

## **Summerside School Council Meeting - February 17, 2021 at 7:00pm** **via Google Meet**

**In Attendance:** Andrea Gordon, Saaimah Malik, Bobby Chauhan, Hicham Benkirane, Mariam Rauf, Sui Ling Lee, Erica Roy, Jenna AuCoin, Rebecca Ryan, Stuart van Oostveen, Colleen Dwyer, Verne Holtslander, Melissa Humphries, Dahlia Powell, Claudia Baluch

Round-table introductions and welcome

### **Update from Verne Regarding Swarm Gear**

The school had previously been working with a company called Safety House which is run by Julie and Dave Steele. They have been the main supplier since 2018 and are located in Nepean. Here is the current price list for items available to us:

- Hoodie \$29
- Full zip \$37 (left chest)
- Long sleeve \$15.50
- T-shirt \$11
- Pants \$24
- Masks \$7
- Tech hoodie \$41
- Toque \$10
- Grad hoodies \$40

**Question** - Are the prices the same for adults as a child?

**Answer** - Yes, we round up the prices for fundraising and put the proceeds back in the school.

**Question** - How can we put this into action?

**Answer** - As soon as we figure out the accessibility piece. We need to figure out if we want to be doing cash handling and cheque handling. We need to make sure it's fairly accessible to everyone right now. Distributing it should be easy enough but collecting payment for it is providing challenges in Covid times.

**Question** - There is an option to do it through Shopify, will that be allowed?

**Answer** - We will look into it.

**Question** - If we are able to order through Shopify, would they send the whole order to the school, we would let the items quarantine, and then distribute?

**Answer** - Yes.

**Question** - Can you ask how long it would take to get a Shopify website up? And will the orders run to the end of the school year?

**Answer** - I will ask.

**Question** - Is Shopify still considered an accessible option with most of the payments being received online?

**Answer** - If parents need to make a payment with cash, they can click that option or let me know if they need a paper copy.

## **Principal's Report**

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you some of the happenings at Summerside over the last few weeks.

Most recently, our staff participated in professional learning last Friday, a Ministry PA day, where we delved deeper into the following topics:

Addressing Slurs and Epithets

Indigenous Education

Health and Safety:

Safety Plans for Students

Reporting Violent Incidents in the workplace

Responding and reporting other safety concerns in the workplace

COVID measures - Which PPE, When

TownHall with Dr. Vera Etches

Overview of Mental Health Supports for Staff

\*These sessions will take place during regular school hours

### **EQUITY AND INDIGENOUS EDUCATION**

**AM Session**

**2.5 hours**

The half day focus on Equity builds on OCDSB anti-oppression initiatives, including the [Indigenous Education, Equity and Human Rights Roadmap](#).



All elementary colleagues will:

- engage in a discussion of the OCDSB's slurs and epithets directive to deepen understanding and gain practical skills on how to identify and address slurs and epithets in the school environment, and sensitively engage with materials that contain slurs and epithets in the classroom.
- learn about the Indigenous Education Team, their roles, supports and resources available, and opportunities for engagement.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**PM Session**

**2.5 hours**

The half day focus on Health and Safety will include training for all school based staff in our elementary schools on reporting and responding to incidents of workplace violence/aggression,



- including the new on-line reporting tool and the development of safety plans; COVID 19 protocols updates and refreshers;
- reporting and responding to other health and safety concerns or workplace injuries;
- and an overview of mental health resources and supports for employees.

**Staffing:**

We are pleased to announce several new staff members at Summerside:

- Suzanne Beausejour is our new Library Technician, replacing Dawn Fanjoy who retired at the end of February
- Yvon-Pierre Major, who is our new Grade 8 French teacher and Grade 7/8 EFI gym teacher, replacing Stacey Grenier, who is now Acting Vice Principal at Glen Ogilvie
- Carley Morris, who is in a long-term replacement for Kaelan Penney, who is off
- Michael Dance, who has been filling in for Lara Desormeaux, who is returning from leave
- Sydnie Hawkins, who has been filling in for Nadine Mott, who is on leave
- Also, off right now, is Sandra Rayne, and we are doing our best to secure a consistent teacher while she is away.

**Black History Month**

Every day on the announcements, we are highlighting an historical figure of African ancestry in Canadian history. We've talked about Jean Augustine, Fergie Jenkins, Josiah Henson, Lincoln Alexander, Chloe Cooley, Viola Davis Desmond, Michaelle Jean, Richard Pierpoint, to name a few.

**Summerside 2021 Art Contest**

**Challenge :** Create art that commemorates and celebrates Black history.

**Medium :** canvas, pencil, paint, charcoal, crayon, marker, mixed media, make a sculpture, poetry, short story, video, digital art, etc.

**Please include :** Your name, your grade, your teacher's name, on the back or bottom of your art. Submit to your teacher!

**There will be prizes for each division!**

Individual classes are completing other assignments and activities to celebrate Black History Month. As a staff we are learning more and more about culturally responsive and reflective pedagogy, which is a process of using resources from a variety of cultures, languages, different family structures, a variety of socio-economic backgrounds, and religions. The idea is that students see themselves and all of their classmates represented in the curriculum. We also want to value and have students share their lived experiences with each other in a safe, respectful environment, which is what the classroom needs to be for all the students in that room.

**OCDSB Homework Support**

[2020/21 OCDSB After School Literacy/Numeracy Community Registration Form \(Virtual\)](#)

We have a link for students to access support after school from 3:45 - 7:30 PM, Monday to Thursday.

### **Report Cards and IEPs**

Report cards are going to be sent out tomorrow morning, virtually. We will also be emailing Alternative Expectation Reports to families of students who have alternative expectations on their reports.

The delays in sending these out had to do with technical issues at the District level, and they are working these out.

Term Two IEP drafts will go out on February 25th to parents, and we are just receiving these now and reviewing them with staff.

### **Vice Principal's Update**

Across the district, Principals that were sole administrators, are getting Vice Principal support and Rebecca Ryan is at Orleans Wood Elementary School on Thursdays.

**Question** - The schools that don't have Vice Principals, is that due to size?

**Answer** - Yes.

**Question** - Did you have a representative come for the PD training?

**Answer** - That was the January meeting and yes we had our Districts' Trans and Gender Diverse Student Support Coordinator come speak with the staff.

**Question** - Kaelan Penny is not coming back?

**Answer** - It becomes an LTO after 10 days - we are hoping she will be back soon.

**Question** - For the art contest, when do we suspect to be asked for funding for the prizes?

**Answer** - The contest runs the whole month of February so it will probably be about two weeks into March.

**Question** - The literacy and numeracy homework help, is it help from teachers at Summerside specifically or regionally?

**Answer** - Regionally. It would be whoever is available at that time.

**Question** - Is that program in English only or English and French?

**Answer** - I believe it's both languages, but I will follow up.

### **Teacher's report**

Teachers are slowly but surely settling back into the routines of school. Teachers and students are happy to be back in the classroom. The yard is amazing, a winter wonderland, keeping students busy and entertained. Thank you to everyone sending extra winter clothing.

## **Teacher's Wish List**

Teachers are looking for an estimate of how much will be divided equally among different age groups. The list is not concrete yet but here are some of the ideas:

- Aussie X - just coming into Ottawa. They teach games like footie and cricket.
- MASC - we're looking into whole school activities like Indigenous Dance or BBoyizm Dance Company Hip hop. We want it to be accessible for kids from Kindergarten to Grade 8. Both organizations are offering online presentations. Both would be a video presentation and then we'd pay extra for discussion periods which would allow more students to participate.
- Scientists in the school - the programs are so great and so applicable to curriculum
- Tech requests - things for maker space - document cameras
- Kinder team looking for some resources since so much of their stuff is used up and broken. Covid is making things a bit more difficult there too. Every child needs to have their own container of play dough. Buckets and shovels - need to be replaced. They're also looking for a tough sensory table and items to create some small world play

Once council decides how much money is being allocated, the divisions will look at what's most important.

**Question** - When you guys buy stuff on your wishlist, do you have to order from certain places?

**Answer** - Yes we can only order through tendered vendors.

**Question** - Is the school allowed to accept donations from parents for supplies like play dough?

**Answer** - Yes, you can either drop off supplies or you can make a cash donation.

**Question** - I have a lot of Lego, can I donate it?

**Answer** - Yes Makerspace would love to have lego.

**Question** - Are we able to put a cash donation on School Cash Online?

**Answer** - Yes, we will look into that.

***It was voted on and agreed to fund \$6000 towards the teacher's wishlist. \$1000 will fund a whole school activity and \$1000 is being allocated per division, including the specialized classes.***

## **Treasurer's Report**

No transactions to report since the last meeting. The balance is still at \$19,315.50.

Regarding the wish list, historically, the teachers ask for a wish list and we give them a cheque.

Last year we gave between \$4000 and \$5000 - it's up to the council to decide. If we stick with that goal again, we're still saving money to put towards the long term goals.

**Question** - The \$500 from the Parent Involvement fund, was that deposited to the school council account?

**Answer** - Not sure at this moment, it may have gone into the school account but we will rectify that.

**Question** - Do we have to spend that this year?

**Answer** - Yes, but we don't have to prove how we spent it.

**Question** - The \$500 Parent Involvement fund, does it have to be used to involve parents - or can we use it how we want?

**Answer** - No, we don't necessarily have to use it to involve parents, it's just given to use.

**Question** - Are there any plans for a shade structure?

**Answer** - See our Fundraising Plan from last meeting. We do have a long term plan in mind. Dan Fournier from the board put together a slideshow with our different options. They included traditional structures like we have but there are also shade structures.

***The play structure slideshow will be tabled at next month's council meeting.***

**Question** - If you're thinking of a shade structure and a play structure, are you planning on doing it altogether?

**Answer** - This is a good question. Long term, we're talking \$60,000 to \$100,000 that we need to be able to save for these structures. Once we see the slideshow, we will have a better idea.

## **Fundraising**

### **Purdy's fundraiser**

We've already \$1075 sold through Purdy's - we will continue to send out reminders.

**Question** - Are we able to access students who have Summerside as a homeschool but are currently enrolled in OCV?

**Answer** - We will look into it.

### **Boston Pizza Fundraiser**

We will be looking into seeing if Boston Pizza is open to doing another fundraising night.

### **Subcommittee for Summerfest**

Jenna, Sui Ling, Saaimah, Andrea, Mariam, Bobby.

We will be setting up a meeting shortly to start brainstorming.

### **Graduation**

Last year we paid \$540 for graduation and the year before that was about \$700.

So far the prices for this year are as follows:

The plaques are \$540 and the sign last year was \$179 for the sign so we're looking at about \$720.

**Question** - Can the graduating class have something else like a virtual escape room?

**Answer** - We will look into it

**Follow up** - Can we get some pricing?

**Answer** - Found one hosted out of Orleans. It's less than \$1000, maybe even closer to \$600. If we could confirm the number of students graduating and I will check the reviews on the company.

## **Other Business**

### **Mascot**

**Question** - We were going to chat with Nik Cotter about the mascot costume, how has that gone?

**Answer** - He did give me a number but it was a ballpark price from four years ago. \$3500 was the rough estimate.

***Since the meeting, it has been determined that a mascot costume would cost between \$4000-\$5000 and the turnaround time is about 8 weeks.***

### **School Path**

**Question** - The path into the school yard through the park, these last two days, it has snowed and it's hard to walk on. Can council consider getting a contractor to plow a path through the school yard and pay for that?

**Answer** - No, since it is on school grounds there are certain regulations. We've got parking lots, snow banks, no matter where you are accessing the school from, there are challenges right now. As great of an idea it is, we just have to work around it ourselves as parents.

**Follow up** - Stuart has said it may be something that can be permitted. My question is, can it be funded through school council?

**Answer** - Board contracts are very set in stone and to re-negotiate them wouldn't be possible this year. Snow plow services are temperamental. The other concern is if the field is plowed, we don't want it to incur damage. We have snowshoes in the school so maybe we can take the snowshoes out and make a path through the field. It is a work out, but it is not dangerous. When things start to melt, we will have to close it if it becomes dangerous. We will have to find innovative solutions.

***Next meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2021 at 7:00pm.***

