

PINE GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL – SCHOOL COUNCIL
Tuesday, May 11, 2021



ATTENDEES:

Brad Digweed, Kristen Theriault, Lisa Quiquero, Carolyn Dowds, Margo Halfyard, Laura Keeping, April Taylor, Amy McDonnell, Anita Couturier, Brittany McDonald, Dimitri Rassadkine, Heather Duncan, Jennie Neff, Zakia Hamdani, Tanya Belanger, Rosa Proietto, Li Lei and Erin Wiens

Minutes of the March 30th, 2021 meeting were approved by Heather Duncan and seconded by Margo Halfyard.

❖ **PRINCIPALS REPORT**

Brad started off the meeting saying that during this difficult time of online learning that he still believes that everyone working together means that we are still Better Together.

STAFFING UPDATE

- Kristin Theriault advised that she will no longer be the Vice-Principal at our school as she has obtained a Principal position at Prince of Wales Public School. She said that it has been a great experience at Pine Grove but she is looking forward to her new position. She said she will always remember her time at Pine Grove.
- Kristin will be replaced by Carolyn Jonovich who was a systems SpecEd Consultant prior to this new position.
- Brad advised that Kristy Penlington has decided to stay on as an Instructional Coach and as such her position will be posted for a 1.0 Kindergarten under a permanent position.
- A 1.0 for Grade 6 will be posted along with a 0.75 French/Prep posting.
- A posting for a 1.0 Jr. LTO will be available later in the process as we will be going up a classroom this year.
- Caroline McCrimmon and Heather Ferretti will both be returning in the fall each 0.5 of the time. They will be co-teaching their class. They have already spoken and are looking forward to taking on this assignment together.
- Alison Ostram has been consolidated at another school.

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

- This was a virtual event and the kids seemed to enjoy it. Brad was not sure if any parents had tuned into it.
- Margo Halfyard noted that Ben Pomeroy and a couple of his students should be given a huge thank you for all of the time and work that he put into the assembly.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

- This was discussed at the last PD Day.
- Brad hopes to have a couple virtual speakers still speak to the staff this year with regards to Equity and Inclusion.

BUDGET

- No changes since the last meeting.
- The \$500.00 from School Council funds to pay for some guest speakers to speak to the staff about Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism has not yet been used but Brad is hoping this happens this year.
- We received \$10,000 from the DSBN to assist with the playground. They had some money left over in their capital budget and gave some to various schools who are fundraising for some large capital investments at their school. The board is also giving us an extra year to pay back the loan from them to the lack of availability of fundraising.

GRADUATION

- Last year's was \$4,000.00 which included T-shirts, Lawn Signs, Printshop (certificates, banners, etc.), Awards and Decoration.
- This year Brad figures that Graduation will cost about the same. He would like to use the left-over money from last year from the BBQ (\$652.97) and is requesting \$300.00 from School Council to assist with graduation. The balance of the money will come out of his budget.
- A motion was made to provide \$300.00 from school council funds for Graduation. Approved by Jennie, Seconded by Amy, Anita and Tara.

MENTI-METER

What is something we should consider doing at Pine Grove in the next month?



An online assembly

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Something to show appreciation for teachers.

Spirit day

a community day, maybe litter clean up?

Additional time for outside activities if students wish not to be on screen for so many hours per day.

Outside day

More offline activities

Some sort of June feel, this has now been 2 years without the thrill of heading off into summer after working hard all year. Not sure how though...

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What is something we should consider doing at Pine Grove in the next month?



More outdoor activities

Paying kindness forward



What is something that you would like to discuss at next meeting?



How we can get more people from the student body involved in school council and reaching out to kinder parents to join and get involved from the get go.

How to engage the broader parent community to come out to parent council or be engaged within the school

Incorporate more outside time

how the children are being properly graded. We're continuously being assured that 'our best' is enough, but our children shouldn't be being graded on how their parents personal situation has put them at a lower playing field.

a fun fair if allowed



What is something that School Council should consider to focus on next year



getting that community feel back

Getting more parents involved

Community involvement. We have all lost so much touch with a sense of community in person. Hopefully by then, we can open the flood gates back up to more celebration and togetherness

Only a few fundraising opportunities and a way to get everyone to participate instead of the same group of people. Letting everyone know that for things to happen in school fundraising needs to happen

Paying kindness forward

Creation of subcommittees to engage parents to be active without having to be involved with the entire council meetings



SCHOOL COUNCIL POSITIONS/ELECTIONS FOR 2021-2020 SCHOOL COUNCIL

- School Council elections will be held in September.
- April advised that she is stepping down as Chair next year. The position of Chair will be open and available to be filled.
- Amy advised that she would like to step down from Secretary next year and that position will also be available to be filled.
- Everyone was asked to consider if they would like either position and if anyone has questions to contact Brad, April or Amy.

QUESTIONS

- Margo wondered if there was something that the School Council could include in the package that will be sent to Kinder parents to try and get them interested in joining. Amy was going to check and see if she had something from previous years.

Next Meeting has been scheduled for June 8, 2021 at 6:30p.m. via Microsoft Teams.