

PINE GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL – SCHOOL COUNCIL
Tuesday, January 26th, 2021



ATTENDEES:

Brad Digweed, Kristen Theriault, Margo Halfyard, Lisa Quiquero, Laura Keeping, Carolyn Dowds, Amy McDonnell, Jessica Federkow, April Taylor, Heather Duncan, Jennie Neff, Lisa Purnell, Star Sanders, Tanya Belanger, Rosa Proietto, Brittany McDonald, Li Lei, Paulina Sergnese and Kristen Schultz (student teacher).

Minutes of the December 1, 2020 meeting were approved by Heather Duncan and seconded by Lisa Purnell.

❖ **PRINCIPALS REPORT**

Brad said that while he would rather meet in person he is happy to see so many parents participating online.

He had a couple of little videos that he shared and some interactive parts to the meeting to hopefully mix it up.

CHANGE IN STAFFING

- Kristen Theriault
- Jennifer Dearborn – She's a halftime secretary in the other afternoon. So, she's been working with us right before the break and then online as well. She's a huge asset to our team; she comes from DSBN Central (CSS). She has excellent tech skills and she will be an amazing member of our office team.
- Victoria Westcott is now officially our quarter time junior music and kindergarten prep teachers. She also started a little bit before the break and we're lucky we've got someone that has got some experience...less of a music background very experienced in the film world.
- Syndey Nicholson. She is the LTO for Mrs. Delahunt for Grade 1 and will be with us until Mrs. Delahunt returns.

WELCOME FROM NEW VP

- She was the VP at Diamond Trail Public School for three years and most recently at Quaker Road Public School.
- I live locally. My husband is a teacher at Dalewood and I have three sons. My oldest is 22, my second is 19 and my third son is 17 just graduating from Governor Simcoe.
- I recognize the wonderful myths and the challenges that come with being a parent and I so appreciate the fact that you guys are here to advocate for our students.
- My first impressions of the school are that it is such a positive community. The teachers really are fantastic, and they've made me feel so welcomed and I don't need to say this, but I'm just going to say that this is especially unique given the time that we are in.
- I have had the chance to meet with all of the teachers virtually at least once. And I can't say enough about them. They are so well equipped, and they are supportive of this transition to synchronous learning. It's truly been amazing to see and I'm learning a lot from them and truly inspired by them.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT CONTINUED

- Brad played a video of what it is like to be on the teachers' side of online learning. He said he understands that parents are in many different situations and have their challenges supporting their children learning online. However, this video provides a humorous teacher perspective. The video is called "Things you only say when Remote Teaching." The video can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yObcMi_0du0&feature=youtu.be
- There have been some technology glitches, which our staff and parents have definitely experienced. We all have to remember that we're all in this together during these unique times. Proud that our staff and community have been so understanding and willing to work together.
- One thing we did tonight in the Staff Meeting was a Menti Meter and Brad shared some of the result from three questions. The staff responses are found below:



- Pine Grove is working on:
 - Supporting our most at-risk students and those struggling to engage in online learning
 - Sharing our best practices across the school
 - Daily announcements again
 - Looking to do more spirit days and possibly some assemblies

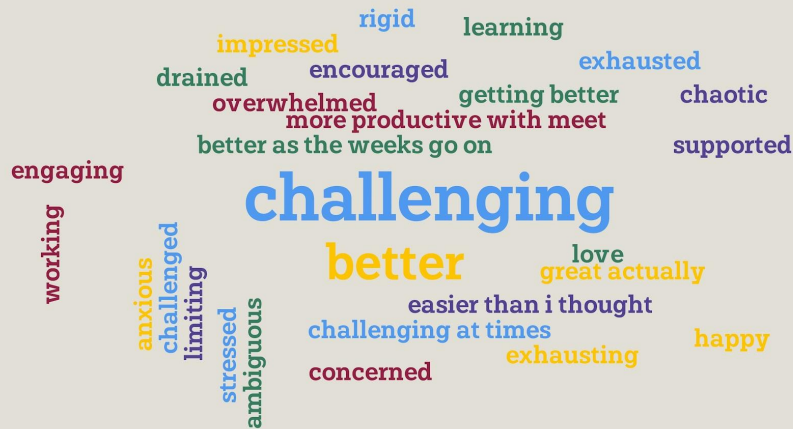
BEST PRACTICES – SLIDESHOW WAS PRESENTED BY MRS. THERIAULT

- She highlighted some new technology items that teachers are using along with some evaluation tools
- Our teachers are being very innovative with ways that they are teaching virtually and how to best get great student participation through many grades.

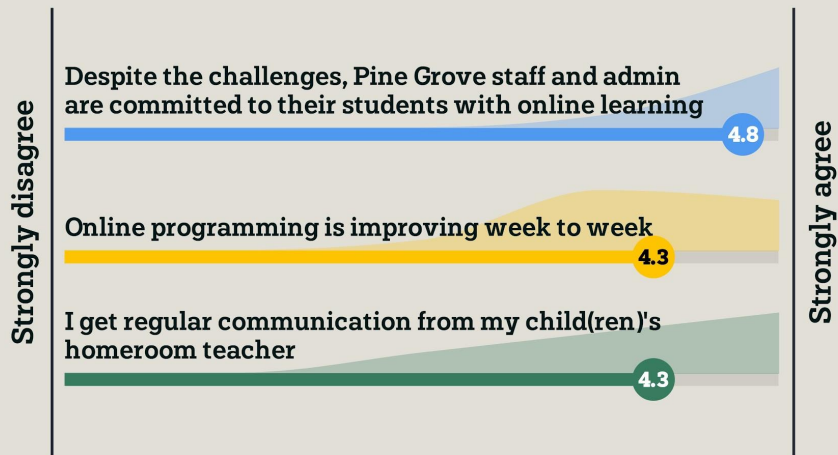
MENTIMETER

- Brad had us participate in a Mentimeter Survey. Your name is not attached to any of the answers and he cannot see who is commenting or where it is coming from.
- The results are found below:

How do you feel about online learning?



Scales



What have you most happy with Pine Grove's online learning programming?



One on one as needed

Big improvement from last spring

The patience and availability (if needed) of the teachers

I am happy with the fact that the teachers take the time to hold virtual classrooms to actually teach our children. Some smaller group working would be nice

The communication between staff and our family.

The improvements we're seeing every day. Definitely finding it less stressful as a parent.

Consistent teacher communication with parent and student; positive attitude

hearing the teachers interact with the students and exude only kindness to the class as a whole, despite the learning differences in each student

The increase in having regular meets daily has helped and the interaction is great for the students.

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What is a suggestion that you have for us at Pine Grove?



Take care of yourselves and THANK YOU!

Mental health support/focus/lessons and acknowledgement during a crucial time

Keep on doing what you are doing.

Other ways for kids to submit assignments rather than us taking pictures and emailing them.

It would be great if all teachers (not just home teacher) could return work, comments or feedback for work completed by students.

tips to parents in real time for "how" to teach their child, "how" to modify if needed, "how" to get the best from each student without frustration at home.

I'd like there to b some discussion about the place and role of the internet; especially social media. Students r using these social platforms to continue interacting well into the nite.

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EQUITY AND INCLUSION

- The Equity and Inclusion Plan is coming along. Taking longer due to not being able to meet with a big group of people all at once.
- Brad showed us another video about Blind Spots/Equity and Inclusion. The video is called "Blind Spots: Challenge Assumptions". The video can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFcjfqmVah8&feature=youtu.be>

- A lot of people think that they are being fair to everyone and that Equity and Inclusion doesn't affect them but that is not always the case.
- A lot of times you tend to hang out with the same type of people as yourself...perhaps not on purpose but it is the way that we think.
- Brad would like some parent input so if anyone would like to be part of the Equity and Inclusion Group – might only be a couple of meetings or so, please let Brad know.
- He would also like to see more groups within our school represented at School Council so would appreciate it if we could think of anyone to invite them to a meeting or have them contact Brad directly.

STUDENT TEACHERS

- We currently have 5 student teachers with us. They are all doing a phenomenal job. This first set are all in their first year of their two-year program.
 - Meghan with Mrs. DiTeodoro in Kindergarten
 - Paulina with Ms. Snider in Grade 3/4
 - Sarah with Mrs. Keeping in Grade 7/8
 - Mason with Mrs. McNary in Grade 7/8
 - Kristen with Ms. Dowds in Grade 3
- When this group is done, we have another 5 or 6 coming a couple of weeks afterwards. This group will be in the second year of their two-year program so will have a little bit more experience.
- Student teachers have a youthful energy and bring a new light and perspective into classrooms and the teachers and students always enjoy working with them.

BUDGET

- The poinsettia sales grossed \$506.20
- The holiday baskets cost \$390.00 so we actually grossed about \$116.00.
- There is no change for the food account since we are not doing pizza, milk, mac n' cheese or pitas. The account sits at about \$4,670.10.
- Our playground fund started the year with \$48,997.20 and we've had \$3,163.90 coming from online donations, a donation made by teachers as a tribute to Mrs. Lehne's retirement and another donation from one of Amy's contacts.
- We put a down payment of \$31,000.00 towards the playground in September so we are currently left with \$21,036.00 left in the playground account.
- Currently we have a \$60,000.00 liability with the playground. \$20,000.00 will be due September 2021 (which we currently have in the playground fund), \$20,000.00 will be due September 2022 and \$20,000.00 will be due in September 2023.
- In a typical year it is plausible that we would be able to raise \$20,000.00 a year through a couple fundraisers and a trivia night. This year is very different so at least we have this coming September's payment already tucked aside. Hopefully next school year will be more back to normal and we can do more fundraising.
- Brad was hoping to have a little more money left over to do something with the Kindergarten play area but that is going to have to be sacrificed for now.
- So, currently we have about \$9,400.00 sitting in our School Council account not including what we have in the Playground account. The only item that has already been agreed upon to come out of this account this year is the money for the teachers but so far nobody has asked for anything yet.

FUNDRAISING

- Amy reported that over the Christmas holidays that she received an additional donation of \$375.00 from Tradition Mutual Insurance. They donated to the playground in the summer via a \$1,000.00 donation. They had additional funds left at the end of the year from their donation campaign and provided the additional funds.

QUESTIONS

- NONE

Next Meeting has been scheduled for February 23, 2021 at 6:30p.m. via Microsoft Teams.