

Sturgeon Heights School

School Council Meeting

November 16th, 2020 (5:30 to 6:30)

Attendees

Stephanie Cordova – Chair
Laura Brackett – Vice Chair
Shannon Requa – Principal
Kerri Trombley – Vice Principal
Kasie Hoffman – Teacher Representative
Trish Murray-Elliott – School Trustee Sturgeon Valley/ West St. Albert
Crystal Belanger
Melissa Knezacek – Elementary (Grade 4-6) Parent Representative
Cheryl Reiter – Pre-K and Kindergarten Parent Representative
Lisa Rosales
Sarah Townsend – Primary (Grade 1-3) Parent Representative
Lisa Zureski
Maurie Hornland-Grueler
Catherine McQuade – Secretary

Review of Agenda

Additions to Agenda - none

Approval of Agenda

Move to accept agenda – Laura

2nd – Crystal

Approval of Minutes (October 19th, 2020)

Move to accept minutes – Cheryl

2nd - Laura

Administrative Report – Shannon Requa

i) Budget account 2020-2021

Total teachers 21.4 FTE (approximately .5 counselling and .6 Vice Principal).

10 support staff, 3 for Pre-K, 5 for K to 9, 2 in the office/library/media tech

Decreased in total staffing (EAs and Teachers) by 18 from last year mainly due to decrease in Early Childhood Education Programs (SHS offered 6 Pre-K classes last year including Head Start and Preschool Enrichment Program and are down to 2 small classes this year). School wide enrolment generally stable, with the exception of approximately 30 students accessing online learning.

\$115,649 programming budget (base allocation – this is the amount available for all resources this year)

\$189,909 total operating budget (includes predicted school revenues from fees)

Operating budget included \$35,000 worth of fees collected. SHS will not be collecting these fees nor fees for Sports Academy or most option fees. Additionally, SHS are not collecting basic school fees this year.

Shannon advised that there is no carry forward and budget is frozen. As a result, PFA is so vital as so many needed items are purchased with fundraising dollars collected through PFA's strong efforts!

Shannon advised that currently there are no capital projects that the school is saving for.

- i) Parent Teacher Interviews** – Shannon reported that over all the parent teacher interviews went well virtually with only a few technical difficulties. There has been positive feedback from teachers and parents.

- ii) Remembrance Day** – Remembrance Day observance looked a lot different this year as the school was unable to gather in the gym together. A special thanks to Mrs. Cornet, Mrs. Trombley and Mrs. Tighe who worked hard to

put together a virtual program that could be observed from individual classrooms.

- iii) **Positive Behavioural Supports** – Teachers are looking for ways to increase positive behavioural supports and increase the sense of community in the classroom. Students are working towards classroom goals and finding ways to celebrate! Teachers and students are finding ways to work towards “team” rewards rather than individual student rewards and having fun at the same time. Mrs. Trombley shared the work the students are doing in grade 7 and that they worked towards an ice cream party. Students had two assignments over two weeks that needed to be completed prior to the ice cream party. Mrs. Tremblay reported that the students rose to the challenge and had fun working together as a team.

Trustee Report – Trish Murray-Elliott

- i) **Council of School Councils** – Stephanie joined in as School Council Chair from SHS. Other School Council chairs spoke about the lack of parent engagement. Stephanie shared with the other school councils the high level of parent engagement at SHS School Council. Both Stephanie and Trish expressed how proud they were to be part of SHS and the great support of parents and staff.
- ii) **Rural internet** - Trish had a conversation with Lisa Rosales around the amount of people in rural areas having such poor internet connections even close to St. Albert. Trish encouraged parents to bring up the issue to anyone of influence in the county, when they have the opportunity. Federal government has a plan to support rural internet but the impact of these changes may not be realized until 2026.
- iii) **COVID response funding** - \$900,000 was the amount received by Sturgeon School Division in September 2020 from the Federal Funding Safe Return to Class Fund. These monies are to assist in costs incurred for PPE and staffing/substitute teachers. (Monies were given to schools from the Provincial Government after the announcement was made by the Federal Government so school could access the funding promptly). Sturgeon School Division is to receive another \$900,000 from the Federal Government in January for a total of \$1.8 million from this initiative.

Trish commented on the good work students and parents are doing at following protocols around COVID as this has helped to stop the spread in schools. Trish commented that many school boards are struggling. Thanks to parents for being careful and keeping kids home from school when kids are not feeling well.

A parent advised that teachers have been asking for Lysol wipes and inquired if monies from the initiative could go towards purchasing wipes. Another parent commented that it is difficult to even find wipes. Trish advised that they would be covered under funding. Shannon added that every room has disinfectant that aligns with provincial standards. Lysol wipes are a nice to have item, more convenient and faster than spray bottles with disinfectant and paper towel, but still meet the need.

A parent also advised that students need to use school supplied hand sanitizer when they enter the school and then again when they enter their classroom. The parent asked if their child could use their own hand sanitizer due to eczema. Shannon advised that there is a provision for students who have sensitivities that they can use their own hand sanitizer as long as it meets provincial standards. Shannon requested that the parent email the teacher to advise and if any issues arise to connect with Shannon.

- iv) **Draft calendar for 2021-2022 school year** – 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 review 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: Draft calendar will be sent to School Council members. School Council to review and provide any feedback.

Teacher's Report – Kasie Hoffman

Kasie advised that Remembrance Day presentations took place in individual classrooms and went well.

Grade 1 to 6 students having fun with *Pound Fit*, (exercise routine using drumsticks). Students are also enjoying, *Just Dance*. These activities have provided a fun alternative to gym time. Students have also done some snow shoeing.

Teachers are excited about putting forward proposals to PFA. A parent commented that it would be good for parents to hear about what is being purchased with the PFA monies. Minutes of PFA are posted on SHS website and contains information about purchases and fundraising.

Kasie commented that the students appear to be happy to be back at school.

Old Business – No old business was identified.

New Business – No new business was identified.

Parent Representative Reports

Preschool/Kindergarten - Cheryl Reiter

The teachers passed along a thank you to the parents for their support and cooperation regarding Halloween this year and the new rules. The day went great and the kids enjoyed it. Teachers also passed along a thank you to the parents for the huge turn out to online parent teacher interviews and for their patience as they worked through technical issues.

Primary - Sarah Townsend

Feedback from parents is that they are enjoying social media engagement this year, across all platforms. Parents appreciating quick updates from Twitter and Facebook.

Comment brought forward that the staff directory on-line is not up to date. Shannon advised that she was directed last year to remove directory and that is the reason why it is not updated.

There was a discussion around the path behind the school being decorated for what will be called, *Christmas in the Park*. A local Jr. High student is getting businesses to sponsor the winter walk. People can do a digital donation for, *SAIF Society*. Companies are also donating. Shannon advised that she has a connection with the youth who is organizing and will provide an update as to what part SHS can play.

Elementary - Melissa Knezacek

No information to share as no feedback from anyone.

Jr. High Rep – Carla Bodez and Greg Hebb

Jr. High representatives were not present at meeting. It was shared that Carla Bodez will not be able to continue to be the Jr. High Representative.

Parent Fundraising Association – Crystal Belanger

Fundraisers going well. There was mix up with the closing date with the poinsettias. PFA approved the purchase of 2 more chrome book carts, which hold and charge the school owned chrome books. PFA monies also went to improve equipment/supplies for Ms. Donald's for gym classes. Any teachers that want to send request are welcome. Crystal also advised that there are some items that were approved last year that still need to be purchased.

No brainer fundraiser new this year. Any amount of money can be donated to PFA email to e-transfer straight into PFA account. Receipts will be provided.

Another parent advised that their employer supports staff in volunteering in their community and will make a monetary donation based on hours of volunteer service. Parent inquired if SHS is a register charity. Shannon and parent will talk further to figure out what information the parent's employer needs in order to make a donation.

Next meeting – January 18th, 2021 at 5:30pm.

ACTION ITEM: Shannon Requa to send link for January 18th meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Catherine McQuade