

Summerside School Council Meeting - November 18, 2020 at 7:00pm **via Google Meet**

In Attendance: Bobby Chauhan, Andrea Gordon, Sui Ling Lee, Hicham Benkirane, Rebecca Ryan, Saaimah Malik, Colleen Dwyer, Mariam Rauf, Alison O'Rourke, Erica Roy, Heather Graham, Dahlia Powell, Sarah Ahmed, Katie Patterson, Jenna AuCoin, Melissa Humphries

- Welcome
- Round-table introductions
- Minutes from October 14, 2020 are approved

Teachers update: The school has been very busy, but unfortunately there are little extracurriculars. The school has just finished recognizing anti-bullying week and other board-wide initiatives.

Principal's Report

1. **Welcome**

Thank you for your contributions to our school community!

2. **Transition Planning**

Stuart Van Oostveen, Christine Lanos, Rebecca and I had a lengthy transition meeting on Tuesday evening. Stuart had many questions for us as he is wrapping up the work he is doing for his Entry Plan as the new Principal of Summerside. We are looking forward to welcoming him for a school tour on November 25. Principal Van Oostveen will assume his new position on December 1.

3. **Entry and Exit to the Building/School Grounds and Parking Lot**

The process for students to enter the building is going well. We have adjusted the school ground entry to ensure teachers on the yard are watching for and interacting with the youngest students who have a long walk from the far gates in the morning. Stacey Grenier and Johanne Lahaie are there every morning and have been doing a great job welcoming our grade 1 and 2 students. I also make a point of being in the parking lot most mornings and evenings. The process in the lot is going well. Some parents have graciously accepted coaching about the drive-through kiss and ride lane process and it is working very well.

4. **Gym Equipment and Gym use**

Within the last few weeks, we have honed a pretty good process for permitting the use of gym equipment for Physical and Health Education classes. Hands and equipment sanitizing has been key in the success of this new process. Equipment is not shared between classes.

We are looking forward to re-opening the gym for some indoor classes with very tight processes in the coming days. This will be welcome in the winter months.

5. Hooks, Lockers, Winter gear

Most classes have a process in place to leave their winter gear either in a locker or on a hook in the hallway or classroom. This process is working well using a two-pod system. Grade 7 and 8 students will be the last to set up....now if we could only get them to wear winter clothing!

6. School Council Parameters for planning going forward

There are no formal parameters set by the District for your involvement in schools. That said, food sales have been halted, which is a large source of income for our school. Also, visitors are not permitted entry to schools or the school grounds so you must work from afar. The role of Council first and foremost is to provide advice to the admin. This is always welcome. A secondary role is that of fundraising. I am happy to support you in any way that I can. I know Stuart is looking forward to working with you as well.

7. Covid 19 First Positive Case

We have been actively working with parents and staff to debrief the communication strategy used after our first COVID 19 case. We know that we will change some things about the messaging to families to help them understand the messaging. We are also hoping that our families can help their children to understand how to treat isolating families with kindness.

As always, please contact me or Rebecca if you have any questions at any time.

8. And Finally...

Volunteering is sometimes a thankless job. I want to thank you for all that you are doing to make Summerside a better place for children to learn and grow.

I have had a wonderful three and a half months working in your community. The staff are remarkable - they truly are innovative, collaborative and inspiring in all that they have done this Fall. The parents have been consistently kind, flexible and supportive in my time here. And your children are simply amazing...these bright beings have inspired me every day on this journey. I'm quite certain that you will be in excellent hands with Stuart and Rebecca at the helm. All the best for a wonderful and safe school year!

Treasurer's Report

No activity in the bank since our last meeting, the account sits at \$19,480.50. Assuming all pizza cheques have been cashed. Now that the executive council is in place, Council will need the letter of authorization for the bank.

Action Items from last month

Outdoor play

Bobby has been talking to Erica, Heather and Rebecca trying to get some ideas of what students can do during recess. One thing that has been raised with Heather is playing music outside during recess so the kids can dance. One concern is that one cohort is indoors while the other cohort is outdoors. If anyone has any suggestions they can send them to summersideschoolcouncil@ocdsb.ca.

Fundraising

Fundraising has become one of our secondary roles due to limitations. Council is thinking of re-launching the Flip Give app where shoppers go through a portal, do their online shopping, and the school receives a percentage of money spent. It's noted that our account from last year hasn't been too active lately. It's suggested that we send out communication about it again especially with holiday shopping approaching.

Andrea says there is already info used from last year she will share with Erica and Bobby.

Looking for suggestions on fundraising opportunities

Erica suggests she is open to having a brain storming night for fundraising ideas.

Saaimah suggests we may be past the deadline for getting a Purdy's order ready for Christmas so Council may aim to do a fundraiser for Valentine's Day. It's then mentioned that Council should wait to see what the district says about having tables set up at the school level before setting anything in place.

A suggestion from Sui Ling about a virtual fundraiser: there is a company that sells plants, seedlings, tomato plants, herbs, all virtual and they deliver right to people's houses. There is a minimum order per house for free delivery, either \$35/\$40 so it would be best as a springtime fundraiser. It's called *plantables.ca* and they take all the orders, collect money, and deliver. Council just would just need to set up the dispersal of the flyer.

OCASC

There is an OCASC meeting tomorrow night that Erica will attend and share the information with the council.

Addition of a Member at Large

Since Saaimah had volunteered to hold a spot as Chair until we had a confirmed candidate, she is now going to be added as a Member at Large.

Questions and Answers

Question- Does the new principal, Stephen, have to self-isolate as he is moving from the Peel Region?

Answer - No, he moved to Ottawa a few weeks ago.

Question - Will the field and park be plowed during the winter months?

Answer - No.

Rebuttal - The park entrance is a designated entrance for the school, so will that be changed?

Answer - We will check with the Chief Custodian and find out.

Question- The back gate gets closed during winter months and families who access it can no longer open it, is there a way to keep it open?

Answer - Heather has spoken to custodian about keeping gate open and it will be kept open

Follow up - Can this be mentioned in next parent communication?

Answer - Yes.

Question - Does the school have enough sanitizer and PPE?

Answer - Yes - almost a surplus. It is very accessible and easy to restock when necessary.

Question - How many cohorts are there at Summerside?

Answer - There are 20 classes but school is divided in half - orange and purple. This ensures not too many classes are out at recess. Each class goes to a designated zone at recess. This also allows for a more stringent cleaning routine.

Question - is the two cohort system unique to Summerside?

Answer - Some schools have adopted a four cohort policy, it is up to the principal's discretion.

Question - How does it work for dismissal? Are all cohorts in the hallway at the same time?

Answer - No, half the class is dismissed at a time, then they swap.

Comment from council re: positive Covid case:

There is bullying/blaming happening at the student level. There needs to be more of a conversation from the staff level to discourage bullying/gossiping about it.

Answer: Heather says that she has spoken to several classes about it and will continue to address it as necessary.

Question: are we selling summerside swarm gear?

Answer: hopefully, we are awaiting more guidelines.

Future Meeting Dates

December 16th, 2020

January 20th, 2021

February 17th, 2021

March 24th, 2021

April 21st, 2021

May 19th, 2021

June 16th, 2021

Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 16th at 7:00pm. If you would like to be added to the invite list, please send an email to jenna.aucoin@ocdsb.ca