

The Stewart School
Parent Council Meeting
April 26, 2021

Agenda

1. Principal's Report
2. Financial Report
3. Playground Equipment
4. Magician/Comedian Virtual School Show
5. Staff appreciation activity/gift

In attendance: Tracy Smith; Cara Dean; Melissa Licari; Melissa Kirk; Stacie Dowdall; Kristi Stead; Heather McQuat; Nikole Green; Lisa Couch-Blackburn; Amy Long

1. Principal's Report

- No further information regarding school closure or re-opening
- No timeline for review
- In the midst of planning for the 2021/2022 school year. There will be a decrease of one classroom from this year. From 16 to 15 classes. There was a surplus of 2 staff as a result. Sylvia Smith and Kelly James will not be with us for next school year. In discussions with Jen Sharpe about moving from the Annex back into the school.
- Classes will look the same as this year with cohorts guiding class distribution. Teachers will change classes rather than students moving from class to class.
- If schools are closed again in September or anytime in the next school year non-digital packages will not be offered. Families would need to apply for an exemption to learn non-digitally if this was required.
- Staff are training up on how to do more age appropriate/directed work online instead of requiring students/families to print work at home
- 28 children were doing remote learning prior to the last closure
- This closure, all families who completed the survey for technology received tech. A new addition this closure has been the availability of hot spots as well for families in areas of unavailable or unreliable internet.
- Teachers are finding that the synchronous format yields the most school work returned.
- The Board is not yet asking for a determination for back to school learning until August
- The average junior class size for next year is 27 and 28. There is a grade 6 class of 29. Core classes tend to be smaller than the average, and have more children with special needs.

- Planning has begun for grade 6 transition to PDCI. In previous years students have been able to take a tour of PDCI. Some ideas to do this virtually through an Instagram page and youtube videos
- Beginning to plan Grade 6 year end ceremony. Plans also up in the air due to school closure. If schools re-open may be able to offer two different ceremonies to maintain cohorts. If not, a virtual ceremony can be arranged. Last year Parent Council sponsored a Dairy Queen gift card which was put in with certificates and was well received.
- Plan for inviting new Kinder families in to the school – virtual tours and/or families booking individual tours
- Stacie ordered new sand for the sandboxes in the yard and the play structure has been opened

2. Financial Report

- Parent Council balance is \$ 1, 561.91
- there has been no spending since January 2021

3. Playground Equipment

- Agreed there is not a need to do fundraising for Spring playground equipment
- Scoops purchased for snow play in the winter can be used in the sandboxes this spring
- Stacie purchased a variety of three sports balls per class and 5 skipping ropes. The school has lots of basketballs and soccer balls.
- A local tennis club donated multiple grocery bags of tennis balls which the children are enjoying.

4. Magician/Comedian Virtual School Show

- Heather has as a contact (www.tythemagicguy.com) who could perform a virtual interactive magic show
- This would be a fun change for the children and a nice break for teachers
- Coincides with Youth Mental Health Week
- Suggestions to host 2-3 30 minute shows divided into Kinder, Primary and Junior
- 30 minute show cost is \$ 150.00
- Parent Council vote: all in favour for the show, with Council paying

5. Staff Appreciation/Gift

- Last year cards and cupcakes were gifted from local business Picnic Café
- This year ? plan for onsite versus virtual
- Suggestion for a slideshow via “Flip Grid” asking “What does your Teacher mean to you?” and put out to students to contribute
- June 28, 2021 is a PA day and Teachers will be on site in their class rooms which may be an available day to have an onsite treat for teachers
- Suggestion to inquire with local café North Folk Café as the family has children who attend the school
- Last years’ budget was \$ 200

- Will pend decision on this until next meeting

Next meeting is May 31, 2021 at 6 pm on Teams.