

LE PHARE ELEMENTARY

SCHOOL COUNCIL

19 October 2021 / 7:00 - 9:00 pm / Virtual

ATTENDEES

Ashley Maltais

Sherwyn Solomon

Marianna Connors

Bonny Butt-Stone

Lana Parris

Paula Rosenquist

Jaya Gupta

Caitlin MacIlveen

Sam Neale

Steve Chapman

Victoria P

Rachelle Parlee

Emilia Illes

Peggy Sun

Caroline Paterson

Tanya Thomas

Nicole M

Emma Falk

OPENING REMARKS

Welcome to all, and acknowledgement that the school is situated on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishnaabeg People.

AGENDA TOPICS

Principal's Update

Le Phare lost one teacher due to school population adjustment (now at 330 students) which affected other classes and resulted in shuffling students within various classrooms. For future re-organizations, Sherwyn will aim to have better communication to parents on those staffing changes.

Meet the Teacher is this Thursday evening 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm. The schedule includes an introduction by Sherwyn followed by individual classroom teacher presentations for 20 minutes. Parents can virtually tune in to 2 classroom visits, followed by closing remarks by Sherwyn.

Progress Reports come out early November, which is feedback based on a "snapshot" in time, as opposed to fulsome feedback given in report cards.

Progress reports will be followed by parent teacher interviews - Wednesday November 10th, 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm and Friday November 12th 9:00 am -11:30 am. As November 11th is Remembrance Day, no interviews will be held on this day. Interviews will be held virtually. Teachers will be sending out further information to families with their scheduled time.

There is a change to the school's "Acceptable Use of Technology Policy" coming. Parents can review it and submit ideas via a Google form. Marianna can also filter comments and pass them on to Sherwyn.

Monique Melonche came to speak to Le Phare staff regarding "Indigenous culture and students and equity in the school" and what that means. A key focus is on educating students, ensuring that graduating rates for all student groups are high, (for all races, ethnicities etc.) to reduce the deficits and meet the needs of our most vulnerable learners - those with IEPs, indigenous, black and other racialized youth.

Paula Rosenquist - School Librarian

Thanks for the support for the fundraiser! Over \$6000 was raised for the library, hooray! The money raised must be spent at Chapters on books. Families can put forward ideas to their teachers so Paula can consider those choices when making purchases, so children are reading on topics they are interested in which truly boosts literacy.

Paula is seeking to improve the equity and diversity of the book collection. Sherwyn will advertise the virtual library option and that students can request certain books, in his next communique going home.

Lana Parris - Treasurer's Budget Update

Lana went over the great impact that last year's spending had on students, despite a rather low fundraising year due to Covid. Last years' amounts were approximately \$6 800 in income and \$12 000 in expenses. The opening cash balance for September 2021 was \$10 000. About 24 percent of the revenue came from the Auctria fundraiser. To clarify, a higher opening balance was possible because Council was able to carry forward more money given that in March 2019, activities stopped so money was therefore not spent on certain expenses (End Of Year Picnic etc.). Council strives to strike a balance between having a healthy buffer of funds that stays in the account, while also trying to spend money in the year that it was raised.

This year Council is seeking creative solutions for fundraising ideas, especially given the lunch program is not being run again this year, which is a main source of income for Le Phare.

Council discussed ideas for fundraisers and social activities:

- Booster Juice gift certificates
- Auctria - pick a few goals / items to raise money for, and do a few free events for parents (ie. one purely social, one more educational)
- Create craft kits and do a craft exchange among families
- Show shoe stompathon
- Scientists in the classroom (done last year, was a huge success)

In summary, Council feels that not every event needs to be attached to bringing in funds. In addition, it is most efficient to aim for big impact events and less of them. A reminder was given that Council should ensure that we have the right Insurance in place for any in person events, especially with Covid considerations.

Other

- Lana is stepping away as Treasurer for the time being. As such, Council is seeking someone to fill this role. Another option is to have a co-treasurer role shared by a few individuals, as an interim structure based on School Board rules that allow for this for the Treasurer role.
- Le Phare has 15 PCR tests remaining which are set to expire Nov 1st. More will be coming from Public Health in the future. These test kits can be used by families of children presenting symptoms, and can even be administered in the parking lot of Le Phare by parents. A Courier service comes to the school to pick up samples, or parents can drop it off at the testing sites (either option takes 2 days to get results).

ACTION ITEMS

1. Victoria will coordinate with a yoga instructor to see about doing an event for families.

2. Sam can help with online virtual events.
3. Bonny will look into the feasibility of doing a Booster Juice fundraiser.
4. An email / possible money motion will be sent around regarding using Council funds to renew the “Je Lis” virtual reading program to help support French Immersion learning for families.

NEXT MEETING

November 16, 2021