

# Oakenwald Parent Advisory Council (OPAC)

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

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 27, 2020. 7:00p.m.

Location: MS Teams virtual meeting

In attendance: Suzanne Miller, Dave Bryski, Andrew Isaacs, Damon Joiner, Shira Wood, Tanis Thiessen

- 1. Call to Order:** Andrew called meeting to order at 7:01PM
- 2. Opening and Introductions:** Andrew welcomed everyone and did introductions
- 3. Approval of September Agenda:** Dave made motion, Suzanne seconded to approve minutes with amendments (add executive member list minus Heather) and agenda. Motion Passed
- 4. Principal's Report:** Tanis presented principal's report. September 30 enrolment at 181, close to the expected 186. Furniture has been moved to accommodate more spacing. Extra staffing hours related to COVID19 budget monies detailed. Thanked parents' flexibility for tri-conferences. Oakenwald remote learning survey results returned 10 requests for remote learning. Orange level restrictions detailed; reorganization ongoing through week. School plan restated. Halloween will be handled on a homeroom basis, no food allowed to be shared. Spoke about change in mask usage. Advised to speak to teachers on case by case basis.
- 5. Fundraising Report – Crystal** unavailable to present
- 6. School lunch update – Shira Wood** presented. On track to deliver lunch in November but Code Orange delayed it happening. Was hoping some money from November could be set aside for charity. Any charity donation to be put on agenda for December to discuss framework be put in place before selecting charity
- 7. Update on tents – Dave** advised tent delivered to Mr Belog by Barry.
- 8. Short round table discussion** - Andrew brought up Manitoba's Excellence in Education Awards. Donna will send out as a monthly email link. Tanis recognized Richard Fless' passing
- 9. Future meeting:** Wednesday, November 25th, 2020
- 10. Adjournment:** Dave made motion at 7:50PM.

### **Principal's Information Report for OPAC October 27, 2020**

1. **Enrolment** – 181 students (we had 183 students registered for September 30 enrolment day)
2. **Building update** – thankful for many staff members, including our hard working custodians, who chipped in to move extra furniture into an 8 foot by 20 foot steel storage unit on our property today. We spent last Friday, some weekend time, and today moving more furniture out to increase distancing possibilities in all spaces.
3. **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. 80 minutes daily extra EA support (in place as of October 26, 2020)
  - iii. 0.25 FTE term teaching support (in place as of November 2, 2020)
4. **Thank You Parents**– thank you so much to all our families for flexibility as we handled tri-conferences via telephone in October. Your ongoing understanding and patience with us as we cope with new expectations during orange restrictions is also very much felt and appreciated.
5. **Oakenwald Remote Learning Survey Results** – Pembina Trails School Division sent out a link to all families on Friday, asking parents to determine if they wished to consider remote online learning for their children while schools are under Orange level restrictions. We have results for 126 out of 181 of our students, with only 10 requests for remote learning. We are very grateful that we can focus our time on in class learners right now, and are working on a plan for those ten individuals which will begin on Monday November 2.
6. **Orange Level Restrictions** – we are using this week to continue to move as close as possible to 2m distancing when seated for all our students. Grade 1 and Ms. Green made the first official move to full 2 metre distancing this morning by taking over the library as their classroom space for the remainder of orange restrictions. We will transition all our classes to 2m distancing over the course of the week, as quickly as we are safely able to do so. We are thankful that we have enough physical space to keep all our students in our building with this 2m distancing requirement. Most of our homerooms will, however, take up two classrooms' worth of space to ensure the proper distancing. We are used to this type of distancing already as we have 2m distancing in place during the eating portion of our lunch hours. All of our spaces - including the multipurpose room, the Library, Music room, French room, and Gymnasium, will be utilized for homerooms and proper 2m distancing. There are many details still to be worked out. We will, as always, continue to do our best to ensure safety, caring, kindness, and learning continues.
7. **School Plan** – because we did not have the opportunity to have last year's school plan come to full fruition with the closing of schools in March, our staff felt that continuing with the same three goals this year was the best way to move forward. We will continue to focus on the following three goals:
  - i. student personal growth including self-regulation, self-confidence, personal ownership, perseverance, resiliency, and mental health.
  - ii. community building activities, while following pandemic protocols, including building positive relationships, diversity and inclusion, conflict resolution, and addressing bullying behaviour.
  - iii. environmental sustainability and ecological literacy.
8. **Halloween** – individual homerooms are handling Halloween conversations with their students. Due to pandemic protocols, we cannot have any food shared (even if purchased).