

**Sturgeon Heights School  
School Council Meeting  
October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (5:30 to 6:30)**

**Attendees**

Stephanie Cordova – Chair  
Laura Brackett – Vice Chair  
Shannon Requa – Principal  
Kerri Trombley – Vice Principal  
Amy Cornet – Teacher Representative  
Trish Murray-Elliott – School Trustee Sturgeon Valley/ West St. Albert  
April Silvester  
Crystal Belanger  
Melissa Knezacek – Elementary (Grade 4-6) Parent Representative  
Tim VanBruggen  
Cheryl Reiter – Pre-K and Kindergarten Parent Representative  
Emily Gilbert  
Lyndsey Baron  
Lisa Rosales  
Sarah Townsend – Primary (Grade 1-3) Parent Representative  
Lisa Zureski  
Greg Hebb – Jr. High (Grade 7-9) Parent Representative (position shared with Carla Bodez not in attendance on date of meeting)  
Catherine McQuade – Secretary

**Approval of Agenda**

Move to accept agenda – Cheryl Reiter  
Second – Laura Brackett

**Approval of Minutes (September 28th, 2020 AGM meeting)**

Roles were still being determined and no minutes were taken.  
Stephanie Cordova and Shannon Requa committed to reviewing their notes and putting together minutes from the September meeting to share at the November meeting.

**ACTION ITEM** – Stephanie Cordova and Shannon Requa will share meeting minutes at November meeting.

## **Administrative Report – Shannon Requa**

### **i) COVID 19 case**

One identified case of COVID 19 with no school transmission. One day of possible exposure. One classroom will be isolating until end of the week. (week of October 19<sup>th</sup>)

Staff and custodial staff will continue to follow intentional and enhanced protocol. School will continue to follow provincial, school division and school-based safety measures.

Shannon stated that communication with AHS and parents enabled the ability to receive information about the case quickly. Shannon stated that the parents have been great communicators.

Shannon reported that she has been working off site due to a sinus related cold and thanked Kerri Tremblay for all the work she has done in responding to the case. Shannon advised that there is importance in maintaining cohort groups and keeping cohorts separate. Staff to staff communication can also be a potential point of transmission. School staff will continue to keep up the details around cleaning protocol and hand hygiene.

### **Online learning while away sick from school**

The question was raised around what the protocol is for teachers/student when the student needs to miss school because of a cold (not COVID) or COVID. Shannon advised that the parent/student can reach out via email or Google Classroom with to the teacher. The amount of work that would be expected would be based on the sickness level of the children. Mild illness would be more work and work would come directly from the student's teacher.

### **ii) School Council Executive**

Shannon advised that she is pleased with the active parent body and that it is important to her as school principal.

Review of School Council Executive see below.

Stephanie Cordova - Chair

Laura Brackett - Co chair

Catherine McQuade – Secretary

Cheryl Reiter - Pre-K and Kindergarten Parent Representative

Sarah Townsend - Primary Parent Representative

Melissa Knezacek - Elementary Parent Representative

Carla Bodez and Greg Hebb - Jr. High Parent Representative (see below)

Shannon advised that the only position that was not filled was the Jr. High parent representative. Melissa Knezacek advised that Carla Bodez, previous Jr. High Parent Rep, would be interested in continuing in the role but could not commit to attending every meeting but would pass on any information to School Council through Melissa. Greg Hebb also put his name forward for Jr. High Parent Rep. Both parents welcome to serve as Jr. High Parent Rep. together. Carla Bodez and Greg Hebb will be Jr. High Parent Rep.

Kerri Tremblay added that she feels the support of the parents and is happy with school council team.

### **Roof**

A question was raised around what is occurring with the roof. Shannon advised that the project is a capital project through the school division. Workers have had kind interactions with the children. Project should take 4-5 weeks.

### **Halloween**

A question was raised around what Hallowe'en will look like this year. Shannon advised that all students are welcomed to dress up as long as the costumes are not violent, gory and have no weapons and that they do not impact learning throughout the day. There will be class based activities. Some classes will be watching a Hallowe'en movie. Amy Cornet advised that the kindergarten classes usually do a parade to show off their costumes, but not this year. Kerri Tremblay advised that there is joy and excitement among the teachers as they plan special activities for the students.

## **Trustee Report – Trish Murray-Elliott**

- i) **Rural Internet** – Trish shared that the Board of Trustees met with Sturgeon County around concerns with rural internet and trouble connecting. The county is reportedly working on the issue and doing surveys around residents' issues as some have access and some do not. Trish shared that many areas of Sturgeon County are too close for remote funding but too far to connect to high speed. School council is looking at options.  
Lisa Rosales express concerns regarding rural internet connections and how it impeded online learning for her children and many others. Lisa recently did a piece with CBS news and the St. Albert Gazette about the rural internet access issue. Lisa shared that according to the CBS investigation the concerns need to go back to the school trustees in the area. The government has backed out of the responsibility and the internet providers have no intention of expanding their towers. Lisa advised that it is her understanding that the surveys with residents have been completed

with residents for the last 4 years to no avail. Lisa advised that she has spoken with the managers of the internet providers and they have no intention of putting up more towers.

Tim VanBruggen shared that Xplornet is available in Sturgeon County but prefers Telus wireless internet. Lisa advised that Xplornet's prices are unreasonably high and they cannot guarantee service. If there is an Atlantic storm you lose all connection and there is no reimbursement for no service. Lisa advised that Arran Tech was mentioned in one of her radio pieces but after looking into it they don't reach her area. Lisa advised that the government keep saying that it is the responsibility of the school trustee. Telus has denied any new internet accounts in the area.

Trish advised that she had not heard that the government has been saying that it is the responsibility of school trustees but will look into this further.

**ACTION ITEM:** Rural internet to be revisited again at November meeting. Trish and Lisa asked to bring any new information with them to the November meeting to share.

- ii) **Draft calendar** – Trish advised that a draft calendar for next year school year 2021-2022 was sent to all School Council Chairs. Trish requested that School Council take a look at the calendar and provide feedback. Example of feedback, moving a PD day to be on a Friday before a long weekend would create a four day weekend.

**ACTION ITEM:** Stephanie will send draft calendar to School Council. School Council to review and provide any feedback.

iii) **Council of School Councils**

This is an opportunity for the Board and School Councils to meet. Last year there was a dinner. This year, due to COVID 19 safety measures, there will a vital meeting on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Leaders of School Council encouraged to attend

**ACTION ITEM:** Determine who will be attending Council of School Councils to represent SHS.

iv) **Lagoon Litigation**

Trish advised that there has been no changes. Parent member asked for overview of the Lagoon Litigation. Trish provided overview and advised that she will provide updates as they become available. Trish advised that monies to pay for court fees comes out of the operations budget.

**Teacher's Report – Amy Cornet**

Amy shares this role with teacher, Kasie Hoffman and will alternative months. Amy acknowledged parental support with the situation of COVID-19. No further information to share.

**Old Business** – no old business was identified

**New Business** – no new business was identified

**Parent Representative Reports****Cheryl Reiter – Preschool/Kindergarten**

Pre-K students are making new friends and getting used to what it is like to be at school.

Kindergarten students are exploring the forest, drawing with lots of detail and will be learning more about letter sounds and letter formation.

**Sarah Townsend – Primary**

Sarah advised that parents are wondering what the expectations are around teachers posting on Seesaw. Shannon Requa advised that she is open to taking back the question to the Pre K to grade 2 teachers.

Shannon advised that the expectation is that Pre K to grade 2 are using Seesaw as a communication tool. The expectation is that grade 3 has flexibility between Seesaw and Google Classroom.

Shannon acknowledged that teachers are adjusting to new teaching style and routine and they will need to strike a balance in adjusting and communicating.

Sarah advised that parents have questions around if Parent/Teacher Interviews will be in person or virtually. Shannon advised that P/T interviews will be virtually. If parents are not able to join virtually other arrangements can be made. Communication will be sent home with online booking instructions.

**Melissa Knezacek – Elementary**

Melissa advised that she received no emails from parents and has nothing to add. Melissa advised that she feel that grade 4-6 Google Classroom is going well.

**Jr. High Rep – Parent Representatives confirmed** at this meeting. Carla Bodez and Greg Hebb will be Jr. High Parent Representatives. Nothing to report for this meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:** Shannon Requa to revisit Seesaw expectations with Pre K to grade 2/3 teachers.

#### **Parent Fundraising Association**

Crystal Belanger, chair of PFA had to excuse herself from meeting. Melissa Knezacek shared update from PFA meeting and current fundraising efforts.

- Gift card fundraising
- “No brainer fundraiser” – option to donate directly to PFA
- Purdy’s Chocolates
- Christmas Poinsettias and Wreaths

**Next meeting** – Monday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5:30pm, meeting will be virtual. Shannon advised that School Council will attempt to have in person meeting in the New Year.

**ACTION ITEM:** Shannon Requa to send link for November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Catherine McQuade