

## **Summerside School Council Meeting - October 14, 2020 at 7:00pm via Google Meet**

**In Attendance:** Andrea Gordon, Bobby Chauhan, David Phan, Erica Roy, Heather Graham, Hicham Benkirane, Saaimah Malik, Mariam Rauf, Melissa Humphries, Rebecca Ryan, Dahlia Maxwell, Sarah Ahmed, Sui Ling Lee, Jenna AuCoin

### **Introductions and Welcome**

Welcome to Rebecca and Heather.

Foreword about Andrea not being able to be chair as she is now an OCDSB employee.

### **Roles and Responsibilities of Executive Council**

Treasurer - keeping track of the finances, writing cheques

Secretary - keeping minutes

Chair - planning agendas, ensuring constitution is being upheld

More detailed job descriptions are available in the constitution

Round robin introductions and backgrounds

### **Elections**

**Chair** - Saaimah Malik opts to take chair in the hopes that someone will come forward as co-chair\*

**Secretary** - Jenna AuCoin

**Treasurer** - Hicham Benkirane

**Teacher Representative** - Melissa Humphries

**Support Representative** - TBD

**Members at Large** - Sarah Ahmed, Sui Ling Lee, Dahlia Maxwell, Mariam Rauf

**Past chair** - Andrea Gordon

\* It's noted that Saaimah is volunteering to hold the spot of Chair but is hoping that after others have discussed with their families and given it some thought that a new Chair will be elected at the next meeting.

**Principal's Report October 2020**

1. Welcome back for another year, and what a year! We appreciate your volunteer work on behalf of our students.
2. The Summerside of Life!  
Summerside has been a great place to grow and learn for the past month. We are constantly impressed with the positive community spirit [students, staff, parents] through everything this fall.
3. Our Benchmarks
  - We are essentially doing two things - keeping everyone as safe as possible and working hard on learning...in a really different way.
  - We spend an inordinate amount of time planning everything and coming up with COVID-friendly procedures activities. The collaborative nature of the staff at Summerside has really been a strength during this start up.
  - The Ottawa-Carleton District School Board has started with very tight COVID procedures and as a result, cases are relatively low in schools.
  - Summerside has had no COVID cases and no closed classrooms.
4. Partnership with Ottawa Public Health (OPH)
  - Each school has been assigned an OPH Nurse. Ours is Emma Ayetor and she has been with us every step of the way since August as we set up the school and is constantly giving us advice along the way.
  - We started with a walkthrough inspection of the school and orientation of the new OPH / OCDSB COVID Protocols.
  - Very clear protocols are in place should there be a positive case in our school.
  - Our OPH Nurse Emma has been a constant support to us with all of our questions. We are grateful for this partnership.
5. Staff Shortages
  - Due to public health protocols regarding staff and student wellness, we have had an inordinate number of staff absences this year. We also have had very few occasional staff pick up the advertised jobs. As a result, there has been much internal coverage and some changes in schedules for students and staff. We have been doing our best to minimize the upset but, to be frank, it has been a challenging time for all.
  - Lately teacher shortages have been better but support staff absences have been causing the most concern [Educational Assistants and Early Childhood Educators] as these jobs are rarely picked up by occasional staff.
6. Ottawa Public Health Self Assessment Tool for Students  
[OPH Student Assessment Tool](#)
  - We hope that all parents are administering this tool every day with their child(ren) to minimize contagious infection from entering the school. It is essential to move through the 2 tier process to ensure that the proper safety procedures are in place.

- If a student or staff member shows symptoms during the day, we have protocols in place to have them get home to safely isolate. We do provide an isolation room at the school for children who need to wait to be picked up. Either Rebecca or Heather stay with these symptomatic students until the parent or guardian arrives.
- If a staff member or students tests positive for COVID 19, we will follow OPH direction.

#### 7. Planning for Possible Move to Remote

- All staff have been working to get their virtual learning environments ready for if and when we need to pivot to remote learning.
- Should any student be absent for 3+ days, then some work will be available online for them through this virtual system.
- We have no indication at this point when or if this may happen.

8. Thank you all for your commitment to the students of Summerside PS!

### **Questions and Answers RE: COVID**

**Question** is asked about the necessity of seating charts since if a child in the class tests positive, wouldn't it be likely that everyone in the class would be considered a close contact?

Rebecca replies that these are district wide decisions not necessarily a school decision - unsure at this point how exactly OPH determines who exactly is a close contact.

Melissa answers that it would be highly likely that if there is a positive case in a class, the whole class would likely be deemed a close contact

Heather confirms that OPH sends investigators to determine who has been a close contact as it is ultimately their decision

**Question** - Will students who have to isolate or be away from school for an extended period of time have access to a remote teacher?

**Answer** - Students do not get access to a remote teacher. They will have access to their homeroom teacher's virtual learning platform with asynchronous work posted and after a three-day absence, will have some synchronous learning time with their teacher.

**Question** - What is the threshold (of confirmed cases) for Summerside to switch to remote learning?

**Answer** - OPH makes that determination

**Question** - Is the ventilation system working as it should?

**Answer** - The ventilation system is working as it was designed to work

### **Treasurer Report**

Council cannot write cheques or spend money from this account until we can have a final list of the executive council. Heather will need to write a letter to the bank authorizing use of the account.

Started last school year at \$13,041.52 and ended at \$19,834.40 on July 31st however there were some pizza refund cheques cashed after that time.

### **Fundraising**

**Wishlist** - a conversation follows about what the council is fundraising for. On the wishlist is a play structure for older grades. Council was in the process of getting an estimate for the play structure last spring. More information will be needed before moving ahead with this.

### **Next Meeting**

The next council meeting will be Wednesday, November 18th at 7:00pm.