



1) Approval of July 2021 meeting minutes

Approved.

2) Approval of September 2021 meeting agenda

Approved.

3) Equity Committee Update and Plans for National Truth and Reconciliation day

Midori: Admin wishes to focus on indigenous issues this year, starting next week. They have some tangible pieces for students. A number of community initiatives: Midori will put together a list and will share through the blog.

4) Principal's Update: Esme

Sick Kids Pilot project: Students identified as positive or a close contact and Howard has engaged TPH (and nurse investigator). She'll walk through the process and identify the period of communicability and she will determine who we give the kits to. Our kits arrive Sept 27. They aren't rapid tests. Howard collects them and they go back to Sick Kids for analysis. These saliva tests are as reliable as the nasal swabs. Instructions are given regarding how to administer, how to submit and how to obtain results (school is not a part of that).

Last year we had a couple of cases, some were resolved right away and others were a little more complicated. We haven't had any cases this year, the kids are masking well and staying distanced. It's a little more squished in the playground. We always work closely with the daycare but we take direction from TPH as does the daycare. Similar to last year, we have been assigned different nurses.

We have Conor from X Movement joining us. We are taking parent and teacher feedback about how the pandemic disruptions have affected the kids. Our hope is to have an X Movement instructor come to work with kids to talk about self regulation and how to be aware of their moods once TDSB allows in-school visitors. There is a lot of in-person and online programming available to us for admin, teachers and kids at home.

5) Schoolyard Update: Lee Greenberg

Timeline: contract with landscaper calls for the project to end November and includes penalties for late delivery. Board was delayed in issuing a tender. But we are getting a new field that is usable for 11 months/yr.

Second, we heard from parents that we are somehow trailing a similar project at Fern. Fern started fundraising in 2017, we started last Fall. Due to the hard work of Esme and Suzy our project was turned around in record time.

Suzy: initially wanted to leave certain sections open but there is a cost to staging the project in that way. As the construction moves, we are managing with a smaller yard.

- October 30th field will be installed, sandbox in cove, stage, guard rails and hand rails, shed, stone seating, bball system.
- November is asphalt, painting, mulch etc.

We've heard that the construction company has an excellent reputation and has been on time - they worked on Fern.

Question: why is it only usable for 11 months?

Lee: The artificial turf can't be used during ice and snow build up, but the 11 months of use is an improvement over what we had (6 months previously)

Question: Can we get an update on staffing?

Esme: Our class org and teachers did not change at all. We made a plan in June and only 8 kids went to virtual, so we didn't have to adapt that plan. But tomorrow Sept 23 is the day where if we have hotspots and need to reorg, we'll find out tmr. If we do have to reorg, then I will reach out to Council. In primary French, we are 4 students over (one class has 23, should be 19. Another class has 21 and should be 20). They can either give us extensions OR they could give us a new teacher and we re-jig everything.

Question: so we didn't lose or gain teachers but you'll let us know right?

Esme: Correct.

6) Guest Speaker: Conor Dullard (X Movement)

We work with over 150 schools, the closest one being Keele. We've been in Toronto for 12 years. One of our biggest partners is U of T and they've helped us develop parts of our programming. We are really focused on whole child health, but the last 12-24 months has integrated the social and emotional. The method is to start with the experience: the fun. Once we get there, we stop to give them moments to respond to what they are learning. The connection stage is very important where they connect with their peers to talk about what they are learning. Post covid, a lot of our content is online. we want our kids to feel safe and comfortable with themselves especially with so much negativity happening in the world.

Question: As an activist in the community sometimes we talk about active rage, owning that and how to channel that into your activism. Can you talk about your approach? We want them to understand how they are feeling, choose that, and the tools we give them to transition from emotion to emotion. There is no right or wrong emotion; it's how to work with -- armed with activities to bring them where they want to be.

Question: How will these sessions be run? After school? Using videos during class time? Logistics - we work live with the kids. Our "energizers" are limited in person right now but we can work virtually thru zoom, each class at a time. 6 live workshops spread out during the year, and the teachers use the platform throughout the year to support that. Esme: I sent the dates out in school messenger. We are expecting a double vaxxed "energizer", if all goes well, Oct 13, 21 and 28 plus 3 thursdays in March. Right now community engagement booked for April 7th. I've done this at another school and it's so connective, building community.

Question: do the teachers have any sort of mandate or support in terms of how they incorporate? How will the rollout happen within the school?

Esme: We had an X movement rep come out to our last staff meeting, they are currently exploring the resources. They don't have specific mandates, but they are thrilled to see French programming. They want the kids to have the supports they need to be mentally healthy. We are thrilled that Conor has been working with the board for instance with orange shirt day, all the content has been well through out and done in consultation with indigenous leaders, and thoroughly vetted through the tdsb. We invite parents to talk to their kids and also the teachers about how the teachers are incorporating into their lessons.

We are in the process of planning our meet the teacher night for October 6, so it's a great spot to ask the teachers about how it's going.

7) Planning for 2021 - 2022 : Taralyn

In September, we ask if anyone wants to join the Exec. It's a democratic system, and if a parent holds up their hand to join, we add them and we figure out who wants to do which role. So if anyone wants to reach out in the chat or volunteer now, please do that.

Here are the roles:

Chair: Taralyn Fodor

Treasurer: Lesley Brown

Secretary: Sima Gandhi

PIAC: Alice Romo

Health and Safety: Andrea Thomas

Parent Liaison: Jen Johal

Communications: Samantha Rupert

We are really trying to figure out new ways for fundraising. Parent social, silent auction, fall fete were major initiatives which cannot be run right now. We are looking for someone to join us on exec to run this.

Committees currently and in the past:

Technology (Arturo)

Sports (Kathy)

Lee (play yard)

Outdoor Learning (Kat and Kate)

Equity (Midori and Alice)

Arts (Alice Dean)

Stem

Parent Social

Fall Fete

Budget: Lesley

Next month's meeting is traditionally the budget meeting. Also a reminder that committees should reach out to council with budget requests. With the school yard and not being able to fundraise, we don't have a ton of money. So when we are able to fundraise, we will be doing a direct ask. Committees should come to us with specific ideas so that we can fundraise directly in support of those initiatives. Funds are low but we are pushing forward to get some creative fundraising options. We appreciate the community might feel tapped out with the amazing donations to the playground.

Communications: Samantha

Quick run through of the website - it's volunteer run and there have been a lot of changes over the years, but I'm trying to consolidate it. It's in reverse chronological order. Some areas are up to date and others are no longer managed (clubs and teams etc)