

October 7, 2020

Dr. George Hall Public School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Kim MacFarlane, Ladena Prithipual, Stacey Cunningham, Janis Minion, Lisa Brant, Pam Derouin, Grant Boudreault, Yvonne Strange, Karen Day, Ashley McMartin, Amy Van Steedelar, Connie Starr, Melanie Brant, Krsita Brant Jennifer Whiteway and Darin Parish

Election

- Co-Chair - Amy Van Steendelaar
 - Co-Chair - Grant Boudreault
 - Treasurer - Connie Starr
 - Secretary - Pam Derouin
-
- Previous minutes from Parent Council Meeting were not read or approved

Staff Report (Mr. Parish)

- Not much currently going on due to Covid restrictions

- For Remembrance Day, Kindergarten to grade 3 will receive sticker poppies; grade 4 to 8 will receive traditional poppies
 - In terms of fundraising for Remembrance Day, will most likely do it through SchoolCash online

Financial Report (Mrs. Starr)

- Current balance is \$13141.44; balance is high because the Parent Council is saving money for new playground equipment

- Fundraising will be difficult this year as we can't do fundraising where money is collected at the school (would have to be entirely online)
 - However, Mrs. Starr is wondering about the "Make It Sow" fundraiser which is entirely online and the seeds are shipped to the school which can then be easily given to students to take home
 - Parent Council members are going to investigate other potential fundraisers which can happen entirely online and bring these ideas back to our next Parent Council Meeting in November

Principal's Report

- Most fundraising will not be possible at this point due to Covid restrictions (based on the above, we might be able to do some)
- Let It Snow Vendor Sale - while we did this last year, likely not something that we can commit to this year
- School Photos - currently on hold
- Breakfast with Santa - at this point, we cannot commit to being able to hold this

School Reorganization

- was a topic of conversation for many people
 - our school (like every other school in our board) reorganized prior to school starting
 - based on need for online teachers
 - as a result, our classes were reorganized to their usual maximum cap numbers
 - as is often in the case when cap sizes are involved, we did end up with some blended classes where there were small numbers of one grade in a blended class
 - there is a wait list for students who wish to switch between online and bricks and mortar school; being approved on an individual basis
 - students who go to home schooling likely will not be allowed to re-register for online or bricks and mortar school until at least February 2021 or perhaps not at all this school year

Covid Precautions

- we are following protocols as best as possible
 - classes are kept separate, including on the yard
 - students wear masks other than when eating and outside on the yard (and are 6 or more feet apart)
 - for the most part, students have been doing well with wearing masks
 - sanitizing stations are set up beside the entry doors that students typically use and students are encouraged to use the sanitizer when entering the building (and they also wash their hands in the classroom)
 - we are doing our best to track potential contacts between students over the day in case we do end up with a Covid case in the school
 - new Covid Screening Tool for Students and Children in Daycares has made a significant difference in terms of the number of students going home due to illness

Moving Forward

- school staff are in the same position as everyone else in Ontario; we are dealing with changes as they happen and we generally have no advance warning
- as changes happen/are implemented, we will continue to do our best to keep our DGH community in the loop

Next Meeting: November 18 @ 6:00 pm (via Google Meet and teleconferencing)