

MINUTES FOR VIRTUAL SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING DJPS July 3, 2020

Welcome, land acknowledgement.

ADMINISTRATION/TEACHERS REPORT:

Principal Farrelly:

1. There is so much going on in the world today. We wanted to start with an acknowledgement of how difficult COVID19 has been for so many of our families and staff. Each family is dealing with this crisis in their own way. We want you know we are here to support you in any way that we can. **Please consider watching the Sesame Street Town Hall this Saturday on CBC at 10:00 am**
2. **Gift cards** – this is just one way we felt we could help families. The PC Children’s Charity grant wasn’t able to be used this year. We want this money to go back into the hands of our families. Thank you for filling out the survey to let us know if you could use this support
 - 296 responses
 - 42.2 % wish to be considered to receive a \$50 PC Grocery Card
 - We will be doing a second raffle for those who have already signed up to ensure all gift cards get into the hands of families.
3. **Pizza refund** – this is another way we can help support families. Total money depends on what people paid
 - 42.2% wish to donate their Pizza Lunch money (Lynne can speak to this but it will be held til next year)
 - 139 people requesting a refund paid using cash online
 - 7 people require an e-transfer
4. **Parent pick up protocol** – thank you for your patience while we waiting for guidelines from the TDSB, supported by the Ministry of Health, so that we could ensure safety for staff and parents. We fully support any returning students keeping any Library books or text books at home until we reopen. We also fully support families leaving non-essential items at school until we reopen. The gathering of materials is meant for essential items only. For example, if your child left their running shoes at school and you are pretty sure they have outgrown them, we would ask you to leave them at school until reopening. However, if your child is not returning to Davisville, you are welcome to come and pick up your child’s belongings. All personal items left at the school will be set aside for later pickup. We have CUPE staff and administration coming in to support this process. You will be asked to confirm you have done a self-screening prior to entry, you will be required to wear a mask (we have a very, very limited supply to hand out in emergencies), and you will be required to use hand sanitizer on the way in and out. We will be using the main doors on Vaughan Road as our entry and exit point. You will be escorted to your child’s class for pick up and then escorted back to the main door for exit. Please do not bring your child with you

unless absolutely necessary. We need to do everything we can to limit the number of people entering and exiting the school.

- At this time, there are 111 responses; 100 of the responses wish to access the school

- **Q from parent: Where will items go?**

○ **Response:**

- Nothing will be thrown out. They will be placed in bags and labelled.
- Lockers will not be cleared
- Assuming a September return to school: Teachers may bag items on their two days of preparation (Thursday and Friday) or someone will bag the items, before students return after Labour Day.

- **Q from parent:** Perhaps the email could have been clear about the fate of the items and confirm that they were not going to be thrown out, and available in September.

○ **Response:**

- It was noted in the email that was sent out regarding the protocol for pick-up.
- Parents should realize that their children's shoes will not likely fit the students 6 months after schools closed. Erasers and pencils will also likely be tossed.
- Brandon C clarified that all items would be bagged and labelled

○ **Follow-up Q from parent:** The tone of the email was very much that you did not want parents to come to the school to collect personal items – only essential items. Although how you were going to handle the non-essential items may have been mentioned, it was not clear if, where or how items could eventually be picked up.

- R: We would prefer that parents not come to the school in light of the current situation. All items will be kept, packed in bags and labelled.

○ **Follow-up Q from parent:** Walk us through what the first day/week will look like – how are students going to collect their items? Do they first have to go their 2019/2020 classroom on the first day, clear out their items and then find their new classroom? Are lockers going to be cleared? Are personal items such as prescription glasses, dictionaries, shoes (that younger siblings could use), pencil cases, etc. going to be properly bagged and labelled?

- We do not know what September will look like. Teachers will have 2 days to bag items, and we discussed with our custodial staff about placing bagged and tagged items in the hallway so students can collect items. Lockers will not be cleared.

5. **Graduation portfolios** – we have ordered the grad composite portfolios for graduating students. It is unclear if they will arrive prior to the end of June. We will deliver them to the new school if

that is the case. We are working on how to print the diplomas and have them inserted as well. More details will follow.

6. **Graduation** – we are in the process of developing a pre-recorded end of year celebration for our graduates. There are some concerns regarding students in the graduating class that do not have media release forms. We can now confirm that we can do the video but we will need additional permission forms. Watch for those coming.
7. **Field Day** – Staff have worked hard to coordinate a fun week of Virtual Field Day activities. You will be able to sign up on Monday June 8. Activities can be completed throughout the week, and we are happy to report that there will also be Kindergarten appropriate activities.
8. **Jump For Heart** – virtual event will be hosted this year on June 19th.
9. **Wanda B: Kindergarten Virtual Open House** – For new students entering the school in JK or in French Immersion SK. We are working on a welcome to kindergarten students for Davisville, and it should be ready by mid June.
10. **Next year** – Minister Steven Lecce has let the TDSB, and other school boards know, that the EDU will be announcing the school reopening plan before the end of June. We will continue to update you as we learn more.

- a. **Q from parent:** Do we have any stats around the % of students and teachers engaged in synchronous learning? How is the administration monitoring the experience across the grades in an effort to get a better understanding of how we are doing as a school? How are we supporting our staff?

Response:

Brandon C- We do not have those stats.

Shona F - We will note that participation from students has declined in the past few weeks. We have divided the teachers into three groups, allowing for admin to be able to focus on our staff and the education experience by visiting classes and posting messages. We provide feedback as required.

Brandon C – Please note that there are ongoing battles with the Union regarding levels of comfort for teachers.

Shona F – Staff feel uncomfortable inviting students into their homes. There have also been incidences where students and staff have had interruptions during live learning that are uncomfortable as family members are walking in the background, etc. We also meet, virtually, with our staff once a week. This is a stressful time for many, and we have staff on leave.

- b. **Q from parent:** Any thoughts about what a **hybrid model** may look like?

Response: Hard to predict, and we will update when we know more. There is a possibility of a hybrid model for the new school year.

- c. **Q from parent:** Will the students google accounts remain open over the summer for review of school materials?

Response: The school student online accounts will be closed by the end of the year. Any references or instances where educators are reading books for example will be removed, as the license to have these online expires at the end of the school year.

- d. **Q from parent:** What does a **hybrid model** look like with our current **bussing** situation? How would a staggered school day work?

Response: We have no information on how bussing will be impacted. Brandon C will send an email to the transportation department (Kevin Hutchinson) in an effort to get some additional information, if any is available. We will provide information once we receive guidance.

- e. **Q from parent:** We have noticed that the crews are working on our new school build site according to longer COVID-19 hours. We are not complaining – we are pleased that they are doing so. In light of the COVID-19 situation, is it possible to speed things up – we would be fine if they were working 24/7 and that meant that we could move to the new school by Fall 2020.

Response: There have been complaints about the longer hours from some people, your neighbours, who live on Millwood regarding the extended COVID-19 hours. You might remember that we had to shut down in April for a few weeks. We were fortunate that many of the trades were available to return to work soon after the guidelines for construction were lifted. They may also have to work with smaller teams due to COVID-19 restrictions. Trustee Laskin had hoped to provide an update in April to the community, once the contractor had been able to re-assess their progress. However, in light of all that is going on, a community update may have to wait until the Fall. Regular updates are being posted on our website.

Follow-up Q: Bussing costs may skyrocket due to social distancing, is there any way that construction can be expedited by redirecting funds towards a faster completion?

Response: As far as admin knows, they are still on track for April 2021.

- f. **Q from Parent:** Would it not be preferable to have students in the new school as soon as possible, to avoid the bussing challenges?

Response: As far as the administration is aware, the school build is still on track for April 2021 completion. We will keep you posted if any new developments occur. As you can imagine, the new school build is near to our hearts, but not even registering on the radar for the TDSB. The board is working with many stakeholders on many different fronts, and our new school is not that important when weighed against all the other challenges that the board is facing.

CHAIR REPORT:

Financial overview:

- To be completed and posted online following the pizza lunch refund and any expenses that have been accrued over the past few months
- There will likely be additional expenses that may trickle in during the summer, which is expected. (ex. Graduation invoices).

Budget update:

- Items that were budgeted for this school year as well as items that have been requested by teachers before the sudden stop in March will be purchased in August for delivery to the school in September in time for the beginning of the new school year (ex. Tent and accessories, teacher classroom requests).

Upcoming events:

- Davisville Summer tent at the market: although the tent was successful last year in allowing new parents with a point of reference to ask questions, this year the market has gone virtual.
- Games Night:
 - This may be the easiest event to pull together when we, as a society, can organize community events. Timeline to be determined.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Q from Parent: There was a message regarding summer school recently, specifically the French immersion program. We are interested, however, there is not a lot of information on the website. Can you provide some additional details?

Response: There is a link, and it appears that you would need to be registered with a specific school.

Follow-up Q: Yes, we were able to identify our closest school – my question is more along the lines of what will it look like? It appears to suggest that it will be remote learning, possibly moving to in class education. It is not clear which specific topics would be covered, or how it will differ from our current situation.

Response: We will look into it and gather further information.

From admin: Thank you to school council for their work this year. We encourage parents to consider participating with council in September.

Adjournment

Thank you and next meeting scheduled for the last week in September or early October.