

April Meeting minutes:

Executive Committee Business:

- o Motion to approve the minutes from our last meeting: Approved
- o Motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting: Approved
- o Notice of Council Elections

Notice of Council Elections:

Parent / Community Reps:

|                  |                    |                     |                    |                 |
|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Alice Romo       | Alfredo Cabeza     | Sima Gandhi         | Lesley Brown       | Andrea Thomas   |
| Taralyn Fodor    | Samantha Caldicott | Jennifer Goodfellow | Kathy Koch Horvath | Julia De Vuono  |
| Mallory Drysdale | Shauna Rempel      | Maran Stern-Kubista | Paul Dhir          | Arturo Fuentes  |
| Megan Anderson   | Ashley Wood Suzko  | Lauri Riva Wu       | Emily Smith        | Midori Miyamoto |
| Alison           | Kathy Narraway     |                     |                    |                 |

Chair elections: Alfredo Cabeza and Alice Romo are now co-chairs

### Principal update

- Monica is leaving at the end of April – due to board policy prohibiting retired principals from working more than 95 days.
- We will be getting another principal for May and June, and are still searching for a candidate
- There may be some difficulty in finding a principal
- This year we've had tight timelines for staffing
- Last year, we were allocated 21.5 teachers. This year, we've been given 20.5 teachers, but we have a retirement, and a teacher going on a 4 for 5. We have one teacher who is seconded to the board and she's been seconded for another year at the Board level. So we will be hiring 1.5 teachers, but we've lost the 0.5 VP position. Suzy will be leaving at the end of June.
- Board proposed an English 4/5/6 split so we had to apply for 2 exemptions, which were refused.
- We had to make a concession regarding a FI JK/SK split
- We will get a music specialist in Howard (not generalist, instrumental) – Debbie Jonas is doing a 4 for 5 next year.
- We have a lot of activities planned for the rest of the year
  - \$2580 bake sale raised for Red Cross
  - Indigenous medicine garden in the spring
  - Junior students: Medieval times May 13
  - Prologue performance : stories for building bridges (Roksana Khan) May 9
  - Dedication to Eddie Ing for Buddy Bench in May
  - Schoolyard opening
  - Pride Parade June 1
  - Pizza lunch – picnic lunch May and June

- Playday – Mme Maitland is planning this
- Volleyball, softball and track and field (Ms. Ringler will have more details)
- Field trips include public library and science center
- X Movement update: (enhanced version was purchased)
  - Online platform used by less than half the teachers
  - The in person events (3 in the fall, 3 in the spring): junior teachers said kids loved it, it was age-appropriate. Great result from the indoor, in person
  - The community event was not as successful, likely because it was virtual
- Covid learning gaps
  - Academics: the real concern at the Board is at the High School level.
  - Our older kids (5 and 6) : we are sending two of our staff to literacy training to improve the level for the kids
  - Mental health: kids are having a high level of anxiety
  - We see at the kindie level – because of isolation, there are issues in socialization, cooperation, playing
  - Since we are no longer cohorting, we are trying to improve socialization. Outdoor ed and sports will also help, as well as field trips
  - We are working with the social worker at our school to find out how to assist. We have some leadership opportunities, daily announcements, or if there is some assistance needed in the office
  - What type of tools or resources are teachers getting to help identify mental health issues? Has there been greater attention on that, that teachers know that is the expectation?
  - Teachers will come to Team, or to the office and then we'll engage with the social worker. In terms of tools, we'll have to look at this now re funding. But restrictions are just now lifting. You'll see more of these resources coming out again likely next year.
  - We also have teachers and staff who are navigating covid and experiencing anxiety about this
  - Question: any update on right to read?
    - Two teachers are signed up (FI and Eng) for literacy, with the goal of them learning strategies to teach to other teachers (professional development)
    - This is about early intervention and is highly successful
    - This is part of our SIP
  - Will there be more formal screening / interventions as a result of this report?
    - Teachers are required to do diagnostic testing. Above and beyond that, we have Una who works on early reading intervention. We will have more of an update after this in May. And we're doing some things with Math as well.

We are also getting a buzzer for daycare (monitor system) and one for the office.

### **Equity Update (Julia DeVuono)**

- Two main things: workshop for parents on May 17<sup>th</sup> (with the freedom school) with Fern, Garden and Swansea

- Equity committee helping with pride parade and contributing to the library, as well as art supplies in the classroom for banners for the parade

**PIAC / Ward 7 Update: Alice**

- At the Ward 7 meeting: a lot of passionate parents – this will be an ongoing topic
- Robin brought in a speaker to review Right to Read Report
- Robin is not running for Trustee next year
- Renaming of Queen Victoria school
- Update on academic pathways: many schools have started to destream
- PIAC: motion to address the incidents of racism in our ward.

Next meeting: May 25<sup>th</sup>.