

# Minutes of Tecumseth South Central P.S. School Council Meeting

Monday, November 2, 2020

Start: 7:05 pm

End 8:15pm

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## **Members Present:**

1. Anna Lisa Wienecke
2. Rebecka Mayne
3. Paige Presswood
4. Melissa Mackenzie
5. Sherri Cicirello
6. Rebecka Mayne
7. Jenn Gore
8. Sheana Jesso
9. Tina Rakovsky
10. Melissa McKoen

**Staff Present:** Susan Nixon (Principal), Sam Cousins (Teacher Representative), Marianne Kennedy (Teacher Representative)

**Guests:** N/A

**Member absent:** Susanna Jarvis, Katherine Hopkins, Krista Elford

## **Opening**

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Virtual meeting called to order at 7:05pm by Co-Chair Anna Lisa Wienecke

## **Approval of Minutes (last meeting February 3, 2020)**

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Paige approved minutes, Jenn was the second. All (who were in attendance) in favour.

## **2020/2021 Parent Council Election**

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### **Election:**

All positions nominated during the last meeting (Oct 5, 2020) were put forward by Sherri for election. Sheana was the second. All in favour.

*Chair:* Anna Lisa Wienecke and Melissa MacKenzie

*Secretary:* Rebecka Mayne

*Fundraising/Treasurer:* Paige Presswood

## **Fundraising**

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SCDSB has updated Covid policies and fundraising is now permitted as long as no items come in to the school.

### **Principal Report (Mrs. Nixon)**

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- ✓ Sept. & Oct. Character VIRTUAL Assembly - the virtual assembly was wonderful and has given new hope for upcoming assemblies. Classrooms each joined virtually and were able to see students receive their character awards.
- ✓ Outdoor Halloween Costume Parade - so great to see everyone having fun. 7/8 were leaders, everyone came outside to do a parade. Thank you to families for supporting students to participate within Covid protocols and school policies.
- ✓ Outdoor Learning Update - We now have 10 picnic tables! Grade 7/8s moved them to a location that they feel will be most conducive to learning. Instructional charts can be hung on the fence behind the tables.
- ✓ Virtual Remembrance Day Assembly - staff has one in the works. This year will be different, not as grand or musical, historically we have such great assemblies. The goal is to teach children about what Remembrance Day means is and the school is trying to figure out how to do this during covid times.
- ✓ Bully Prevention Week & Activities are in development.
- ✓ As of right now, there will be no sledding at school this year because of Covid-19. The staff will continue to revisit this as changes happen.

### **Teacher Report (Mrs. Cousins and Mrs. Kennedy)**

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- ✓ Virtual Book Fair Update – Mrs. Cousins - Book Fair is happening virtually this year on Nov 16- 22. Link will be sent to parents so all ordering can be done online. Bookmark competition in school, one winner in each division will have their bookmark created. This is a fun competition to help get the children excited about the Book Fair even though it is different this year. There is a promotional trailer to show some of the items available which will also help raise excitement for students. Mrs. Cousins has asked Scholastic for a printed copy of available items and will scan it and make it available to students so that students can make wish lists.
- ✓ Garden Update – Mrs. Nixon for Mrs. Davidson - last year a group of students and teachers designed a pollinator garden in an effort to receive some funding. This application was successful and so far the school has received 2 x \$100 gift cards from Alliston Botanix. Total project funds will be \$2500.00. Mrs Davidson will be taking this on and Alliston Botanix will consult with her and students about the most ideal location and advantageous design/materials. We will revisit

in later winter. If more monies are required but all members present agreed that this is an initiative that Council would support. Different plant types were discussed, including vegetables!

- ✓ Mrs. Kennedy spoke about how in September she was worried about how the children would enjoy their time at Tec South this year given the new procedures and uncertainty in the world. Mrs. Kennedy reported that she feels that the children ARE having fun and it's so wonderful to see.
- ✓ Spirit Days - staff have decided on spirit days for the 20-21 school year. There will be a full week leading up to the Holidays and at least once a month, coinciding with holidays.

## **Old Business**

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- Water bottle filling stations:
  - Mrs. Nixon has followed up with the vendor and they have had a huge influx of requests. Tec South is on the list and it will happen at some point over this school year.
- School spirit wear:
  - Spirit wear is available for purchase via ENTRIPY and is on sale right now. A letter with information and the website will be coming home this week.
- Outdoor Learning: This is our main fundraising goal for this school year.
  - Outdoor learning equipment - snowshoes, would require 3 class sets because of sizes. Cost would be \$5000-\$6000. School can pay for half of that. There is a need for \$1500 for outdoor equipment. Anna Lisa motioned to pay half of the snowshoe cost (up to \$3000) and \$1500 for outdoor equipment. \$4500 in total. Melissa MacKenzie seconded this motion.
  - A large donation of stumps has been received and is being used by students in the yard.
  - Buckets were purchased by the school and are being used for drumming as well as seats. They are a hit!
  - Anna Lisa brought up adding a roofed structure of some sorts to our outdoor learning area. Students would benefit from the shade and protection from other weather. All members were in agreement.
- Kiss and Ride

- The new system for drop off and pick up seems to be working well. Some concerns were raised about the wait time as well as the cars that can accumulate on the road. The cars on the road are waiting to enter the parking lot and can back up towards 5th/10th intersection. Children that require help to buckle up can hold up the line. There was discussion around options to allow those vehicles to pull off so others can continue to move. Mrs. Nixon will consider some of the options and make changes if a safe alternative can be created, this may include consulting with the OPP again.

## **New Business**

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- Christmas
  - questions about food bank donations. We would still like the school to support the community in some regard. Mrs Nixon will inquire with the board about options for that.
- Fundraising
  - Paige will follow up with Drysdale's Tree Farm about alternative delivery options so that we can possibly move forward with wreaths and garland.
  - Paige will follow up with Recipes in a jar about delivery options this year.
  - Card Project is out because of Covid protocols.
  - 50/50 Draw was mentioned as a potential fundraiser. Mrs. Nixon expressed concerns about the paperwork, licensing and requirements involved with fundraisers like draws and raffles. Rebecka raised concerns about sensitivity around gambling and how it looks to have a school supporting this. Other discussions happened around various members experiences with hosting 50/50 draws and strategies they used. Melissa MacKenzie mentioned that possibly partnering with a local service group would be advantageous for this project.
  - Council discussed sending a letter home and asking families for donations because of the difficulty with fundraising this year. We could identify with parents about looking for a shade cover in our letter. Mrs. Nixon is willing to help craft that letter and Melissa offered to draft it. Melissa mentioned getting the letter out ASAP. Mrs Nixon will discuss with other schools to see if they have an example as well. Melissa McKeon suggested equating a donation dollar amount with an item (eg \$5 = a ball).

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm by Anna Lisa Wienecke

**Next meeting: Monday, December 7, 2020@ 7pm via zoom**