

Summerside School Council Meeting - January 20, 2021 at 7:00pm via Google Meet

In attendance: Bobby Chauhan, Colleen Dwyer, Jenna AuCoin, Rebecca Ryan, Dahlia Powell Stuart Van Oostveen, Sui Ling Lee, Hicham Benkirane, Saaimah Malik, Andrea Gordon, Erica Roy

Approval of Minutes

Minutes are approved

Treasurer Report

There has only been one transaction a pizza refund for the amount of \$165. The balance on the account is \$19,315.50. We've been granted a \$500 cheque for the parent involvement fund.

Principal's Report

Transition to remote learning

- We've distributed a fair number - I believe about 50 so far - of chromebooks to families who don't have access to devices at home to allow all their children to participate in synchronous learning - in the double digits, beyond those already on loan for Summerside students in the permanent OCV (Virtual School)
- Teachers are working on developing their skills as remote educators - and it's a different process than teaching in-person, more challenging to read student's body language, especially if students are choosing to turn off their cameras or when sharing the screen, staff don't see the students, more challenging to manage engagement, and all the technical know-how needed to run a google meet and post assignments, but we are seeing many students having success
- Teachers are remarking that there are some benefits, that because there's no need to transition with all the time needed for putting on and removing snow pants, boots, mitts, hats and coats, there's more time for instruction and learning
- Some days Google platform has been glitchy, we realize, and the software company seems to be responding quickly to solve issues
- Thankful that parents are able to provide support, but also recognize that many parents are also engaged in their own remote work too - want to thank everybody for their flexibility and patience
- Encourage parents who have questions, concerns, challenges or praises to share and to connect directly with teachers by email or phone outside of the synchronous learning time; please contact us at Summerside if you have any further questions beyond those that the teacher can answer
- Our three specialized system classes are continuing in person, and most parents have elected to have their children attend, because school really is an essential service for these students
- Public Health Nurse, Emma Ayetor, came to visit and inspect our classes and school as a whole yesterday - we passed with flying colours!
- Heightened use of PPE - such as gowns, face shields, as well as masks; review donning and doffing procedures with staff
- New requirement that children in grade 1 - 3 are now required to wear masks
- Awaiting direction from OPH and OCDSB on new heightened screening tools to be used when students return to in-person schooling
- Will be implementing a rotational cycle for student washroom use to reduce need for physically distant line ups at the washrooms after recess breaks

- Will visit classes when students are back to review all of the safety measures we need to observe
- Awaiting direction to see if the gym can stay open and if we are still allowed to have shared equipment (only for the cohort, and sanitized with disinfectant after use) to use at recess and the gym when students return

Equity

- An important focus - a lens, if you will - that we apply to all the work that we are doing
- Our goal, to dismantle systemic racism, exclusion, lack of access, and build up inclusive practices
- Based on Ontario Human Rights Code, the protected grounds, which we must actively address in our public schools
- Staff have been learning with each other at our staff meetings about our District's Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Roadmap
- The document provides us with census data to show our students and families in the context of racial, religious, gender identification, sexual orientation as well as social economic and ability data.
- Explicit and deliberate actions are urgently required to address inequities in our systems, structures, policies and practices that continue to impact student and staff success and well-being and to build trust with students, families, staff, and communities that we have been under-serving.
- The document gives terms and definitions to provide common language to support equity seeking groups, truth and reconciliation, anti-oppression work that we must do in schools for morally and legally reasons
- The goals outlined in the Roadmap focus on six key areas:
 - Securing Accountability: governance and leadership
 - Importance of Identity: disproportionality in access, opportunities and outcomes
 - Building Staff Awareness and Capacity
 - Increasing Representation
 - Programming and Supports for Students: diversifying curriculum and access to mental health supports
 - Engagement and Connectedness: building strong and respectful partnerships between students, staff, parents and community in order to foster cultural safety and a sense of belonging.

The Roadmap is inclusive of diverse perspectives in its design and commitment to equity for all. With that said, there is an intentional focus on addressing racism, oppression and the intersectionalities of individuals and groups who systemically experience discrimination. Please note that while the Roadmap includes supports and programs for students with exceptional needs; detailed information can be found in the OCDSB's annual Special Education Plan.

The OCDSB's commitment to students, staff, families and communities who identify as First Nations, Métis and Inuit is highlighted in recognition of our unique relationship and responsibility to First Peoples, to reconciliation, to honouring the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada Calls to Action and to implementing the principles endorsed by Canada in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The OCDSB's commitment to students, staff, families and communities who identify as of ABC (African, Black, African-Caribbean) descent is also highlighted to reflect the District's 2018 adoption of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent 2015-2024 and to address the overwhelming urgency for action evidenced by disparities and disproportionalities in access, opportunity and outcomes for children and youth of African descent.

This is important work that we are committed to at Summerside.

We began to delve more deeply into equity learning at our most recent January staff meeting by inviting our Districts' Trans and Gender Diverse Student Support Coordinator, Equity Program,

As Black History month approaches, we are sharing resources amongst each other to build understanding and work together against anti-black racism.

We also are working at increasing our skill level at understanding truth and reconciliation, working against Islamophobia, looking at equity with respect to gender, and celebrating how we can look at ableism to provide opportunities for all our students to reach their goals and while helping to dismantle barriers.

We are working as a staff to continue this work which impacts everything we do, from school protocols, curriculum, resources, staff-student-parent relationships, hiring, addressing disproportionate outcomes, building appropriate support systems and working together to learn with and from each other. We invite you as parents to support us in this work, and, when school opens up more normally in the future, we look forward to working with you even more closely to build equity at Summerside.

A few news items

We've been granted funds to support parent engagement - \$500 for this year. Perhaps we use that money this year, since we can't get together, to build up our parent resource library. We will be sharing the collection with parents and once we are out of lockdown, hope to get the materials circulating amongst our parents, while maintaining 72 hour quarantine rules for exchanging such materials, just as we do with students who request library books

We have our Kindergarten Information Night scheduled for 7 pm on January 27th. If you have neighbours or friends in the surrounding area who are keen on enrolling their children in the Summerside French Exposure Kindergarten program, please encourage them to attend our virtual event. A link to the presentation will be available on our school website and the OCDSB website. There will also be a questionnaire for parents to fill out available in the same locations.

Friday is a PD day for teachers to work on term one report cards and kindergarten communication of learning. Other staff who are not responsible for working on report cards, are participating in other learning activities. Report cards will be available to parents via the portal on February 11, 2021.

Question - Regarding Covid protocols, on our website, you're going to great lengths to ensure Covid protocols are being met, is it possible for you to share all of the protocols that are in place?

Answer - Great suggestion, yes we can add it to our Covid tab on our website?

Question - The specialized classes have HEPA filters - will all classes have these when students return to in person? On a related note, with it being a new school, how is the ventilation system?

Answer - No, we've asked but the reason the specialized classes have them is because the students cannot as easily handle wearing a mask, and/or they may be unaware of physical distancing. It is a newer school with a newer ventilation system and air circulation is pretty good but I will talk to the facilities management people

Vice Principal Update

School website

Andrea has been supporting Summerside in the office until this week. Danielle has now returned. She will still be well connected to Summerside and has done a lot of work on the website. Andrea has done an awesome job creating tabs, notably, for Covid safety.

The school calendar is now up and running on the homepage for key dates. We will keep that up to date as the year unfolds. All of the council meetings are already there. All staff information is up to date.

Stuart this week tweeted a student update. Please give feedback to Rebecca Ryan. We're aiming for it to be user friendly, have pertinent information, have it be easier to navigate and find what you're looking for. Once we know what the enhanced procedures are, we will update the website which links to the OPH website.

Chromebooks

51 chromebooks are currently lent out. One hot spot was lent out, then returned. If families need chromebooks, please reach out to Rebecca.

Question - With regards to the school website - are we allowed to change colours or does it have to be board colours? Can we change to Summerside colours?

Answer - We can change colours. We can look into it, and see what we can do.

Question - In the count of 51 chromebooks - does that count for teachers?

Answer - All teaching staff (teachers, EA's and ECE's) are provided Chromebooks through the district.

Question - Is Google classroom set up for all teachers the same? Why do some teachers use whiteboard vs paper flip charts?

Answer - Google Classroom is an application and can be configured differently due to teacher preference. Google Meet has different extensions. Interactive Jamboard may not be as user friendly for younger grades so it depends on the lesson, age of student and teacher preference.

BLT provides weekly sessions, office hours for Q&A for teachers and technical support.

Question - Regarding the website logo, can we have the logo bleed into a banner?

Answer - Yes.

Question - Is there an ability to have a website designer from school council funds?

Answer - Unsure at this time but we can investigate.

Follow up answer - Most elementary schools have a template to follow.

Question - Is the logo the sun or the wasp?

Answer - The sun is the school logo. The wasp is for the Swarm which is the school team.

Question - Is there anything in place right now for students to get technical support on read and write? Is that cue still moving in a virtual manner?

Answer - Email Erin Clamens and Renee Haymes. They are not the trainers but they can do some training

Teacher Report

Questions for teacher representative since the teacher representative is absent:

Requests for teachers wish list so we can assist teachers in funds.

Question - Since we can't have Makerspace, is there a possibility of online clubs?

Question - Can we look into STEM packages in a form of a take home packages for Makerspace work?

Fundraising

Fundraising plan and proposal are presented to the screen. Please see attachment below.

See Attachment

Question - Why can't we do an online fundraiser?

Answer - I've checked with OPH and they are advising us to wait until after stay at home orders have been lifted.

Question - Can we add Verne to the next meeting to clarify some questions regarding the Swarm gear?

Answer - Yes we will invite him to the next meeting.

Question - Are we able to customize masks?

Answer - That would be a great question for Verne.

Summerfest

Should we move towards forming a sub committee?

It's suggested that we keep it on the fundraising subcommittee and add people as necessary. Jenna volunteers to help with the Summerside subcommittee.

Dan Fournier is helping with the play structure quote which has long been a long term fundraising goal. We are hoping to pick out a structure and find out the price. This way parents have a common goal to fundraise towards. The city might provide funding since it would be for community use as well.

Question - Does the school board provide any funding for play structures?

Answer - This is part of the questions we have to ask him.

Take aways:

For the fundraising committee it's to prioritize short term plans.

Mascot

Nik Cotter had explored it and Rebecca volunteers to reach out to him.

Other Business

OCASC

Next meeting is January 21.

Andrea and Colleen are available to attend the February and March meetings.

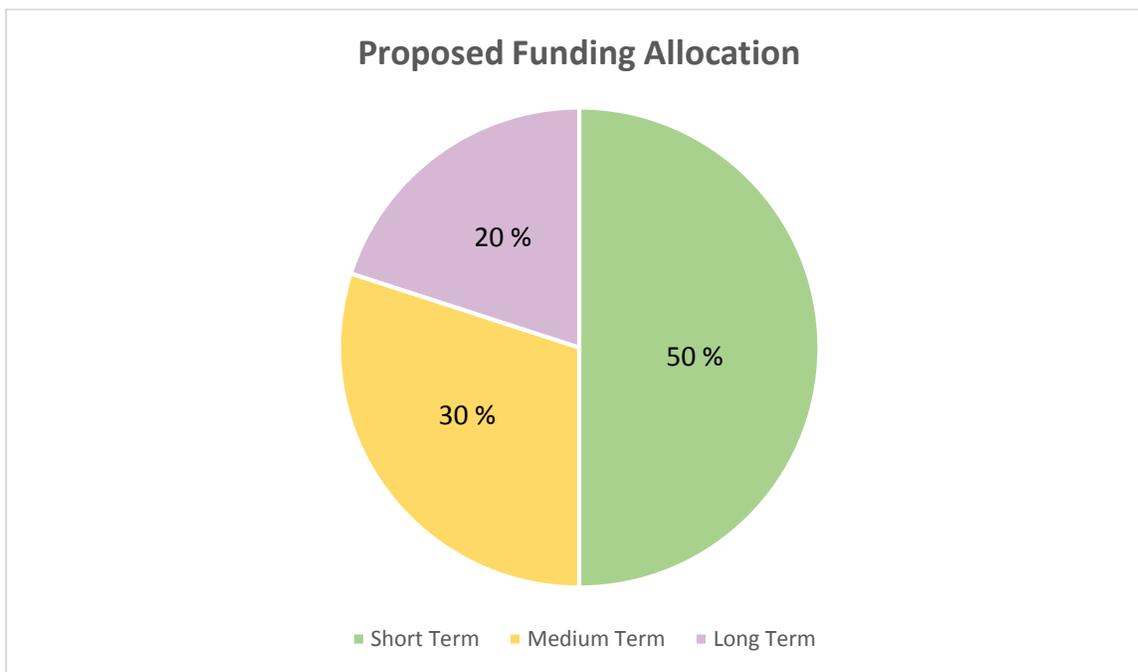
Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17th, 2021

Proposed Summerside Fundraising Plan – 2021

Overview:

- Understand every year there has been a portion of funds from Council allocated to teacher’s “wish lists” as well as the Grade 8 graduation (awards, signage etc.)
- Short term fundraising initiatives are based on already established fundraising mechanisms that have been in place since last year.
- All fundraising initiatives recognize the importance of financial inclusion, offering both on-line and traditional payment options to families.

The majority of funding (80%) will be applied to events that will take place within the calendar year (Jan 2021-Dec 2021) via short and medium term initiatives. Long term funding (20%) will be allocated based on guidelines of the maximum allowable amount.



Short Term Initiatives – Summerside School

- **FlipGive** – Program is currently underway, with total funds raised of \$507.00, this includes a total of \$456.00 raised for School Year 2019/2020 and \$51.00 raised thus far for School Year 2020/2021.
- **Boston Pizza** – Curbside/Take out night – one day dedicated to Summerside families ordering out from the restaurant and a percentage of the sales come back to our school council fund. Our account is already set up so we are confirming if they can accommodate us in the near future. An email blast will be sent out to families on when and how to participate.

- **Purdy's Chocolate** – Set up online ordering for Easter and have an existing account. We will accommodate those families who wish to write cheques, e-transfers or pay with cash at a home location.

Below are some highlights on how our Easter 2021 Fundraising Program works:

- Minimum of \$500 pre-tax per Campaign to process order and receive 25% Profit Cheque
- Also you can earn additional rebates for orders over \$4,000 - 2.5% and over \$8,000 - 5%
- Using online tools to invite your Group Supporters to buy online
- Provide complementary catalogues with order forms
- Supporters can place orders directly using their own credit card
- Bonus \$15 Purdy's Gift Card or 10 pc Mini Hedgehogs for every \$500 purchase
- Free marketing tools such as posters
- Easy online portal with a step-by-step tool to help boost your Fundraiser

Dates to remember for the Easter 2021 Program:

- Deadline Submission Date: March 24, 2021
- Delivery Dates: March 15 - March 30 - excluding weekends
- Early Bird Deadline: Submit your campaign on or before March 8th and you will be entered to win a \$200 Purdy's Gift Card

- **Summerside Swarm Gear** - Verne Holtslander will lead this initiative, with support from school council. All social distance measures will be in place similar to what has been implemented for retail establishments (curbside pick-up or delivery from a home location). This is a good opportunity to promote the use of masks within the community during COVID-19 through the sale of Summerside Swarm masks. This initiative can extend into a medium term fundraising initiative.

Short Term Initiatives – Community

- Give back a portion of funds raised to a community organization (Orleans Food bank, Orleans Resource Centre, Frontline workers at Montfort or Senior'/Retirement Residences in Orleans). Would like to ensure contribution is made by May 2021.

Medium Term Initiatives – Summerside School/Community

- Allocate some funds to Teacher's Wish List Program (amount TBD)
- Allocate some funds to the Grade 8 graduation – virtual (this was also done in June 2020 so a framework is already ready to do this)
- Curtains were purchased with some funds last year – Christine Lanos and Nik Cotter were leading, and also received a quote for stage lights. This was a goal from last year so we aim to fulfill it this year.
- Have a Back to School/Welcome to Summerside Public School (Fall Fest) after school hours. This would replace the annual Summerfest we hold in June. Can include an outdoor BBQ, food vendors (food/learning), Magic/Games/Bouncy Castles etc. Planning for this needs to start in January 2021. If it does not happen in the Fall due to the pandemic, we can explore the option

to move host this event as a “Winterfest”. This event would also be open to the community and support local food vendors in the community.

Long Term Initiatives – Summerside School/Community

- Outdoor yard play structure(s) for other grade levels (Junior and Intermediate). OCSDB contact is Dan Fournier – Daniel.Fournier@ocdsb.ca – Architectural Engineer. In February 2020, Christine was to reach out to him to attend a Council meeting to provide a debrief on an outdoor play structure. We would like to follow up and organize for him to come attend a virtual Council call for further information.
- Change came into effect 2014-2015 for structures:
https://ocdsb.ca/parents/information_and_updates/play_structure_funding_changes
- Play structure can also be used by the community during non-school hours. Will explore any funding from the city. Heather mentioned a standard amount is generally provided by the city.