

The Stewart School- Parent Council  
Minutes- Monday September 28, 2020

**Present:** Tracy Smith, Melissa Kirk, Nikole Green, Kristi Stead, Stacie Dowdall, Amy Long, Melissa Licari, Heather McQuat, Amy Long, Crystal Reinhard, Rachel Kirkham, Cara Dean,

**Regrets:** Shevaun Down, Erin Feiner, Tabitha Bucholtz-Valliant

1. Principals Report- Stacie Dowdall

- Internet has been intermittent; IT continues to work on it.
- Staffing changes- challenges Courtney Baronette on Mat leave. Andrea Hanmer is at Stewart in am until Mme. Baronette returns. PM position is Annie Scott. Mary Lynn Paul is off, anticipated to be back at the end of November 2020. Shannon Wheeler returned to her role. Office assistance was increased from .25 to .5 Donna Charlan from 12:30-4:00 each day. Great fit for the Stewart School.
- New year is going well, despite the numerous changes and adjustments being made throughout the day- routines, etc.
- Teachers were asked Monday September 21, to deliver 4 models of learning all at once- onsite and classroom. 4 Classes currently doing synchronous (approx. 15 students), 32 asynchronous paper packets, 35 digital asynchronous.
- Attendance numbers are changing often, dependent on testing and return of results. Ministry mandate that if a student is off for more than 3 days, children can join other learning methods. Teachers will work with the family to make it happen.
- 72 absences today, only have 243 students onsite- no confirmed cases at our school
- Fire Drill last Thursday- looked very different than years past. Fire Marshall approved, sounding the alarm. Called classes 3 at a time, to practice the evacuation process. Took about 45 minutes to cycle through the process. Lock down practices will not occur at this time.
- Cleaning onsite has been going very well. Clean bathroom and other high touch surfaces cycles throughout each day, student desks before and after lunch with thorough deep cleans of each classroom at night
- 2 Wellness rooms are being used until pick up happens.
- No community use at the school at this time, to allow for deep cleans, chairs, surfaces during the evening shift

2. Election of roles 2020/2021

- a. Co-chairs: Tracy Smith & Kristi Stead
- b. Secretary: Melissa Kirk & Crystal Reinhard
- c. Treasurer: Nikole Green & Heather McQuat

3. Fundraising- Stacie Dowdall

- a. Not pursuing at this time

4. Update on Parking Lot- Stacie Dowdall

- a. Different ideas being looked at to expand Stewarts parking. Plant is aware and frequently reminded of the need. Staff currently parking on grass and other non parking lot areas
  - b. Want to include more fencing around the annex
5. Update on New Stewart Sign- Stacie Dowdall
  - a. 3 levels of signs. Can upgrade two different levels from the basic to a digital. Stacie to look into pricing
6. Update on Planting Trees
  - a. Nikole Green: spoke with Hillside Gardens twice in May/June 2020. Concerns they had were with watering and care to ensure they remained healthy. Perhaps we could look at a different supplier.
  - b. Melissa was also able to speak with Hillside later in the summer and was able to get pricing for 3 varieties of trees at various price points. Planting cost/watering would be 70.00/tree in addition to the tree price and HST.
  - c. Tracy proposed, seconded by Amy, to double already approved \$1000 parent council contribution to planting trees. Reasoning: lost approx. 4 trees this summer due to Dutch Elm and natural causes. This process to get trees has been extended due to Covid so while we are already in the business of planting trees we might as well double the results. Voted – all approved. New approved budget for tree planting \$2000
  - d. Melissa ordered 4 Lindens, 4 Locusts, 1 Oak from Hillside. With planting fees its approximately \$1991. Scheduling planting ASAP in the evening or weekend. Melissa and Stacie to supervise.
7. Parents Council Insurance
  - a. Passing this year since we are not hosting any events
8. Other business
  - a. Anything council can do to support staff?
    - i. Cara will ask at staff meeting
    - ii. Kristi Stead will LEND Lanark Littles soccer nets to the school for use as Stacie said students were asking for portable nets
  - b. Next Meeting – discuss PRO Grant- Nikole was supposed to move forward with this when initially discussed in March, then COVID hit and extended closure.
  - c. School photos – might happen, more info to come in October
  - d. Homework – will be more digital this year. Staff organizing themselves with PM online, Raz kids, etc . In general, board recommendation is 10min/grade per day
  - e. Recess and Phys. Ed gear back ordered like skipping ropes and hula hoops
  - f. Tuesday Terry Fox Run – wear red
9. To do:
  - a. Treasurer: email FA to determine parent council funds [maria.kuzych@ucdsb.on.ca](mailto:maria.kuzych@ucdsb.on.ca)
  - b. Melissa: Arrange tree planting

- c. Stacie: Have classes adopt trees/schedule for watering?
- d. Stacie: sign pricing
- e. Kristi: arrange with Stacie drop off and return of Lanark Littles soccer nets. Labelling done by ?

10. Next Meeting: November 9<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm on Teams