

# **Summerside School Council Meeting - December 16, 2020 at 7:00pm via Google Meet**

**In attendance:** Colleen Dwyer, Sui Ling Lee, Bobby Chauhan, Hicham Benkirane, Jenna AuCoin, Melissa Humphries, Rebecca Ryan, Stuart Van Oostveen, Saaimah Malik, Andrea Gordon, Erica Roy, Mariam Rauf, Sarah Ahmed

## **Introductions and Welcome to Stuart**

### **Approval of Minutes from November 2020**

Minutes are approved

### **Principal/VP Report:**

**Rebecca:** No new positive cases since the one positive case in November. We continue to connect with OPH nurse Emma. She's been a great resource and a relationship we continue to foster. Really been a great asset to the school. In terms of things that have changed: OPH has given green light to use the gym and the phys-ed equipment. We've started providing each class with only one period a week. Only four to five classes are using the gym per day. This gives the gym an opportunity to be sanitized and cleaned down. High touch points are cleaned with spray bottles. Very strict protocol in place - hand hygiene before and after using the gym, classes must be washing/sanitizing their hand. No scrimmages are allowed at this point. The entire gym is open and there's no shared gym time. Physical distancing can be maintained. Students are happy to be in the gym. Another exciting piece is that some equipment is able to be used at recess. We're looking to find out what staff/students would like to have accessible to them at recess and then seeing what's available. A welcome change for students who have been standing in their zones. teachers don't have to use the gym - teachers can still use their gym time outdoors.

**Question:** When was the gym opened?

**Answer:** Beginning of December

### **Update on the gates to Boisdale Park**

The gates were tie-wrapped open over the weekend. Stacey Grenier and her three phys-ed classes will stomp down the path through the yard.

### **Sound system playing loud enough to have dance parties**

At this point we are not able to separate the speakers for indoor/outdoor use but we're working on it.

### **Fundraising**

Waiting to receive more news from the district regarding fundraising. So far, the main message is that if a school is to fundraise, they must be able to spend the funds in this school year.

### **Parent question RE: pictures of inside school**

Parents have been asking to see pictures of the inside of the school to see the arrows on the floor, partitions at desks, etc.

**Action Item** - upload pictures to the website and direct parents there

### **Website - suggestion from council**

How often is content updated? Is it possible to develop a community for Summerside parents? Possibly Facebook? Given the shift to virtual learning, it would be beneficial to put some life in social media presence.

**Action Item** - If we're going to do that, we would need a social media sub committee.

## Teacher's Report

- This week we had our first indoor recess. As a reminder to the community we go out unless it's -25 or colder. Please send extra clothes and winter supplies.
- We've recently made some tweaks to recess zones, students who were on pavement now have a chance to play on the yard. Change of scenery is making things a bit more fun.
- Holiday spirit is alive and well - even with Covid - we had spirit days every day this week. It's been cool to see kids involved. On hero day/superheroes we had students dress up as essential service workers - Sobeys apron, construction workers, medical personnel. We also had ugly sweater day, colours, sports day/jerseys and of course, pyjama day on Friday. Lots of stuff coming home on Thursday or Friday. We've also been advised to take home personal belongings over break - no reason to believe we won't be back in January - but check just in case. Shoes - take them out, make sure they fit - put them back in the bag

**Question:** in the theme of spirit are we able to pay gratitude to all front line workers as a whole school community - are we able to have some sort of recording of that?

**Answer:** that was the thought around the hero theme day and that generated a lot of discussion in the classroom. It definitely is something that can be acknowledged in the new year.

- Home reading - It has been discussed that the school council may be giving money to help with home reading but it has been decided that council can't pay for that sort of thing. Stuart found money in the school budget so the primary students will have digital accounts for reading at home.

**Question:** Home reading cannot be supported by the school council because it's a curriculum issue?

**Answer:** It's an equity issue. The district does not want schools with a more active school council to provide education related activities. Je lis licenses have been purchased.

**Question:** What can the school council fund along those lines that does not touch on the equity issue?

**Answer:** Last year we were able to buy board games and things for maker space, things that enrich the experience of school but not the core experience of school. Possibly virtual math night, virtual scientist in school.

## Concerns RE: school parking (pick up/drop off)

Concerns have been expressed about after school pick up. It has been noted that while morning drop off going quite well, evening pick up is becoming more hectic with heavy traffic.

**Concern** - A number of parents are parking in parking spots and students are running out into the parking lot. There are a lot of cars that are parking in the exit of the parking lot creating a potentially dangerous situation.

The most drastic solution would be to close off the parking lot but that is not at the top of the list right now.

**Solution** - Encourage people to park in the parking lot and go meet their student so students are not running through the parking lot. Encourage parents to park elsewhere and have designated meet spot for parents/students. It's noted that this should be the first approach to try.

**Question:** Is there any way that an SRO can get engaged from a safety standpoint?

**Answer:** Yes we can ask and see. We can also ask the municipality to help as well

### **Fundraising**

Flipgive has been up and running for a year and a bit. We raised an additional \$50.

Bobby attended the last OCASC meeting and notes that every school has done something different - from Flipgive to bake sales. There isn't any sort of consistency for what every school is doing.

It's reiterated that whatever funds we do raise need to be purposeful.

Erica attended a previous OCASC meeting and notes that some schools are doing virtual movie nights.

### **Summerside Gear**

Fundraising piece with school gear. Previously used Safety House. It's noted that they have the logos and artwork so as long as we went with them, we wouldn't have to regenerate.

Saaimah says there's quite a lot left over from last year in the servery under the counter - lots of water bottles and hats left, we could use it as a fundraising opportunity.

### **Concerns for Selling Summerside Gear**

Questions are raised around the logistics of selling Summerside gear:

Is there any specific policy regarding parents picking up the gear?

Another issue is giving parents the opportunity to pay cash or cheque.

We can encourage parents to pay cash online but some families do prefer to pay with cash or cheque.

Erica asks what the difference is if a parent wants to pay cash or cheque? How is it different from a child bringing a book back and forth from home to school?

### **Solution**

We will have to look into having money quarantining - having money sitting out is not the best practice and at the moment we are being advised to have no cash handling in the schools. We also can't have parents in the building. We want to ensure physical distancing is in place. Having things sent directly to the household is the only thing that can work.

Saaimah asks to clarify that presently no fundraising is happening since we are unable to handle money?

Erica is saying that it comes down to: the money that is raised this year should be spent on students that are at summerside this year and the funds should be purposeful.

### **Fundraiser with Boston Pizza**

Saaimah says she can ask Boston Pizza if they have an option for take-out to provide a Summerside code similar to our fundraiser last year.

### **Fundraising Goals**

It's decided that we should determine what we are fundraising for. Identifying short term fundraising, medium term, long term goal.

### **Fundraising Sub-Committee**

It's suggested that we should convene a fundraising sub-committee to identify potential areas for fundraising. Any interest in leading or sitting on the committee? Colleen offers interest as well as Sui-Ling.

**OCASC Meeting**

There is no date set yet but we are looking for volunteers to attend. It's suggested to possibly split up the next six meetings and have different people attend. They are generally in the middle of the month on a Thursday. There are no volunteers at the moment.

**Treasurer's Report**

One cheque was cashed for pizza refunds for \$276 from June 6th. This brings our balance to \$19315.50. Last week Erica and Hicham updated signatures for executives so we're now able to write cheques.

**Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 20th at 7:00pm**