

Bev Facey School Council Virtual Meeting Minutes for September 21, 2021

Attendees

Staff: Ken Wlos, Corey Kropp, Brandon Salyzyn, Trudi Williamson, Candida Shepherd

Families: Karen Tomnuk, Amy Dieser, Claire Buckley, Colleen Helwig, Jeff Hanrahan, Kathi Jette, Krista Scott, Sherry Cholin, Neil Klassen, Pam Smith, Shelley Semple

Student representatives: John Meston, Claire Buckley

School trustee – Trina Boymook

1. **Call to order** at 6 p.m. by Ken Wlos. Treaty 6 acknowledgement. Round table introductions made.
2. **Additions to the agenda** – none.
3. **Approval of May 18, 2021 minutes:** Motion to approve and put forward by Krista Scott and seconded by Jeff Hanrahan
4. **Elections** – facilitated by T. Williamson
Chairperson, Karen Tomnuk
Vice Chair, open
Secretary, open
Staff appreciation, Pam Smith and Kathi Jette

ACTION: Re-run the election to fill roles of Vice co-chair and Secretary during October meeting. Karen Tomnuk will take the minutes this month.

5. **New business – K. Wlos**

See slide deck

- Introduced new admin team members
- Covid protocols reviewed.
- Re-entry operations plan.
 - Discussion ensued regarding school swim meets, how to get a proof of vaccination, 24/7 ventilation system, and cleaning of desks and tables after use.
- School start-up
 - 988 students, up from initial projection

- Early dismissal every Wednesday at 2:17 p.m.; students will still receive the same number of required hours of instruction as lunch hour is now slightly shorter. Meant as “opportunity Wednesday” for coaching sessions, study time, rewrite exams, staff collaboration time, etc.
 - John and Claire (FLI students in attendance) provided their opinions on ‘opportunity Wednesday’ specific to the availability of extra help.
 - Discussion ensued regarding a potential for school-to-school peer coaching.
 - ACTION: For administration to determine which students (by demographic) are attending these opportunities and provide a follow up to school council.
- Overview of important dates
 - Opportunity for students to participate in a land-based lesson field trip to the Frog Lake National Historic Site with an Elder. Contact Candida Shepherd to register.
- Review of 2021-2022 school council dates (start time 6 p.m.)
 - 2021: October 19, November 16
 - 2022: January 18, February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17

6. Information reports

Administrative

See slide deck

- Update from K. Wlos (on behalf of B. Salyzyn) regarding facilities, emergency preparedness and athletics.
- Update from T. Williamson regarding STAR and MIPI (math assessment tool for grade 10 students only) and Advanced Placement.
 - Discussion ensued regarding sharing results of STAR and MIPI assessments with parents. If a parent is interested in results, please connect with the students’ math teacher, students’ English teacher or their grade level administrator.
- Update from C. Kropp regarding new counselling appointment/referral process which supports positive mental health and upcoming post-secondary presentations.
 - Post-secondary presentations are available for students in all grade levels.

Student report – C. Buckley and J. Meston

- Claire reported that she feels the atmosphere at school is more positive than last year; some teachers are wiping down desks in their classrooms; there is less time to write tests but mostly enjoys the quarter system (four blocks /day instead of two).

- John reported that he is enjoying less restrictions; it's easier this year to focus on the teacher rather than focusing on how he's feeling; easy to pay attention during the length of a four blocks/day schedule rather than two blocks/day schedule.

Trustee report – T. Boymook

Report provided:

- The Board met over the summer to review the return to school guidelines. The Board held a special meeting August 18 to consider masking protocols. The Board debated the merits of 3 different options provided by Administration. The Board defeated motions for options 1 and 4 and approved option 2 that would require masking for all K-6 students and made masking optional for 7-12 schools located in communities who have at least 70% of eligible youth fully vaccinated, while those located in communities below the threshold, masking would be required. September 2 a special meeting was called again, the Board approved a motion to suspend the 70% provision and require all 7-12 to mask. The Board will continue to monitor the situation and have committed to revisiting the masking decision any time before or on January 20, 2022.
 - Discussion ensued regarding accessing vaccination rates specific to EIPS students and staff.
- Also at the September 2 special meeting, the Board approved a motion that requires masking for all visitors in all schools and division buildings.
- With the exception of masking, the Division is returning to normal operations. Field trips, sport teams, extracurricular and performance will return. It should be noted that Metro Athletics decided there will be no spectators for indoor events for the month of September and that spectators are allowed for outdoor events, with masking being highly encouraged and social distancing protocols are to be adhere to.
- Just a reminder that the Board has invested \$1M from reserves to address learning gaps as part of our COVID recovery plan over the next 2 years, as well as \$500K to enhance school's social emotional supports. As a safety measure the Board will maintain the cleaning and sanitizing protocols introduced last year as part of our response to COVID plan. \$2.1M has been allocated to keep it in place.
 - Discussion ensued regarding accessing these funds.
 - ACTION: K. Wlos is looking at ways to help support students as they prepare for meetings with counselors.
- The Board will be making an application to access some of the \$45M that the Minister has made available to address learning achievement gaps for Grades 1-3.

- At the September 2, 2021, Special Meeting the Board approved a motion to amend out division calendar to make September 30 a school closure day. This is in response to the Federal Government decision to provide a statutory holiday to reflect on Truth and Reconciliation.
- The Board of Trustees have sent the Minister of Education a copy of the work that was completed over the summer on draft K-6 curriculum. The letter outlines our concerns with the draft curriculum and provides detailed information on what we specifically would like to see be addressed before it is implemented in schools.
 - Discussion ensued regarding this letter; parents/guardians are encouraged to stay engaged in the conversation if they wish to continue to support and be involved in the draft curriculum as well as the impending proposed new curriculum for grades 7 to 12.
- First Committee of School Council meeting will be held on October 6 and will be virtual for the first meeting.

Committee of School Council (COSC) report – K. Scott

COSC meets on October 6 and will report back in October. Everyone is welcome to attend (first Wednesday of the month). Contact Ken Wlos for access information to the meeting.

ACTION: J. Hanrahan asked Council to consider ways in which parents can extend an appreciation token to students who attend School Council meetings.

Chair report – K. Tomnuk
Nothing to add this month.

7. **Meeting adjourned** at 8:20 p.m

Next meeting is on October 19 at 6 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Karen Tomnuk.