

# Oakenwald Parent Advisory Council (OPAC)

*Learning for life in a safe, caring place.*

## Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 2, 2021. 7:00p.m.

Location: MS Teams virtual meeting

In attendance: Andrew Isaacs, Barry McKay, Dave Bryski, Damon Joiner, Shira, Crystal Wenden, Tanis Thiessen, Suzanne Miller, Rai-Anne Hulme.

- 1. Call to order:** Andrew called meeting to order at 7:05PM.
- 2. Welcome/introductions**
- 3. Adoption of Meeting Agenda and April minutes:** Dave made motion to adopt meeting agenda and April minutes. Seconded by Suzanne.
- 4. Principal's Report – Tanis:** Enrollment up lightly from Sept. Work on updating basement continues. Lunch supervisors have not been laid off, in order to maintain one-supervisor per cohort rule. Trustees provided monetary support to lunch programs that may run out of money, including Oakenwald. Some discussion about lunch program staff levels in fall; still unknown due to COVID. Grade 6 graduation will be virtual. School will begin at 9AM and end at 3:35PM. Highlighted coming and goings of staff for next school year.
- 5. Financial Report – Barry:** \$9,150.67 current balance. A few hundred less after a few items owed.
- 6. Grade 6 farewell - Shira:** Will be done virtually, barring change in restrictions from Manitoba Education.
- 7. Tentative next year executive plan:** Dave, Barry, Andrew, Suzanne will return in some capacity in fall.
- 8. Update on lunch supervisor payroll and fees:** Delaying decision about Munchalunch refunds until it's decided about possible return to school in end of June. No pizza lunch supervisor slated for next year; will be communicated to Oakenwald parents.
- 9. Other business:** Playground slide broken; PTSD considers the plywood covering to be a permanent fix. Suzanne will look into if there is a warranty remaining on the structure. Tanis will contact sales rep.
- 8. Short round table discussion:** Tanis recognized hard work of staff and how it resulted in keeping Oakenwald off the province's COVID case map for the most part this year.
- 9. Future meeting:** Will meet again in September.
- 10. Adjournment:** At 8:05PM

**Principal's Information Report to Oakenwald Parent Advisory Council**  
**Wednesday June 2, 2021**

1. **Enrolment** – 188 (September was 183 students)
2. **Building Update** – significant work has gone on in our crawl spaces, upgrading drainage and improving the areas underneath the east wing of the school over the past two weeks.
3. **Lunch Program Update** – we have not laid anyone off, however with only 20-24 students of critical workers remaining at school, we moved to a one-supervisor-per-cohort model this week. The three most senior lunch supervisors (Ms. Othman, Ms. Brizuela, and Ms. Fernando) remain to supervise students. All pandemic protocols continue to be followed including keeping cohorts separated. As well, the Board of Trustees passed a motion to provide monetary support to lunch programs that may run out of money during this pandemic school year. We are in that situation, anticipating three or four invoices that we will not have funds to pay. I am grateful for the support of the trustees in ensuring our lunch supervisors continue to be paid despite lacking funds in our account during this pandemic year.
4. **Grade 6 Farewell** – will be virtual, on June 28 at 1:30pm. A Teams link will be sent to grade 6 families closer to that date.
5. **School Schedule 2021-22:** School will begin at 9:00 am and *end at 3:35pm* for 2021-22.
6. **Staffing Update for 2021-22:** With June comes planning for 2021-22, and opportunities for teachers. We have a few people who will be leaving Oakenwald for other opportunities, and a few people shifting their roles within the Oakenwald staff for 2021-22. Congratulations to
  - a. Ms. Pauls who will be working full time at Chancellor School next year
  - b. Mr. Joiner who will be working full time at South Point School next year
  - c. Ms. Woytko as she continues her maternity leave next year, and the birth of her daughter at the end of May
  - d. Ms. Jones as she continues her maternity leave through December 2021, returning to Oakenwald in January 2022
  - e. Ms. Murray, who will rejoin us in her roles of Guidance Counselor and School Support Team member next year
  - f. Ms. Kurbis, who will be working full time as a classroom Teacher with us next year
  - g. Ms. Simpson who will become a permanent Teacher Librarian at Ecole Provencher
  - h. Mr. Dzaic, our custodian, who has officially become our permanent Head Custodian.

We will have some new staff members joining us next year, including Ms. Dzik (grade 3/4, while Ms. Woytko is on leave), Ms. Megalaa (K-6 Music), and Ms. Anderson (Teacher Librarian).

With the shift of Ms. Kurbis to full time classroom teaching, we will be placing our French specialist position in alignment with the funding that the province of Manitoba provides – for grades 4 through 6 basic French classes.

Though staffing is partly tied to enrolment, and enrolment may change prior to September 2021, our anticipated class groupings for 2021-22 are:

- Kindergarten (am)----- Ms. Tack
- Grade 1/2 ----- Ms. Green
- Grade 1/2 ----- Ms. Gumprich
- Grade 3/4 ----- Ms. Jones (returns in January from maternity leave)
- Grade 3/4 ----- Ms. Larena Dzik (Erin Woytko is on maternity leave)
- Grade 3/4 ----- Ms. Kurbis
- Grade 5/6 ----- Ms. Mitchler
- Grade 5/6 ----- Mr. Boyd
- French (grades 3/4 & 5/6) ----- TBA (hiring process not yet complete)
- Music ----- Ms. Odette Megalaa (also at River West Park half-time)
- Phys. Ed., Grade 3/4 Social Studies ----- Mr. Belog
- School Support Team ----- Ms. Murray, Ms. DiNella, Ms. Tack, Ms. Mutch (1 day/cycle)
- Teacher Librarian----- Ms. Orela Anderson (1/3 time at Oakenwald, 2/3 time at Acadia)
- Counselor ----- Ms. Murray
- Reading Recovery, Literacy Support ----- Ms. DiNella

The learning atmosphere in the classroom is the first consideration in the formation of class groupings. Classes are organized to maximize learning and teaching opportunities for students. The school team strives to create classes that are balanced in all respects. The following are considered in determining class lists when there is more than one class at a grade level.

- Male/female ratio
- Range of student achievement, abilities and talents
- Twins and siblings
- Special needs students
- Knowledge of friendship needs, social interactions and dynamics for individual students and groups of students
- Student/teacher learning style match
- Placement of students new to Oakenwald
- Approximate equal class sizes at any grade level
- Parental information

While teachers have much of the information required to determine placements, on occasion parents may wish to highlight specific information regarding their child's learning needs and class placement. Parents are asked to trust the decisions made by the school and to be assured that information they have shared has been taken into account, along with all other relevant information. Given support at home and at school, it has been our experience that the vast majority of placements are successful. Parents can assist the class formation process by helping their children to understand the importance of class formation and supporting placements that are made.