**School Council Meeting Minutes**

April 11, 2022 - Virtual

**Attendees**

Sandra Himann

Lori Peebles

Robyn Gilbey

Meredythe Hertz

Summer Braunig

**Introduction and Welcome**

**Administrative Report** (Sandra)

*Around the Province*

*Following two years of global learning disruption, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ontario government announced record funding for the 2022-23 school year. The funding will support learning recovery and mental health supports*

*Ontario’s Learning Recovery Action Plan – a five-point plan to strengthen learning recovery in reading and math, anchored by the largest provincial investment in tutoring supports, summer learning and mental health. The government outlined investments that will bridge learning gaps, supporting academic success and focus on overall mental health and wellness.*

*Together, this total funding amounts to over $26.6 billion in 2022-23 -- the highest investment in public education in Ontario’s history, with highlights including:*

*The government is also continuing to provide $1.4 billion for the repair and renewal of schools for the 2022-23 school year.*

*Ontario’s Child Care Action Plan Puts Families First*

*On March 28, 2022, Ontario reached a $13.2 billion agreement with the federal government on funding for and the terms of a Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care program. The new program will lower child care costs and improve access, and quality across Ontario’s child care and early years sector.*

*Around the Board*

*Equity, Year End Graduations and Celebrations: Administrators have formed a working group designed to create equity among schools for celebrations and graduations for elementary school. The idea is to create guidelines for administrators to follow in reflection of the Board goal of equity and inclusion.*

*Right to Read - Ontario Human Rights have found reading instruction within school is not effectively serving students with learning disabilities (e.g., dyslexia). For the 2022/2023 school year, the identified school will have a Reading Specialist Teacher. This is a 0.5 position that comes with a lot of training.*

*EQAO - EQAO testing for grade 3 and 6 students is back! Students will participate in testing near the end of May and early June at WTT. The testing is changing, as it is all electronic this year.*

*French Program Review - members of the public are invited to offer their opinion as part of the French Language instruction review.*

*School Bus Interruptions- driver absence due to COVID and isolation periods is making it difficult to ensure all routes run everyday. Parents are given as much notice as possible if a route is canceled.*

*High School Renamed - Sir John A MacDonald High School in Waterloo has been renamed Laurel Heights Secondary School.*

*PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) Family Engagement Series- variety of virtual presentations/workshops for parents.*

*Around the School*

*Music Concert: All classes enjoyed a virtual concert in Music, performed by a local group called the ‘Relative Minors’. The Relative Minors performed both a primary concert and a junior concert. The primary concert was fun and engaging. The junior concert shared fun songs and lessons on music composition and composing.*

*French Week: To celebrate French Week, all 1-6 students enjoyed a magic show. According to the teachers, the magic show was fantastic! The magician's name is Marc Tardif. The theme of the show was the Canadian provinces and territories. He gives some cool facts about a specific province and then goes into a magic trick. He did bird tricks, card tricks, a trick with a $5 bill... There were two shows in French; one that's bilingual for core kids. The kids were also given the students a Franco-Ontarien bracelet and talked about the significance of the colors and symbols in class*

*Grade 6 Celebration: The Grade 6 team, (class teachers, admin, music, French, PE, Spec. Ed.) will be meeting to discuss Grade 6 celebration. As a team, we feel it is important to celebrate every child in a way that is engaging and fun for the students. This is a celebration versus a graduation as students have not yet graduated from elementary school. We do not yet know what restrictions will look like in June and cannot say if this celebration will be in-person or virtual. We have asked students what they feel is important, related to their celebration, and they have responded with…spending time together, a trip, and a token of some sort (e.g., silhouette).*

*Kindergarten: Toward the end of May, the Kindie Team will host an information night for new JK students and their families. Like we did in past years, each new JK student will be given a ‘Welcome to Kindergarten’ bag that contains books, crayons, coloring pages, play-doh, etc. The bags will be handed out prior to the event. As we progress through the ‘Welcome to Kindergarten’ event, we will make reference to the learning tools within the bag and encourage our new JK students to engage in play.*

*Equity and Inclusion Book Club: The WTT Equity and Inclusion Book Club met in February and will meet again in March. Adrianne Kershaw-Gies (new to WTT) is leading the discussion and sharing quotes that make staff think.*

*Art’s Night - Will be happening on May 19th. It will be an in-person event for classes, throughout the school day, and streamed to parents in the evening.*

**Fundraising Update**

* second series of pizza fundraisers have occured
* not hugely profitable, however there is essentially no work other than communications being sent out
* profit to school 1st round was $285 and 2nd round was $90
* vouchers for free pizzas were given to the school to be raffled for teachers and staff

**Garden Use**

* interest from some classes in using the garden spaces
* interested classes have requested funds for supplies (soil, seeds etc…) with an expected cost of approximately $500
* council approved using the PRO Grant funds and supplementing additional costs needed
* volunteers will be needed to maintain over summer break – suggested this be taken back to families of students

**Field Trip Supplement**

* field trips are now permitted
* new requirements for volunteers (police check, references)
* Robyn motioned to provide $10 per student to supplement field trip transportation or virtual field trip costs
* passed by unanimous vote

**Questions**

**Next meeting TBD**