

## AMETHYST SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

### Zoom Meeting

February 9, 2021

**Present:** Selwyn Hicks                      Barbara Hicks                      Dawn Poole                      Chris Poole  
Jennifer Schurter                      Laura Smith                      Candy Ribey                      Tracy Bennett  
Michelle Grant                      Lisette Duarte                      Shari Campbell                      Heather Rogan  
Christa Mitchell                      Amanda Kerr                      Val Collins                      Phill Bradbury  
Michelle Neuman                      Jennifer Latta                      Karen Coutts                      Andrea O'Donoughue  
Sara Middleton                      Sherry Eacrett                      Sean Gregory                      Delanie Zettler  
Melissa Baidoobonso

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – Selwyn Hicks

2. **Previous Minutes**

- Minutes from the November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 meeting were reviewed; motion was made to approve; Heather Rogan approved and Andrea O'Donoughue seconded motion; Motion carried.

3. **Residence** - Delanie Zettler

- Continuing with homework time - 2:45 - 5pm; every day from 4:30 - 5 there are activities planned; dinner is at 5pm
- Parents have been sent a list of activities being offered for February; activity lists will be sent home monthly
- Social skills session held once a week; February's topic is communication; Students are learning about nonverbal communication, different perceptions of the same topic, clear communication, and listening skills. The character development for the month of February is respect, we will continue to discuss respectful action and words with students throughout the month.
- In the evenings, Residential students have been playing Covid safe games, arts and crafts, mindfulness, and participating in outdoor activities
- Masks are worn outside unless kids are a great distance apart
- Looking forward to continuing a successful year!
- Feel free to email with any questions or suggestions - [delanie.zettler@ontario.ca](mailto:delanie.zettler@ontario.ca)

4. **Principal Report** - Sean Gregory

Enhanced Covid Protocols:

- Continued daily student screening being done at home or in residence
- Secondary screener confirmation is required daily starting Feb. 10; Students have been shown how to access the screener using their device and how to show the teacher, with a screen shot, each morning; teachers then verify with the office
- All staff must sign in daily and also confirm screener completion
- All sites are required to submit verification daily

- Masks - students must now wear masks outside; they can take it off, if need be, if they distance themselves from their peers
- Students are hand washing/sanitizing regularly and are not to congregate
- Expectations will be reviewed regularly
- Kids are doing quite well with all the protocols

#### SHS - Return to School Procedures:

- If a student is not feeling well, screener is done at SHS; parents will be contacted
- Parents are asked to be sure to follow the protocol required by SHS - Covid Test and 24-hour waiting period afterwards

#### Covid Testing:

- Target testing will be done in schools; PDSB will be using ID NOW; this is a rapid test with results within 15 - 20 min.
- Testing is for asymptomatic students who have signed parental consent; swab from inside nose or throat
- If students test positive, they would be put in an isolation room, parents contacted and must be picked up immediately
- Students who receive a negative test will receive a paper confirmation of results
- Thank you to everyone for their patience and efforts through remote learning period; this can be very frustrating and stressful
- Elementary Term 1 Report Cards / Secondary Semester 1 Report cards will be going home on Feb. 12; Secondary students will also receive their course calendar and credit counselling summaries for second semester; Course recommendations were sent home before Christmas
- Completed IEPs will be sent home prior to the March Break
- Grade 8 - 10 Secondary school registrations for Sept. 2021 need to be completed; please be sure to contact your child's home school to ensure this is completed; send in a copy of the registration to your child's home room teacher; this helps prepare for the transition meetings being held in the spring; contact Bonnie Grace if you have any questions or concerns
- EQAO – OSSLT (Literacy Test) Spring 2021 schedule sometime between March - May for Amethyst Gr. 10 students.

#### PCLD Update:

- Consultants visited with applicants at various locations over the lockdown
- Interviews for applicants will be held remotely in the spring (same as last year – Spring 2020)
- We have not received any information regarding a second year being offered to current 1<sup>st</sup> year students; We would inform you immediately if information is received in this regard
- At this stage the number of applicants is not exceeding our max of 40 students

#### Fundraising Update:

- School Council received a generous donation from Mr. Grant's employer, Investors Group
- School council account has just over \$3,400; Funds from the Council Account will be used to cover the cost for yearbooks for last year and this year
- We will not be doing our Silent Auction this year; fundraising must be done with a goal in mind and we do have enough to cover the yearbook expenses
- Back ordered spirit wear items should be arriving this week

#### Student Leadership Council:

- Ms Dalzell and Mrs. Vincent will be organizing the Elementary and Secondary Student Leadership Councils; will give students the opportunity to develop leadership skills, organize activities, plan meetings, spirit days; it will provide a student voice within our community; there will be a few reps from each class; begins February 15

#### Open Gym Time:

- Mrs. Vincent will offer open gym time at lunch for sport activities at lunch; kids will be able to participate in badminton, volleyball, basketball, etc. Elem. and Sec. cohorts will be held separately

#### Recognition Night:

- Unfortunately we will not be able to hold an in-person Recognition Night this year; In past years, Recognition Night has been an evening event to celebrate each student and recognize their accomplishments, followed by a small social
- Last year was done virtually and it will most likely be held this way again this year
- If you have any thoughts or ideas on how to hold this, please submit your ideas to Mr. Gregory

#### Upcoming Parent Engagement:

- Mental Health and my Child, Feb. 26, 6pm - please email Melissa Baidoobonso with any questions
- It Takes a Village - CSCN, Mar. 2, 6:30pm - London Catholic and Thames Valley
- Technology Tips, March 23, 6pm (Katie Guild); Parents can meet with Katie for Tech Support on Tuesdays from 3 – 5 pm; to make an appointment, contact Katie at [guildka@pdsbnet.ca](mailto:guildka@pdsbnet.ca)
- OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program), Spring 2021 -
- Parents have requested a session with Dr. Segal, and he is looking at some possible dates
- These are optional and not mandatory for parents to attend

#### Upcoming Dates:

- Family Day - February 15
- March 12th is a PD Day
- March Break March - We have not received any work as to whether this may be cancelled, we would advise you immediately. \*UPDATE - the break has been postponed by the Ministry; Break will now be held April 12 - 16

- April 2 - 5 - Easter Weekend; students return home April 1 and classes resume April 6

Food Services:

- We have a new Food Service Provider; we have been receiving a lot of positive feedback from the students
- Snack includes fresh fruit daily
- Snacks and lunches are individually packaged
- Any items that are not eaten have to be thrown away, but kids can take any leftover snacks with them for snacks in the evening

Student Evaluations:

- Lexia progress is shared with students regularly; each class may do it a little differently; Lexia progress is celebrated at each Friday Meeting
- Reading data will be sent home after the March Break; this process is not mandated by PDSC and is not done at all sites
- If there are specific reading data items you would like the teacher to explain to your child, please contact them directly
  
- L. Duarte was asking about the process to access Social Work Services. Melissa noted that teachers, counsellors, parents and students can contact her directly; Melissa meets with students weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly. [Melissa.Baidoobonso@ontario.ca](mailto:Melissa.Baidoobonso@ontario.ca)

5. **Dorm Update** - Johnnie VanHappen, Logan, Sydney and Bronson

- 2021 school year started off with remote learning; it was an adjustment, but teachers had virtual classrooms ready and made kids feel like they were at school; residence counsellors had homework help time available every day
- Held some virtual Bingo and Mindfulness sessions
- Dorm parties were a great chance to connect and laugh
- happy to be back in school

Some fellow students' thoughts and advice on remote learning:

- Chance to learn new things
- Do not fall asleep
- You get to be too comfy
- Do all your work
- Wear headphones
- You don't have to wear socks
- You don't have to wear masks
- Keep workspace clean
- Use phone reminders and schedules

6. **Adjournment** - Selwyn Hicks

- Mr. Hicks thanked everyone for their input and for attending
- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Karen Coutts and seconded by Delanie Zettler

**Next Meeting Date: April 27, 2021 – 5:30pm via Zoom**