

Parent Council Minutes:
 Thursday, November 19, 2020
 6:30pm

Present: Lianna Brown (co-chair), Dave Legere (co-chair), Shannon Boisvenue (recorder), Krista Kennedy, Jen Toop (non-teaching rep), Kali Greene (principal)
Jean Kearney-Grant(teacher rep), Patricia Murphy, Rebecca Meilleur, Steven Beecraft, Sarah and Thomas Martineau, Liz Doyle(treasurer), Melissa Miller, Donald Cram(trustee)

Agenda Item	Presenter	Discussion/Action Items Decision & Follow-Up
Welcome	Lianna welcomed everyone to the meeting	Call to order @ 6:30pm. Attendance taken. Shannon motioned to pass the previous minutes, Patricia seconded.
Principal's Report	Kali Greene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students and staff have been having a lot of fun with the Theme/Spirit days. Western day tomorrow. ● PH nurse was in for a tour of the school. No suggestions for changes, they were very impressed with all the protocols put into place and feel that the school has gone above and beyond expectations. They had some take aways from R Tait that they will be sharing with other schools. ● Director met with the school and MOE to go over the UCDSB COVID contact rate, it is lower compared to other school boards. ● Occasional positions have been hard to fill. However, they have been able to cover these spots as needed within the school. Kali reviewed the process for classes to be closed as addressed in a recent letter from the Board; there are several tiers before they would get to that point. ● Budget is smaller this year with no surplus as it is going into a contingency fund for COVID related use if needed. ● There are currently 207 in class learners, 21 synchronous, 32 asynchronous - digital and 7 asynchronous- non-digital. ● There will be virtual recognition assemblies instead of in person this year through teams, including all the learners. ● In regard to in class learners being able to access synchronous learning links on short notice when at home: With the four modes of learning, the school is requesting 24 hours notice for a prolonged absence. The process is more complicated than it may appear and therefore they are not able to accommodate short-term requests. Not all classes are set up for synchronous learners at this time and there are varying abilities from the teachers. In addition, there is quite a bit of work that has to take place from the office to change it in the system, which makes it difficult to switch back and forth. ● Snow days- schools are not open to students. Students are to access work on D2L in a snow day folder; this work will be review work. A notice will be coming to parents. Teachers will reach out to families to determine which families require paper work for snow days.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teacher preference if Teams or D2L is used Safe and Accepting schools report: Positive climate, assemblies for recognition Upcoming PA day sessions: Morning: workplace violence, Afternoon: Safe Schools School photos postponed until the Spring Sufficient PPE available at the school Minister of education announced yesterday that Christmas holidays will not be extended
	Don Cram	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey will be coming to parents regarding the 4 modules. Staff are working extremely hard in unfamiliar area outside of their element in unprecedented times. Snow days will be discussed again at the next meeting with the Director and he will be asking more about the process Ministry Of Education is expecting students to be in attendance on snow day through synchronous learning even though the school is closed, attendance will be taken. Further direction is coming on this subject. Mental Health and wellness of students and staff is an emphasis of the board discussions. A committee has been formed. Discovering what supports are needed for staff at the board level, as there has been an increase in stress from principals, teachers, trustees and parents.
Teacher's Report	Jean Kearney-Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From day one it has always been about the students, their physical and mental health is the priority. Teachers are working hard with the kids at the forefront. The leadership at the school is top notch and kids are well cared for. Remembrance Day was recognized in a variety of different ways this year in different classes, from painting rocks to place at the war memorial, to making cards for the veterans, to beautiful artwork displayed in the showcase and watching the ceremony on TV.
Treasurer's Report	Liz Doyle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Shop account =\$4699.55 Fundraising account =\$2749.81 No fundraising permitted at this time across the school board
Bottle Refill station	Group Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What other schools have these in place? Data not available at present. However, Don will ask director to find out. Approximately \$2500+tax each. There are some available with foot pedals or sensors. Would like to avoid those that need to be touched. ACTION: Rebecca and Liz are going to take a look into some at other schools through their contacts and share the information with School Council
Food For thought program		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave Inquired how has the Food For Thought program been affected by COVID? No longer able to have a breakfast club (keeping students within their cohorts) Snack bins with yogurt, granola bars and fruit are filled and distributed daily by 2 EA's Food shipped directly to the school to eliminate shopping

Yahoo Group alternative	Group Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bagels and cream cheese also available for anyone that forgets their lunch or is hungry ● Yahoo groups will cease to exist as of December 30, 2020. A new platform is need for council communication etc. ● Some suggestions: Google groups, groups.io, teams, regular email, FB page. Some discussion regarding what functions we are looking for as a group, i.e. sharing of documents, agendas etc. ● Agreed by council to try Teams. Emails addresses can be set up to receive notifications
Tree Initiative	Lianna Brown	<p>ACTION: Kali is to set up a Teams account for R Tait School Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community based Tree Committee had reached out last school year in regards to planting some trees in the Spring of 2020. However, with COVID and the school closure further planning on this was halted. They have reached out again for possible planting in the Spring of 2021. Agreement by Council that additional trees at R Tait would be welcomed in the yard. ● ACTION: Kali to get permission from the facilities manager.
Traffic flow		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parking and traffic on Paterson is an unsafe situation. Multiple cars parked in no parking zone along the street creating a lot of congestion and confusion ● STEO did an assessment regarding this congestion. HNOM has changed their bell time to be the same as R Tait's which is contributing to this issue. ● Suggestion of changing our bell time to aid the situation. Unable to change, our bell time is regulated by STEO and factors in necessary hours of instruction time. ● It is a Bylaw issue at this point. Parents encouraged to call. ● BYLAW phone number 613-256-2064 ext. 209
Dates of Future Meetings		<p>Date for the next Parent Council Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thus January 21st @ 6:30pm
Meeting adjourned		<p>Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm</p>