

Oakenwald Parent Advisory Council (OPAC)

Learning for life in a safe, caring place.

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 16, 2020. 7:00p.m.

Location: MS Teams virtual meeting

In attendance: Andrew Isaacs, Dave Bryski, Crystal Wenden, Barry McKay, Suzanne Miller, Damon Joiner, Tanis Thiessen

- 1. Call to Order:** Andrew called meeting to order at 7:15PM
- 2. Opening and Introductions:** Andrew welcomed everyone and did introductions
- 3. Approval of September Agenda:** Barry made motion, Suzanne seconded to approve minutes and agenda. Motion Passed
- 4. Principal's Report:** Tanis presented principal's report. Detailed student count, COVID-19 staffing update, general staffing update, remote learning, spirit week, and school calendar changes. Recognized additional three planning days were very valuable and acknowledged and thanked parents for their flexibility and support.
- 5. Financial Report:** Barry presented report. Balance is \$7,323.75. Nothing withdrawn or deposited. Discussed pizza lunch refunds. Isaac Motion to approve less than \$250 for staff appreciation, Dave seconded. Motion passed.
- 6. Other Business - Lunch program.** Bettina asking for support from OPAC whether we are offering refunds. After discussion, decided original policy of withdrawing from program applies to current situation. Refunds will not be offered for temporary home learners. Discussed lunch program funding. Funding may run out before end of school year unless funds were borrowed or procured elsewhere. Barry will create short summary of finances and Bettina will provide monthly report to project how long funds will last.
- 7. Short round table discussion:** None presented
- 8. Future meeting:** End of January, 2021
- 9. Adjournment:** Dave made motion at 8:20PM.

Principal's Information Report for OPAC December 16, 2020

1. **Enrolment** – 179 students (down from 183 on September 30).
2. **COVID19 Staffing update** – the division has given Oakenwald School the following supports from COVID19 budget monies:
 - i. 4 hours daily extra custodial support (in place since September)
 - ii. 3.75 hours daily extra EA support (up from 80min in October)
 - iii. 0.25 FTE term teaching support (since November, and will continue thru June)

3. Staffing Updates

- i. our temporary EA support for the K classroom that has been in place since September will be extended through June. Ms. Karen McKay was the successful applicant for this position and we are grateful she has officially joined our staff.
- ii. Ms. Lindsey Jones (grade 2/3) officially began a leave of absence on December 2, for the remainder of the school year. Ms. Micaela Soifer has taken over and has experience teaching at both Linden Meadows and Westgrove Schools in the same grade levels.
- iii. Jennifer Boroski (EA) has been on a leave of absence. We are grateful for the consistent support of substitute EA Ms. Ibrahim.
- iv. We have had one lunch supervisor leave for employment elsewhere, and we have managed to hire a new supervisor who is training this week.

4. **Oakenwald Remote Learning** – We had only 9 families request temporary remote learning for the first two weeks of January. (Divisional deadline for this type of request was December 14, to allow schools to plan staffing and supports.)

5. **Orange Level School Restrictions** – We continue to have 2m distancing in place, with:

- i. Kindergarten in their large homeroom
- ii. Grade 1 in the library
- iii. Grade 5/6 B in the gymnasium
- iv. Grades 2, 2/3, 3/4, 4/5, and 6 each using two classrooms for proper distancing, linked via webcam.

6. **School Calendar Changes** – thank you to parents for your understanding and flexibility as we had two planning days added to our calendar before the break (November 30 and December 11). Our time spent together on those days has been extremely valuable. The third planning day that is an addition to the calendar is January 4, 2021 – no classes that day, students will return on January 5.

7. **Holiday Happenings** – this week continues to be Spirit Week, with lots of our students getting into the holiday spirit with the daily themes. On Friday, we will attempt our first all-school virtual assembly with a live Kahoot quiz game for grades 1-6 classrooms to participate in together. The grade 6 class has also created a radio play out of “The Grinch” which students will listen to tomorrow!