

Summerside School Council Meeting - March 24, 2021 at 7:00pm via Google Meet

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

Introductions and Welcome

Motion to approve minutes from February

Minutes are approved

Principal's Report

2021-2022 School Year Planning

We are busy right now engaging in the preliminary planning for the 2021-2022 school year. Basis of all of the planning process is determining the number of students that will be attending Summerside next September in person, as well as virtual. Overwhelming number of students planning to attend in person; may still have more registrations in the coming months, but using projections to plan classes based on the provincial class size limits (primary) and targets (junior and intermediate). Once we have classes, we look at teacher qualifications and preferences as well, and ensure that we best match teachers to classes. With either excess or vacant positions, we engage in a transfer process and staffing positions that we hope will be completed by the end of June, but if not, we work on that in August as well.

Currently at Summerside we have approximately 500 students registered to attend in person next September. There are just under 30 Summerside students whose families have chosen the virtual option.

There isn't a mechanism right now for changing parents' decisions (or default) and not sure if there will be en masse, although as a District we do respond to extenuating circumstances. Brand new students to Summerside from outside of OCDSB will be given a choice to register for in-person or virtual classes as the new school year approaches, and we have an online registration process in place for both options.

Many of the pandemic structures and protocols now will remain in place for September, and we anticipate as the year progresses, there will be a gradual transition back to the way school was before. However, some of our new approaches, procedures and even policies may remain if they have proven to be more effective pedagogically or for safety. We are engaging in dialogue about this now

At the intermediate level, transition to grade 9 is well underway, and students have already chosen their courses. Math will be de-streamed in grade 9 next year, and there is intense focus on making sure that we keep postsecondary and career options open for students as they move from grade 8 to grade 9. There is much evidence that indicates streaming into non-university bound courses unfairly impacts students from equity seeking groups, and now secondary schools will focus much more on differentiating instruction to meet students' strengths and needs as opposed to having students fit a profile for specific courses. This is a province-wide initiative that aims to dismantle structures that lead to systemic racism and discrimination and is based in much supporting evidence. Parents are now in charge of deciding if a student should participate in applied level courses -- as elementary educators, we are taking a big step back from making recommendations to the applied or locally developed streams for students, and letting parents make that decision, but working closely to help them make an informed decision that keeps doors open for students.

Spirit and Celebration at Summerside

Black History Month Art Contest - we ended up awarding 8 prizes

Spirit Days last week - including a whole school Bingo game before dismissal

Safety Competition - students are being encouraged to be caught demonstrating physical distancing, mask wearing, hand washing and being awarded points by class - will award with a party of sorts - gym period, dance party, video party, ... (but no food - adhering to pandemic protocols)

Sports Equipment at Recess - starting with older grades, students are writing proposals about what equipment they would like to have, and how they will use it safely in the context of physical distancing and limited hand contact - once the proposal is submitted and vetted by me, we're getting them equipment and rearranging playground areas/zones so they can have access to basketball hoops, foursquare games, etc. The plan is for other grades to also have these opportunities as staff and students submit proposals for their grade levels, especially as the snow disappears.

Events at School

Get Real presentations for Intermediate students - anti bullying, specifically around LGBTQ2S+ this week

X Movement - paid for by school council - thank you - virtual field trip next week, also large amount of resources for staff and students to use online - whole school

Some grade levels are booking **Scientists in the School - Scientifiques à l'école** -

Autism Awareness at Summerside: April is World Autism Awareness Month, and April 2 is Wear Blue day - promoting not just awareness, but celebrating noteworthy people who have Autism as part of their makeup; learning to understand and include people with autism is important at our school - committee headed by Angela Ronald is working on this with staff and students over the coming weeks

Parent Involvement and Consultation

Ottawa Black Education Network (OBEN) - Stronger Together: Black Parents Network Session - March 27, 10:30 a.m.

The Ottawa Black Educators Network will be hosting the first Black Parents Network session on the topic of building relationships to support Black students. Black parents and parents of Black children are invited to join this interactive session. [Learn more and register.](#)

Subject: Join the Discussion: Police Involvement in Schools & Human Rights

Do you have something to share about police involvement in schools or the creation of the OCDSB's new human rights policy?

Starting on **March 22** we will be holding a series of discussion groups for students, parents and community members.

These discussion groups are part of consultations on 1) police involvement in schools and 2) developing an OCDSB human rights policy and human rights complaints procedure.

Police Involvement in Schools - Policy and Practice Review

- [Register to Join a Group Discussion](#)
- [Consultation website](#)

Human Rights Policy

- [Register to Join a Group Discussion](#)
- [Consultation website](#)
- Complete the anonymous [survey](#)

Some group discussions will be interpreted in Arabic, Somali, Nepali and Mandarin/Cantonese and others will be available for specific identity groups in the community (see group discussion pages for details).

Complete a Survey

Beyond the group discussions, you are also encouraged to complete a survey.

- [Human Rights Policy](#)
- Police Involvement in Schools - *survey coming soon watch the [consultation page](#)*

If you have any questions or wish to contact the consultation teams, email:

consultation.humanrights@ocdsb.ca
PoliceInvolvementConsultation@ocdsb.ca

Thank you for your participation in these important consultations!

Vice Principal's Report

Bus Lane

Now that we are heading into the warmer weather we are seeing an increase of traffic coming into the bus lane. This is just a gentle reminder that the loading zone is for busses and vans only. We kindly encourage families to park a bit further and walk to the school.

Staff shortages

We are experiencing staff shortages on a day to day basis. Your children may be coming home saying they have several different teachers in a day. We have to reorganize teachers that are on their preparation period to cover classes when needed. We are aware this cannot be the new normal but it does happen sometimes. Particularly since OPH has reintroduced the one symptom screening. The board is starting to deploy OT's from central and the district is working hard to resolve this issue.

Question - I haven't seen the newsletter so I apologize if this is already in the newsletter. Is it possible to put the artwork from the Black History Month contest in the newsletter since parents aren't allowed in the school to view them?

Answer - Yes.

Question - Is the survey we filled out final confirmation for where our children will be registered for the next school year?

Answer - Yes.

Teacher's Report

- The teachers thank School Council again for the wish list money
- Primary and junior classes have booked Scientists in School
- Kindergarten is looking at updating some of their toys and games
- Intermediate classes are looking at purchasing medicine balls and booking a presentation

Question - Is Scientists in School similar to the pro-talk series?

Answer - Scientists in School allows you to pick a curriculum based topic and provides a bag of tools to use. Everyone will choose a topic based on the science curriculum.

Treasurer's Report

The account currently sits at \$8315.50

We've had two cheques cashed recently - \$5000 going towards the long term project and \$6000 for teacher's wishlist.

Purchase of Printer

The school is requesting a printer to be purchased for the grade 8 hallway. The executive committee can only approve purchases up to \$100 without getting the approval of the rest of the council. The printer is on sale for a good price from a non-tendered vendor which is why the request is going through School Council.

Question - Will School Council be paying for the replacement cartridges?

Answer - No.

Question - How long will the printer last? Can we look into getting a protection plan for it?

Answer - It is a reliable brand (Brother) and should last for some time. Yes we will look into buying a protection plan for it.

Question - Are we allowed to use school council funds to buy equipment and technology?

Answer - Yes since it will be used to enhance curriculum.

It's decided that School Council will approve \$300 for the printer and any accessories/warranties.

Next step, since we have a two signature account, there are two options. Someone can pay with a credit card and we can reimburse with a cheque or we can provide a cheque for vendor.

Question - Can Rebecca or Stuart purchase and we can reimburse from there?

Answer - Yes I don't see why not, Stuart will purchase.

OCASC

Meetings were held on February 18 and March 18. They were attended by Andrea and Colleen, respectively.

The February meeting was about the human rights policy, however, it ended up very off track and only one agenda item had been discussed by 9:00pm.

The March meeting was very similar. OCASC was having a hard time breaking participants into breakout rooms. Once in breakout rooms, there was no moderator and the discussions were left open for too long of a time.

The takeaway is that perhaps we will screen the agenda for a topic we are interested in hearing about, while understanding that if it is further down the agenda, OCASC may not get to it.

Parents Reaching Out Grant

The board has provided \$650 in funding for a speaker series of the School Council's choice.

Summerside has booked a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) presentation for Wednesday, May 12. Up to 60 families can participate virtually.

It will likely be from about 6:00pm to 8:30pm.

Summerside is responsible for promotion and registration.

Fundraising

Purdy's

Purdy's was a very successful fundraiser with \$1014.04 in profit and over \$3000 in sales. A big thank you to everyone who put time and energy into organizing and delivering the chocolate.

Summerside Gear

Verne has worked hard on getting this off the ground. Parents and families had a two week window for parents which ends Friday, March 26. Once the orders are complete, all gear will be delivered to school and sent home.

Graduation

We have the option of doing a virtual escape room. The company is located in Rockland. There are two rooms to choose from. Students can use Google Meet with breakout rooms of ten groups of five students. Each group has 60 minutes to complete the game. The cost is \$300 plus HST for the entire grade.

Question - Who would be setting up the meet and making the teams?

Answer - Either a volunteer from school council or someone from the grade 8 team.

The total amount that is to be spent on graduation can be broken down as follows:

\$339 for the virtual escape room

\$540 for plaques

\$190 for signs

Total amount to date is \$1070

Question - Virtual students - Will they be included in the escape room?

Answer - We will look into that and confirm. There is a social aspect to consider as well. We don't want to force students into a situation where they have to socialize with classmates that they may not be as connected to after spending the year as a member of a different class.

It's concluded that we will need more clarification before making any final decisions.

Play structure

There is a presentation that outlines the different options. There is a huge range in structures as well as a huge range in price. The most expensive is \$300,000. Even with grants that would be unattainable. There are also shade structures and garden beds.

We will share the slideshow before the next council meeting and people can have a better idea. The year of building, we would apply for grants. We will set this as an agenda item for April to look at the budget we currently have for it and see how much we've already put aside for it.

Summerfest

We have decided not to move forward with Summerfest for the time being.

Council Recruitment

A conversation came about to engage Summerside families more to participate. The question is asked whether we can do a recruitment kick off? The idea behind a recruitment campaign would be to have more people to run sub-committees as we have mentioned in the past. Possibly a social media sub-committee, a graduation sub-committee.

The point is raised that Saaimah and Andrea made nice brochures last year right before Covid hit and that they could be re-formatted for digital use. It's suggested we could send the brochure to incoming kindergarten families.

Question - Historically have we had more members?

Answer - Not really, we are going up in members slowly.

Question - Could council send out weekly emails?

Answer - We used to have a monthly newsletter, we could look into getting that going again.

Other Business

Question - Has Sandra Rayne gotten in touch with anyone from council? She had questions about the trees being replaced but she has a way to have that funded, I asked her to send along the application.

Answer - She has not been in touch with anyone yet, but ask her to send the application.

Parking

Question - A lot of congestion has built up at the roundabout parking. At the parking lot where garbage bins are, it bottlenecks and there was honking - has this always been a problem?

Answer - There is supposed to be additional parking on the shoulder but it's full. We've ordered pylons, and we may make some lanes and we may also block the lane off. There was a fender bender in front of the school recently.

Comment - If we block the laneway, there will be more traffic in the main road, not sure what the solution is.

Response - We will continue sending reminders through weekly updates and promote walk a block.

Question - Can we request a crosswalk at a city level ?

Answer - They could do a survey and monitor traffic. Christine looked into it last year, it should be in spring meeting minutes.

Question - Is it possible to assign a teacher to be on duty there?

Answer - No, teachers on dismissal duty.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm