

R. Tait School Council Meeting
Thursday, October 15, 2020
Via Teams

Present: Kali Greene-Principal, Jean Grant-teaching rep, Jenn Toop-non teaching rep, Lianna Brown, Sarah and Thomas Martineau, Melissa Miller, Dave Leger, Steven Beecraft, Patricia Henry, Na'ama Uzan, Liz Doyle, Krista Kennedy, Regrets: Shannon Boisvenue, Amy McRae, L. Racine, Andrea Timlin

Principal's Report:

- health and safety of students and staff top priority, regular sanitizing throughout the school on frequent basis
- estimated 95% of students are using masks including younger learners in kinder and primary grades
- spare masks are available at the school for students who may need a replacement mask
- 1 student with a mask exemption, this student wears a face shield instead
- wellness room available should a student become unwell during the day, they can rest there until parent/guardian picks up. The room is sanitized right after use to ensure safety for next student who may require the room
- the school yard zones are working well, each class has a dedicated bin of outdoor equipment to use amongst their specific cohort teachers are working hard to ensure a warm and welcoming atmosphere
- there are 4 different types of learners 1. In person, 2. Synchronous, 3. Asynchronous-digital, 4. Asynchronous-non digital total of 290 students enrolled with R. Tait, 75 students completing remote learning. About 29% of student population is completing remote learning. All students are now tagged to a teacher/classroom
- some challenges with Asynchronous learning, work not being submitted therefore assessment/grading is not possible for upcoming Progress Reports
- Fire Drills have taken place, but in a much different manner than previous years to ensure physical distancing
- Lock Down procedures will be discussed but not practiced as physical distancing would not be possible to maintain
- Public Health Unit has provided a Back to School Confirmation form that will need to be used going forward if a student has been absent due to illness/symptoms
- Last year there was a Safe Schools Team which focused on fostering safe and inclusive school. Mrs. Greene is hoping to have interested parents to partner in this initiative again this year. Please let her know if you're interested
- bathroom protocols, only 2 students permitted in the bathroom at once. Using a magnet system where students place their magnet on the metal door frame of the bathroom to indicate using the facilities. If an other student arrives and see that there are 2 magnets on door frame, they must wait their turn. There is a dedicated stall to each classroom/cohort to limit exposure
- Dismissal times and traffic congestion with Holy Name of Mary School. Mrs. Greene has contacted STEO to express concern and frustration that Holy Name has changed their dismissal time which conflicts with the prearranged agreement, therefore causing increased traffic and potential safety risk to students/families. Mrs. Greene will follow up with STEO again. Parents can bring their concerns to STEO as well.

Council Roles and Workings for 2020/2021:

- Co-Chairs: Dave Leger, Lianna Brown (Patricia Henry)
- Treasurer: Liz Doyle
- Secretary: Still available :)
- Voting Members: Krista Kennedy, Steven Beecraft, Sarah and Thomas Martineau, Melissa Miller, possibly Na'ama Uzan

Other Items or Issues:

Questions Brought Forward:

- YahooGroups are being discontinued as of December 2020-Liz Doyle presented some new platforms last year, will look up options. Council will discuss at next meeting.
- Meet the Teacher options for this year-not sure how that would work. Mrs. Greene and Mme. Grant to bring forward topic to teaching staff to get feedback. Could be challenging with all the tech required. Thomas and Sarah Martineau offered tech support in organizing meetings. Lots of positive feedback for how teachers are managing the school year.
- It was mentioned that it was challenging for some students to access synchronous learning when having to stay home for brief period. Each class is set up a bit differently depending on whether there were students signed up for synchronous learning from the beginning of school. If a teacher didn't originally have synchronous learners at the beginning of the year, then there may not be links set up for students who are absent for brief periods. It's a class by class situation.
- Patricia asked about any fall plans, activities. Uncertain at this time, as students and staff are just hitting their stride with day to day operations.
- Liz brought forward question about where we left off last year with regards to bottle refill station replacements for water fountains. Comments of support during meeting as the bottle refill stations are far more sanitary. Liz, as treasurer will get fundraising balance and we can start from there.

Next Meeting:

- Thursday, November 19 @ 6:30pm-Mrs. Greene will send out meeting link closer to date
- suggested that we meet monthly, will check in about this at next meeting to see what works for everyone

Thanks Everyone for Your Time!