

MINUTES SCHOOL COUNCIL

January 21, 2020

Learning Commons

Attendees: Erica Quayle, Madison Cox, Mustafa Aydin, Caitlin Coverdale, Katie Hall, Stephanie Gagnon, Elaine Emery, Lindsey Taylor, Oriana Benevides, Richard Wallace, T. Scott, Tara Lambert, Cathy Lapar, Randi St. Laurent, Cissy Wu, Jenn Schnarr, Dave Linnerth, LeeAnne Andriessen

Regrets: David Cameron

I. Introduction - Madison Cox

- Welcome back!
- Review of Minutes from last meeting

II. Update from the Executive – Madison Cox

- John Tsintaris has tendered his resignation as Vice Chair due to conflicts in his schedule
- John has agreed to maintain his assistance on the fundraising projects
- We will hold elections for the vice-chair position at the next meeting
- Richard is willing to step up as vice-chair if no one is interested.

III. Labour Relations – LeeAnne Andriessen

- Many negotiations are taking place
- Negotiations are happening with 10 different interest groups, including custodians, teachers, administration as well as teachers
- Contracts ended on August 31, 2019 – actively working with the government for new contracts
- Negotiations include salary, working conditions, etc.
- Negotiations start at the Provincial level, then go to the regions and then to be ratified by the Unions
- OSTF – includes high school teachers and secretaries and custodians as well as elementary secretaries and custodians and supervision monitors - without these people here the school can't function
- Also, labour relation negotiations on-going with the elementary teachers union – LeeAnne thinks that there will be some agreements at the OSTF level soon.
- The interest groups are slowly introducing new phases of extra sanctions that are on the work to rule schedule
- As teachers refuse to do tasks then it falls to administrators with the hopes that it will add pressure on the government

A. Current work to rule sanctions:

- Meetings are limited - 30 minutes before school and 15 minutes after school
- Can only be here from 8:40 to 3:45
- All field trips are cancelled

NOTE: *Grade 8 trip*: We have not officially cancelled the Grade 8 trip – there is insurance in place in case there needs to be refunds; Have agreed to hold off in cancelling it all together in case agreements are reached; Parents will lose the insurance rate (\$60 approximately) but not the full amount of the trip

NOTE: *Grade 7 trip*: to Jump at Laurier is in jeopardy but no money has been paid; the school is in negotiations with Laurier so that there won't be any implications

- No extracurricular activities before or after school
- Some extracurricular activities still occurring during breaks
- Not to attend events after school
- Therefore no school council attendance
- No attendance at a meeting unless they call the meeting – will not attend if the principal calls the meeting
- Therefore if the parent wants a principal at the meeting, the parent should let administration know
- Stick to working hour
- No organizing assemblies
- No notices to go out – ex. School day
- No sending or responding to emails outside of working day
- No professional development directed by the board or ministry unless it is mandated around safety (aka First Aid is excluded)
- PD Days are still happening – this day is set aside for teachers to do their evaluations to come up with marks for all of their students and to work on individual learning plans (for children on IEP plans)
- Rotating board strikes
- Not collecting money
- Report cards (marks only to be handed in) – marks will be handed in on a sheet of paper
- A mechanism for sending this information needs to be created and it will be costly to all board. There will be a provincial response
- A possibility may be that the board may need to hire clerical people to come in to enter the data – which would be VERY costly
- Marks will be collected and will be on file
- Parents are encouraged to reach out and speak to a teacher for information about their child's achievement if you have any questions

- We are unsure of the mechanism that the board will use to share the report card information
- More information will come out in the next week or so
- Administration does not know what is happening from day to day
- The school administrator does not decide how to distribute the information
- We expect to see more sanctions
- Families will be given 5 calendar days notice of rotating strikes
- Administration does not get advanced notice of the strikes – they find out when it is posted on the website
- We don't know what is happening with EQAO testing
- School based team meetings are once a week – teachers share about problems with students and they work together to solve issues – those meetings have been cancelled until the labour relations have been settled
- Multi-discipline team meetings with child psychologists, social workers, etc. Teachers are not attending those meetings.
- Administration has taken the time to update the website and twitter account so that parents can easily access information in a timely manner
- School day announcements are typically sent out by secretaries – now taken on by administrators
- This can go on indefinitely until negotiations are settled

How does the sanctions impact School Council?

- Without staff support and access to the teachers, it is difficult to run events/fundraisers/commitments
- We don't know what the future negotiations will bring
- March – read-a-thon – the forms to be sent home, can't guarantee that the staff will send the forms home, they will not collect money
- Could have parent volunteers come into pass out forms but it will create a stress on relationships between teachers and parents
- STEAM night – administration to organize? But what happens if it happens on a strike day – can't plan ahead
- Impacts regular school events – ex. Kindergarten night – could modify it – may not be permitted to have it because the Board wants consistency from school to school

IV. FUNDRAISING

What do we do about Fundraising Schedule given the strike?

- Executive discussed a few options
- 1. Push the schedule back so that the events land in the spring
- 2. Keep the schedule as is, but have deadlines and if labour relations are not settled then the event is cancelled

February – Targeted School Day for home reading

- Can go ahead as planned – no teacher involvement

March – Read-a-thon

- Push it back to April?
- Strategize the minimal teacher involvement/impact
- Decide at the next meeting - if it can be run or not – to be decided at next meeting
- Post the tracking sheet on SchoolDay for parents to print themselves?
- Organizers to look for ways to minimize teacher involvement

BBQ – moving to May

- not connected to STEAM night
- Administration cannot organize STEAM night on their own
- What do we do if it is a strike day?
- How does it look to teachers to be “celebrating” in this political environment
- Agree to push it to May and keep reassessing whether to do the BBQ

Golf Tournament – moving to June 6

- Dave Linnerth asked with the amount of work that needs to go into the golf tournament, should it should be pushed to next year
- Unlikely there is going to be much movement by March regarding labour relations, so safe to say no read-a-thon – maybe move it to May
- Possibility to those all of our efforts into the golf tournament?? Seems like this is the event that we don't need as much teacher involvement
- Dave Linnerth has spoken to the school board about the rules around the golf tournament
- Is it possible to organize the golf tournament through “Love my Hood” organization or another third party organization and then use that organization to make the donation to the school? This could add some flexibility to the golf tournament – not as many rules on the tournament. The Committee should speak to Brooke regarding working a partnership with Love My Hood or another organization to “profit share.” We could look for an organization to be the umbrella organization. LeeAnne would need to get permission to advertise through the school.
- Committee to look at outside organization to partnership to ensure that the golf tournament could happen. They are to have a solid plan by next Council meeting

- Dave Linnerth and committee to look into the options and present at next meeting
- Lindsay to post question to WRAPSC group about what they are doing about fundraising during the strike

BINGEMANS – Orianna Benevides has been organizing

- January 23 was not available
- Available dates: February 13, April 9
- Will send out a blast on school day
- Will need to have a table for pick up of the tickets
- Will send out a volunteers sign up
- Looking for a Thursday night before PD day or holiday if possible
- The voucher can be used for whole day
- What should we charge? \$5 per voucher
- We get them for free
- Bingemans will give us lots of tickets in 100 bundles
- Can purchase for anyone - don't have to be Chicopee students/family
- What about the optics? Don't see it as a problem, no teacher involvement needed
- Secretaries will not assist in this - will not answer questions at the counter
- Will update at the next meeting
- Consider doing it a second time in May or June as an alternative to traditional fundraising
- Will reserve a second date because dates go quickly

V. **Financial Report** – Richard Wallace

Starting Budget: \$9,740.05

Book fair income: \$2,288.16 -- this was slightly higher than the previous years

Home reading expenses: \$271.15 – expenditure for this month – this shows that we will need to keep up fundraising for this expense

Mabel's Labels from last year: \$80.51 sent out with Black Friday – we had 11 people order (we received another payment at the time of the meeting, not in bank account yet \$72.00)

Flippgive income: (not yet in our bank account \$53.00) - all proceeds came in over 2 days

WEFI donations: \$1,182.13 - we don't have good data – we have data up to Dec 15 - \$1100 received in just December – this captured during Giving Thursday – we agreed all WEFI

donations for December and January to go to Outdoor Learning, therefore, \$1,100 is designated for outdoor learning

Total in the bank: \$13,034.70 – this includes what is already allocated to outdoor learning

Question from Lindsay Taylor: the home reading books that are coming home seem to be Scholastic Books, should we consider using taking product from Scholastic instead of money the next time and the product to be added to the Home reading books. Answer: the difference is the books in the Home Reading program are purchased through a different branch of Scholastic. The home reading books are commercial grade vs. the book fair books are consumer books – they are different products.

VI. Transportation Update – LeeAnne Andriessen

- T Scott working with Leslie Maxwell
- We now have 3 years of collecting data
- There was a team of people who came out and observed the property
- Main concern right now: ongoing issue of access to the property – mainly cars, especially in bad weather
- There has been lots of messaging to the community which has fallen on deaf ears
- Not following signage, speeding, people doing three point turns in laneways
- The street is owned by the School Board – it is not a street, it is a laneway
- Question: why are the roads surrounding the school (Fairway and Lackner) not reduced speed limits and designated as school zones? Answer: Fairway Road and Lackner Road are regional roads and the school is not sitting on the roads
- Problem: kindergarten – there is an unwritten policy in the region that there must be a hand to hand off from parent to teacher. This policy has lead to parents not walking to school and parking on the property.
- Looking at removing hand to hand off because it is not a written Board policy
- This could reduce traffic
- The empty lot in front will be developed – will probably be sold within the next year – we will be sharing the laneway with the community in the development. Therefore, we need to establish how we want the laneway to function while school is in session NOW before the development occurs
- Possibility: shutting down all the laneways to the public – shut down access from Lackner and Fairway – only allowed access for approved buses, taxis and staff
- This is not satisfactory
- Proposal: create a bus bay area in the laneway in front of the kindergarten area with gates/barriers which can be opened and closed for the buses. This will create two kiss and cry areas.

- This would allow the kindergarten children to exit the bus and walk directly onto the kindergarten area
- This area will be closed off to the public from 8:30-4:00
- Firetrucks would have access
- This would stop speeding and stop the drop offs in the laneway
- Would stop the darting through traffic
- It will essentially create two kiss and ride areas – the existing one and the other in front of the cottages in the other parking area
- There will be absolutely NO parking in either area (except authorized)
- Looking into a security company doing ticketing for ANYONE who gets out of their vehicle
- Right now we have 14 staff supervising the yards in the morning and nights – this is not sustainable for budgetary issues
- For those children that have special needs, the school will work with families who need accommodation to ensure safe drop off and pick up
- Second kiss and ride around the parking area in front of the cottages
- Might have ticketing for parking in the kiss and ride area (for those people who come at 2pm and park)
- There is negotiation that the condo development will pay for the policing of the laneways
- Condo development will share cost of the snow removal
- The proposed changes for the bus bay area will occur just after March Break
- If your child has an appointment during the day that requires you to pick up the child, you can park on the property if parking is available
- The bus bay will also be used for truck unloading
- The flower beds in the bus bay will be removed except for trees
- Also of note, the original plans and agreement for the school included a pathway at the back of the lot connecting to the Pebblecreek area (onto Country Clair Street) - there are a lot of talks between the Board and the City about this – the City says that they have no intention to do the pathway because it will cost \$1 million dollars because it requires lighting and winter maintenance and it is on fragile lands. The School Board is fighting this because it was in the agreement.
- There is probably going to be a petition going around the community about the pathway
- There is also a good chance that the City will put up the bike barriers for the bike path along Fairway Road – it was part of the conversation
- Looking to pave the mud lot at the end of the parking lot in front of the cottages sometime down the road

VII. **Good Will Committee** – Madison Cox on behalf Brooke Robinson

- We were able to purchase 10 extra long stockings which were stuffed with essentials such as hats, mittens, socks, toiletries and treats, combined with other donations from staff

- These stockings were discreetly given out to students in our Chicopee Hills community
- We also sent out 2 “thinking of you” baskets to some Charger families

VIII. Outdoor Learning Committee - David Linnerth & Lindsay Taylor

- Met with 2 prospect people to provide designs
- Company to create conceptual drawings
- We have selected Lavin Associates
- They have put together an idea of what we are looking for so that we can apply for grants
- The initial draft mock up is available BUT THIS IS NOT THE FINAL PLAN
- Brochure is now completed
- Next phase: campaign presenting the brochure for cash donations
- Have a google document – looking for people who have community or company/corporations that you have a connection with that you think you solicit a donation from, asking that you add the name and information to the Google document
- For larger donations – we prefer a cheque rather than WEFI because there is no transaction fee with cheques as there is with WEFI
- What is now needed is members of council to join a fundraising committee to brainstorm corporations and means of fundraising
- key points to share: the timelines, sponsorship recognition
- if we can reach \$30,000 then we can start to build something this summer
- we have \$1100 in WEFI account towards the project now
- LeeAnn has some money from the building fund which she will contribute
- LeeAnn will monitor where the donations come from and contact the company to ensure they want their names to be advertised
- Looking to expand the committee of people who are interested in seeking out corporate donations
- Will send out pdf copies

Next Meeting: February 25