

LE PHARE ELEMENTARY

# SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

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21 SEPTEMBER 2021 / 7:00-9:00 pm Virtual

## ATTENDEES

Marianna Connors

Sherwyn Solomon

Caitlin MacIlveen

Steve Chapman

Soukaina Baghdad

Peggy Sun

Tanya Thomas

Jaya Gupta

Sam Neale

Bonny Butt-Stone

Rachelle Parlee

Nicole McCann

Ashley Maltais

## AGENDA

- 1) Round table meet and greet.
- 2) Principal's Update by Sherwyn & Caitlin
  - ❖ Updates on Covid protocols (limiting contact and therefore spread between children where possible with contact tracing, sign out for washroom usage, kids playing in certain cohorts, bus seating plans). To date, there have been two isolated cases that were

handled very well. Sherwyn outlined the protocols in place for when the school becomes aware of a positive case.

- ❖ OSTA busing – parents should opt out of busing if they are driving their kids only as if there is a Covid case, Ottawa Public Health (OPH) will be contacting you, and your kids will have to isolate at home for a period of time.
- ❖ Chapters Fundraiser (Ogilvie location) is going well as funds are being raised for Le Phare.
- ❖ A “Heart Garden” will be made in front of the school in honour of Truth and Reconciliation Day.

### 3) Update on Finances by Marianna

A motion will be put forward to have money motions and other voting measures in a virtual platform via emails as needed so that more people can provide input on various issues. Council recognizes that meeting times may be prohibitive to some parents/guardians’ attendance. The aim of this new measure is to encourage maximum participation from interested parents/guardians while recognizing that meetings can be attended where possible (in part or in full) and that valuable input can be sought via email as well.

Many years Council is able to a=fundraise up to or above \$20K (via Monster Mash, school lunches, and other large events). Last year, due to COVID, we raised approx \$7K. We were able to spend additional funding from funds carried over from the previous year (from 2019–2020, when COVID occurred and spending halted unexpectedly). This year, we will aim to be prudent, and to raise funds with deliberate cost or purchase in mind (e.g. via Auctria). We also have principles in place to protect 10% of funding raised for community/family supports. Another 10% has been historically set aside to eventually replace the climber. Most families through the family survey indicated a willingness to raise funding through a variety of formats and methods. Budget planning at our next meeting will help Council anticipate costs and revenues for this year. Le Phare has been very fortunate to raise high volumes of funding in past years and support the school.

### 4) Council Roles

Council confirmed 9 new members (11 members total) based on the criteria that “members” do not need to be present at all meetings – partial attendance at Council meetings is acceptable and meeting times and dates may rotate to accommodate everyone’s busy schedules.

Council attendees filled out the “Participant (Member) and Election” form to give feedback on where they would like to help. The following positions were determined, which will further be confirmed by a confidential election ballot to be done using the electronic form later this week.

So far the positions are as follows:

Marianna and Jaya – Co-Chairs

Treasurer – (possibly Jaya and/or Lana Parris – **TBD**)

Ashley & Nicole – Co-secretaries

[Subsequently confirmed via Principal Solomon’s election ballot counting]

#### 5) Family Survey

Marianna went over the results and trends of this survey which was distributed to the wider school community early September. The survey was effective in understanding the Le Phare community’s feelings on Back to School and overall thoughts on involvement in the school community.

The following feedback is noteworthy:

- Overall, many families are eager to get back to in-person events.
- Communication between teachers and parents/guardians could improve.
- Parents and guardians are most interested in raising funds/spending money on the school yard, support for French Immersion, Literacy and STEM.
- Meetings and a lack of time/energy appear to be a barrier to School Council participation.

#### 6) Lunch Program

Due to Covid-19 and protocols in place, the lunch program cannot be offered at this time.

#### 7) Grade 5 Garden

Building a garden outside (back) of school yard in honour of Grade 5s who graduated from Le Phare is possible this year, as long as the numbers of adults / students working in that space are limited at any one time (Covid protocols). Bonny has volunteered to source the garden materials and plants using approximately \$500 of Council funds.

#### 8) Fundraising

Loonie Lundis might be a viable fundraising idea. Sherwyn will look into this as typically Covid protocols in schools involve going cashless at this time.

#### 9) "Get to know your teacher" Google form.

Council members and the "Friends of Council" - via email distribution list, are asked to send in questions they think their kids would want to know about their teachers. This will be a fun way to build communication between teachers and families and help students get to know the staff better.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- Council to vote on Council positions via Confidential virtual ballot.
- Council to send in questions for the "Get to Know Your Teacher" project.
- Start Grade 5 garden project.

### **NEXT MEETING**

October 19, 2021