

PINE GROVE PUBLIC SCHOOL – SCHOOL COUNCIL
Wednesday, September 29, 2021

ATTENDEES:

Brad Digweed, Carolyn Jonavich, Carolyn Dowds, Lisa Quiquero, Margo Halfyard, April Taylor, Amy McDonnell, Jessica Cordes-Federkow, Alison Jennings-Willan, Dimitri Rassadkine, Heather Duncan, Tanya Belanger, Star Sanders, Amber Hughes, Kelsey Alward, Laurie Burrowes, Dana Koeboek, Anita Courturier, Randi Thertell (McNulty), Li Lei, Abdul Rahimi, Zakia Hamdani and Lisa Purnell.

April welcomed everyone to our first School Council meeting of the 2021-2022 school year. Brad put on Stadium view from Teams and most people turned on cameras and introduced ourselves (name, kids/grades, and anything you would like council to know).

Minutes of the June 9, 2021 meeting were approved by Heather and seconded by Alison.

❖ **ELECTIONS**

It was advised at the last meeting of 2020-2021 school year that April would be resigning from her position of Chair and that Amy would be resigning from her position as Secretary.

- April asked if anyone would like to take the position of Chair. Amy volunteered for this position. April approved and it was seconded by Jessica, Heather and Alison.
- Since there were no other people that put forth their name, a vote was not necessary, and Amy was acclaimed as being Chair.
- April asked if anyone would like to take the position of Secretary. Alison volunteered for this position. April approved and it was seconded by Jessica, Heather and Amy.
- Since there were no other people that put forth their name, a vote was not necessary, and Alison was acclaimed as being Secretary.

A congratulations was extended to both taking new positions and both were advised that if they needed any help to reach out to past members in those positions.

❖ **PRINCIPALS REPORT**

Brad started off by thanking everyone for coming to the first school council meeting for the 2021-2022 school year.

He wishes we could all be in person but right now it is still not safe to do. He believe that WE are Better Together though even though we are apart.

PINE GROVE'S FOCUS FOR 1ST TERM

- Everyone expects to be respected, appreciated and valued. This goes for teachers, administrative staff, students, guests and parents.
- Brad and Carolyn advised that they want the following to be the main focuses for the fist term:

Pine Grove Admin Messages

- ✓ Continue to celebrate and create Joy in your classrooms
- ✓ Continue to ensure all students can be successful in the first term. Continue to give yourself permission to still ease into the curriculum
- ✓ Continue to be understanding of families as we don't know all the challenges and struggles that they have gone through during the pandemic

Pine Grove Admin Messages

- ✓ Continue to be intentional about seeing our students through an asset lens (language we use about our students)
- ✓ Make sure that you invest in your own well-being. We have had significant roles through the pandemic and can be dealing with chronic stress
- ✓ We will continue to take a student-centered approach for student discipline (informed by violent risk assessment and restorative justice frameworks)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAYS FOR ADMINISTRATORS

- Brad advised that if he can support teachers in any way then he is going to do so as by providing extra support for the teachers they can be the best version of themselves and therefore in turn, support our students in the best way possible.
- There were some books that were spoken about with respect to School Discipline, Violence Threat and Risk Assessment Issues and ways to discipline in a cultural and restorative way. Both Carolyn and Brad have read the book "Hacking School Discipline".
- Some of the books that they touched on are shown below.




QUESTIONS

- Zakia Hamdani – What does Restorative Justice mean and how do you work through this?
 - Brad said that the traditional methods of disciplining children is to suspend them or not let them participate in recess. This has shown to have little to no impact on the child or sometimes even a negative impact and does not end up changing the child’s behaviour. What happens in the restorative justice model is that the person who did the wrong figures out what caused them to do the wrong and the goal at the end is to have the person who did the wrong and the person who was wronged discuss the event and find a way to solve the problem. This would happen by each party meeting separately to describe what happened. This would include any witnesses who saw what happened. The person who did the wrong would then meet with the person who was wronged and the person and collectively the group would determine how to best repair the harm. Consequences are best agreed upon and highly dependent on each context in which they transpire.
 - The goal is to get to the root of the problem and have students understand other’s perspectives and the impact of their actions.

- Abdul Rahimi – What grades this mostly affects and whether there is data from older children to see if the new ways are helping to solve conflicts.
 - Brad said that he doesn’t have any quantitative data now but will be collecting some preliminary data in the next few months and the school will then compare that with behavioural patterns from past years to see if there is a change. Since admin has been more regularly using this new approach at Pine Grove (within the last few years) there is not a lot of data on it, but Brad stated that there was positive feedback and qualitative data from Grade 6-8 students last year. Admin will track data this year to see the impact of this approach.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

- Our school has 9 hepa filter systems in designated areas where air flow was not adequate.
- The board has released new updates about COVID-19 which are shown below:



Covid-19 Updates

If staff/parent report a positive case, please ask if this was a rapid antigen test. While we appreciate the notification, we do not report these test results to public health. The direction is to stay home, and book a PCR lab test.

- Parents should be doing a self assessment on children before they come to school and teachers are doing the same thing. The current self assessment is as follows:

Are you currently experiencing any of these symptoms?

Choose any/all that are new, worsening, and not related to other known causes or conditions you already have.

Updates to symptoms

The symptoms listed here are the most commonly associated with COVID-19.

Our guidelines for children and adults continue to evolve as we learn more about COVID-19, how it spreads, and how it affects people in different ways.

- Fever and/or chills**
Temperature of 37.8 degrees Celsius/100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher
- Cough or barking cough (croup)**
Continuous, more than usual, making a whistling noise when breathing (not related to asthma, post-infectious reactive airways, or other known causes or conditions you already have)
- Shortness of breath**
Out of breath, unable to breathe deeply (not related to asthma or other known causes or conditions you already have)
- Decrease or loss of taste or smell**
Not related to seasonal allergies, neurological disorders, or other known causes or conditions you already have
- Nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea**
Not related to irritable bowel syndrome, anxiety, menstrual cramps, or other known causes or conditions you already have
- None of the above**

- What is Pine Grove doing to keep kids as safe as possible:

Covid-19 Protocols and Routines

Entry and Exit Routines
Reducing Cohort Mixing - during breaks
Regular hand hygiene
High proportion of students who are masked from Grades 1-8 as well as KG students too
Additional cleaning
Hepa Filters
Health Room
Washroom Capacities

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

- Dimitri - We will not be totally safe until the younger kids are vaccinated. He wondered if we are really trying to keep kids safe or are we following the protocols just because or are we trying to protect the teachers? Who is the real priority?
 - Brad advised that the school's priority is to keep students safe first and foremost. Good routines and protocols are important to prevent other illnesses for everyone in the school. We want to enforce as many protocols to keep kids safe while still making sure they have good mental health as well.

STAFFING UPDATE

Staffing Update

Carolyn Jonovich - Vice Principal
Suzie Montgomery - KG Teacher
Ashley Sherman - Grade 1 Teacher
Sam Parker - Grade 5 Teacher
Alison Stamp - Grade 6 Teacher
Janice Janzen - French/Music Teacher
Sarah Koteles - EA
Kim Englehardt - EA

❖ **PARENT CONCERNS COMMUNICATION**

- Brad is trying something new for the time being and that is to send one message out per week on Fridays between the hours of 4-8 and unless something is urgent throughout the week.
- Amber said she is happy about the communication coming home from the school.
- Laurie appreciates calls on this schedule as she knows when it will be coming and can watch out for it.

DOGS

- No dogs should be on school property. Whether it be at the front of the back, all dogs during school pick-up and drop-offs need to remain behind the fence at Simpson Road and either on the far side of the fence or across the street at Lake Street.

CROSSWALK

- Jessica believes it needs to be moved closer to the front entrance. Earlier this morning a car parked in the No Parking spot on Lake Street on the school side and our crossing guard could not see to cross the children. She asked the person to move and they refused. Jessica confronted them and they said that they couldn't see the sign and they didn't have to move if they didn't want to. For the time being, large pylons have been placed in the "no parking zone" and branches have been trimmed from the tree to fully expose the sign.

LUNCH DAYS

- Brad spoke to the superintendent today who having a board meeting on Friday about lunch days. They are discussing having self-serve items like Pitas or Subs be allowed. Pizza and Hotdogs will be a while as they are not individually wrapped and/or not cooked off site.

❖ **CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES, EXTRA-CURRICULARS & PHOTO**

DAY CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

- We will still not be able to have a school wide assembly in the gym as there are too many people and there would be no social distancing.
- The school will be having an outdoor assembly next week with the intermediate kids and we will see how that goes.
- If it goes smoothly, they are going to try having one for the Junior and Primary classes.

EXTRA-CURRICULARS

- There will be a Junior and Intermediate Running Club (Cross Country) starting next week. There will be no competition between schools but recognition will be given to students who hit certain milestones. More information will be available next week.
- There will be a Co-Ed Intermediate Soccer. Details will follow shortly.

PICTURE DAY

- We can have school photos this year. They have been booked for October 26.

BUDGET

- The account at the last school council meeting had a balance of \$9,256.82.
- Currently, the account is sitting at \$7,438.01. Some of the money went towards Grad and some went to teachers who had asked for their \$100 credit that the School Council generally provides to them.

Brad is asking Parent Council for two items:

- \$1,000 to go towards Basketball nets and new poles. This is a multi-funding project where some money is coming from the board, some from the school budget and some from the School Council. After a short discussion this was approved by many council members.
- \$1,000 to go towards sprucing up the library. It will hopefully be getting painted and Carolyn J. would like to add some new lighting, decorations, seating areas, etc. to make it feel more cozy and inviting and to make it a place that you want to hang out. After a discussion about future fundraising (which we should be able to do later in the year), this was approved by many council members.

❖ QUESTIONS

- None during the regular meeting, however, some parents did stay online to speak to Brad after the official close of the meeting. Minutes were not taken nor did Amy stay on for this portion.

The meeting was concluded by April wishing everyone a safe and happy summer.

Next Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, October 27 at 6:30 p.m.