indigenous focus, this week to further discuss our caregiver workshop, as well as our student workshops.

As a reminder, our PRO grant will fund an outdoor evening event. Scott 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 generational 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.

Google Meet Announcements

We continue to use Google Meets for our daily announcements. This past month we had a focus on Black History Month with the theme of Black History: Today and every day. We celebrated Black Brilliance and highlighted different positive role models each day. Some of our students shared the slides they had created in class. We loved having their contributions.

February Staff Meeting

Our very own Mrs. Skornyak and her ETFO colleague, Tara Dugood, presented RAINBOW STORIES ON THE ROAD, an ETFO Equity Workshop! The workshop explored how to create an inclusive classroom while talking about diverse families and LGBTQ issues. A kit of resources was left for Suddaby staff to use with our students and ideas for activities were shared. It is wonderful to visit classrooms and see the diverse picture books being shared in many of our classrooms.

We also began a discussion on using different pronouns as many of our Suddaby Stars are selecting their own. It is great to walk in some classes and see students' pronouns on their names displayed on their desks.

Heggerty

Our staff in K-2 classes are continuing to explicitly teach phonemic awareness to all students. Our students are reporting that these daily, oral, repetitive, and fast-paced lessons are helping them to improve their reading and writing and their teachers are noticing improvements as well. When we are visiting classes we notice that, while the lessons have gotten much harder, there is increased participation and confidence. Kudos to our staff who are continuing to use the

resources and to positively impact student learning even though our PD sessions have been postponed as central staff have been deployed to support in schools.

Class Placement Requests

After the March Break, a notice will be sent on School Day (paper notices will be sent home to families who are not currently using SchoolDay) inviting parents and caregivers to share information they would like to have considered when the Suddaby staff is building classes for 2022-2023. This information may be about things like friends to place with or avoid, learning styles and teaching styles that work well, placement of siblings etc. Please note that it is not helpful or appropriate to request individual teachers.

Suddaby Winter Olympics

Hopefully our third try tomorrow will be the charm. We had a snow day on our first attempt and the field was too icy on our second.

Lancaster St. Sidewalk and Path

In response to concerns raised by a parent last week, we reached out to facility services who followed up with our snow removal company to have the sidewalk properly cleared. The path leading in from the sidewalk was heavily salted today and the ice build-up is diminishing. We appreciate hearing about all safety concerns and do our best to respond promptly.

Dominos Fundraising Campaign

Thanks to the school council for organizing and to all of the families who supported this fundraiser. We are grateful! We are very impressed with how the fundraising committee has kept things going despite COVID limitations.

Lost and Found

After checking into the guidelines after our last council meeting, a central lost and found collection area has been set up again. Students are asked to sanitize before looking for their belongings. Considerable thanks go to our custodial team and staff for helping students to keep their belongings organized and at hand.

Mitten Update

Most of the mittens that were purchased by Wendy Saulesleja through the generosity of Bethany Church have been given out to students in need. A mitten drive for waterproof mittens for our Stars would be welcome again next year.

Educators Teaching Educators

Thanks to Mrs. Morton-Westood and Mrs. Mosher for welcoming student teachers to Suddaby. Thanks to Mrs. White, Ms. Dunn and Mrs. Titus who have welcomed EA students.

Walkzone: Bus Review

A delegation from the Cedar Hill area spoke regarding the proposed cancellation of bus routes from the area to Suddaby. Noted:

- 1) In 1988 the Victoria Public School was closed and busing to Suddaby PS was offered “in perpetuity” to those affected by the closure. At present, 82 students are bused.
- 2) In 2020 the routes were reviewed and the decision to terminate busing was made. However COVID19 halted any further action.
- 3) In January 2022 the review was re-examined, and the decision to terminate bussing was announced.
- 4) The delegates believe the decision was rushed and further discussion is advisable. They note their concerns regarding i) safety (there are several high-traffic intersections, the LRT, and marginalized individuals exhibiting potentially problematic behaviours in the area) and ii) equity (the buses served a lower income area of Kitchener).
- 5) The next walkzone meeting takes place March 7.

The Council agreed to write a letter in support of the delegates’ concerns.

Financial Report: Katha Broschek

February 2022:

Total budget: 39 747.67

Keep in account: 10 000

Outdoor equipment: 2 000

Thank you bench: 1 000

Equity initiatives: 5 000

Schoolyard: 8 559.59

Total to spend: 13 188.08

We paid 200\$ for Making Waves, a virtual field trip

Mabels Labels: generated \$78.57 (already included in report)

Dominos Pizza fundraiser raised \$540.00 (to be added)

Teacher’s Report: Andrea Maxwell

- 1) Mrs. Shantz thanks the Council for funding the Making Waves virtual field trip.
- 2) Mr. Vanderpool asks the Council to consider fundraising in support of the Ray of Hope organization. We will be planning a dance-a-thon to do so.
- 3) Mr. Vanderpool asks Council to discuss bringing back the June BBQ in whatever capacity COVID19 protocols allow.

- 4) The Suddaby Food4Kids food drive is complete! Suddaby wishes to gratefully acknowledge the generous contribution of Bethany Church members, and all of our stars who brought in donations.

Communications Report: Anjali Misra

None - Anjali absent.

WRAPC Report: Kate Leslie

None - Kate absent.

Fundraising Report : Wendy Saulesleja and Katherine Akins

- 1) While we receive frequent emails about sales-related fundraisers, these have been put on hold for now. The dance-a-thon to fund Ray of Hope will be our next fundraising event.
- 2) The playground revitalization survey is complete. We received 132 responses, 44% from students, 32% from parents, 24% from staff.
- 3) 58% indicated a preference for a 2nd outdoor classroom, 50.4% for a gaga ball pit, and 44.3% for field trips.
- 4) When given the opportunity to add ideas, adding gardens, trees, and a mural, and bringing back the recycling bins and pizza days were frequent responses.

Equity Committee Report: Tara Bedard

- 1) The equity committee continues to reach out to community groups who might be interested in creating programs for our students. Most would have to create content for schools, and want a commitment before they do so.
- 2) We are also looking into a "rainbow audit", examining how inclusive/welcoming Suddaby is to LGBTQTTTS people
- 3) We will also reach out to local Muslim groups as Rammadan is approaching.
- 4) We are looking into the possibility of commissioning a mural focused on topics of equity, social justice, multiculturalism and more, to be created in collaboration with students:

Mural Project

Planning:

Muralist introduction.
Use of materials.
Community consultation.
Sketch / Draft ideas.
Developing of the mural concept.
Composition of the mural.
Primer and seal wall.
Draw design to the wall.

Painting days.

The cost of a mural depends on the size, condition of the wall, interior, or exterior location. Most range between \$4,000 small (approx 4'x8') and \$35,000 large. Final scope of the project can be decided together. Can be done directly on a wall or on panels that can be mounted.

Budget Include

1. Artists fee plus HST

Notes: My fee is \$50 hr

It includes:

- Meetings and Budgeting.
- Design. (community consultation)
- Purchasing of materials.
- Primer/seal the wall
- Drawing the design to the wall.
- Mixing the paint, label, and number the colors.
- Painting the wall and giving instructions to the volunteers.
- Retouching the initial section (give more coats of colors)
- Underline all the murals.

2. Materials

Primer/sealer

Latex paint (Dulux or Valspar)

Spray paint

Brushes and rollers

Containers

Miscellaneous

Aprons: in kind

Floor protection: in kind

Other Business:

- 1) Concerns were raised about snow clearing on Otto and Lancaster St sidewalks.
- 2) Strongstart: Katherine Akins

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/>

