

## R.Tait McKenzie Parent Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 8, 2022 6:30pm and meeting ended at 7:23pm.

Next meeting: May 3, 2022

Attendance: Kristine Wilson, Liz Doyle, Jennifer Toop, Principal Greene, Donald Cram, Walter Murphy, Shauna O'Reiley, Teacher Ms. Jean Grant-Kearney, Stephanie Cleland.

Motion to accept minutes – Liz, Patricia seconds the motion.

### Principals report:

Fundraiser for Ukraine happening now. Donations coming in which is great. Confirmed that donations will still be accepted this week. Staff members to deliver items on Friday.

Lots of upheaval with staff/student illnesses.

1 Synchronous student at the school.

Facebook page, bookmarks to focus on random acts of kindness. February had a focus on Black History Month, each classroom did displays focused on a Canadian Black person and their contributions to the country.

Parents have been asking about masks and if any changes are coming. No news yet. Ministry and Health Unit will inform the Board who inform the school what is happening with masks and other Covid-19 mandates. Stay tuned to Facebook and Family Room for any news or changes to school policies. Students going home with Covid-19 symptoms are being reported on the school website.

Health and safety while important, is not the only focus for the school. BIEP Board Improvement Equity Plan. Each school does a School improvement and equity plan.

i.e. 90% students doing reading, math at grade level. Reading has been a primary goal for this year with data tracking since September. In January, focus is both reading and math.

100% of students believe they belong at the school. Equity goal. Some work on this since the beginning of the school year.

Grade	At grade level			One grade level below			Two or more grade levels			Percent
	Fall	Feb	June	Fall	Feb	June	Fall	Feb	June	
1	31	53		46	44		23	3		100
2	18	35		53	41		29	24		100
3	60	82		23	5		17	13		100
4	67	82		15	5		18	13		100
5	59	84		35	10		6	6		100
6	67	79		15	6		18	15		100

Every student in red level has individual, 1:1 guided reading work to move them to yellow and ultimately to green. Very good results so far with teachers on track to reach the 90% reading at grade level goal for the year.

Math assessments have just begun.

Belonging, focus on self regulation with focus on learning for staff and students. Helps to identify behaviors and action plan. Curriculum category where students can see themselves in the work we are doing with them, observer says R.Tait scores are highest in this area for junior students. Almost 100% students say they have a caring adult and they feel they belong.

Hoping to do scientists in the classroom this Spring. Looking at virtual options. Grade 6 doing social justice fair. Doing it online this year.

Some disruption on parking lot. Facilities have been contacted to remove some snow to help with parking space. Principal Greene is following up again to see if there is a solution to help create more parking space. It's ok to park on teacher parking side if space is open.

#### Jean – Teacher's report

Received some funding from Board for Indigenous Funds. A woman is going to do a virtual video with all classes to learn hoop dancing with Q&A after presentation. 5/6 classes will make medicine bags through a workshop. Indigenous authors (3) have spoken with kids about traditions, art, culture etc. for junior kids who can participate in those workshops.

#### Donald – Trustees report

90% graduation rate goal for the school. We have never reached this percentage, focusing on grade 12's to get 90%. Closer to 87, 88%. 2022 focus has shifted to earlier. Attention needs to happen at grade 4,5,6 – early enough to make an impact and get results up while children are younger. Easier at intermediate, senior level if success is happening at elementary level.

Board – looking at stop arm camera on school busses. Bus drivers have complained about cars who pass busses while lights are flashing and stop arm is out. While most follow the rules, if one driver makes a mistake, that could be quite serious. Every municipality must pass bylaw to bring in new legislation. Then, the municipality can enforce the bylaw if Almonte drivers don't obey the law. If a car goes through a stopped bus, the camera will take a photograph, OPP can then issue a ticket. Almonte can collect the fine.

Zone transportation issue. When there is snow in one zone and sun in another. Trying to split the board into zones so that the whole board is not subject to bus closures if weather is safe in several zones and only stormy in a couple others. Motion has been passed to go ahead with this. Catholic Board is not in favor of this.

Ministry is causing hold up on allowing visitors into schools. Hopefully after March break. They think masks will still be required but hopefully guests/visitors will be allowed.

No more 4 strands of learning for teachers in September. Remote learning will remain. You are in school or remote.

Trying to convince public health that Board should be allowed to do some sort of in-person year end ceremonies. Do not have the ok yet, but an agreement that yes, this should be a consideration. Hopefully staff will be able to pull something together if public health gives approval for this.

Any reason why students couldn't be outside for a ceremony? Just that Public Health has said no so far.

Normally you could write to your local MPP to share concerns, but with vaccine mandates and other Covid-19 restrictions this is obviously difficult.

The school does not have access to the percentage of fully vaccinated students at the school. Donald shared that Paula Stewart at the Leeds Grenville Health Unit might have this information.

J. Toop – Spirit Wear update

265 items were ordered which is great. Mishap with pricing, R. Tait had to pay a little bit to cover additional expenses so lesson learned for next time.