

LE PHARE

MEETING MINUTES

16 NOVEMBER 2021 / 7 pm - 9 pm / VIRTUAL

ATTENDEES

Sherwyn Solomon

Marianna Connors

Victoria Roy

Ashley Maltais

Bonny Butt-Stone

Tanya Thomas

Nicole M

Henrik P

Peg Sun

Sarah Asare

Rachelle Parle

Steve Chapman

Sam Neale

Caitlin Macllveen

Jaya Gupta

Caroline Paterson

AGENDA

Principals' Report

- ❖ There have been some technology glitches with the report cards; paper copies are often seen as more readily accessible by families and were printed this year but may not be distributed in print format next year.

- ❖ Kids who are behind in school will catch up, historically they do. A best practice to help you child's learning is to read to them in their first language - this transfers readily then to improving other languages too.

- There have been several conversations with staff around reading levels in both English and French and teachers have been communicating with families regarding their childrens' levels.

- A tool is being used called "Math Up" in the school. A new strand in the curriculum is coding, and Le Phare is teaching this strand in which students are readily engaging.

- There will be a Pilot Project in January. The school has purchased a debit machine which will allow for easier payments for purchases (ie: field trips, fundraising etc.) when these activities are back.

- Je Lis French Reading Program update:

Raz Kids / Boukli have been available historically at Le Phare and to families, which have French books. Le Phare staff have felt the quality of the French was somewhat lacking.

From a user perspective, while Je Lis is not as user friendly, the French is really good. Last year the school had 16 home rooms, and 8 teachers indicated they wanted Je Lis, and used it.

Features of Je Lis include leveled books for parents to access; it will read to you, there a variety of texts, and a bench marking aspect to it teachers could use. Currently, there is a premium addition (like last year), and the basic edition (no benchmarking activities). Licensing cost for the whole school is only \$200

more vs. licensing approximately 8 teachers which would allow the program to be available from Jk-Grade 5.

Total cost \$1700, about \$100 per class. The school will be funding the licenses.

- There is a learning support and learning resource teacher available in English, however there are not the same resources available in French at Le Phare. There are no French Special Education teachers - it is a staffing issue to even have enough French teachers in the OCDSB. Schools are lacking in support for French, and certainly there is room for improvement for more equity to ensure equal access to support to ensure every student has an opportunity to succeed in a French Immersion program.

Council Leadership updates

Jaya Gupta (Co-Chair) on Council, is in the process of creating a constitution document to guide Council, and the OCDSB has documents on their website Council can use to generate our principles regarding items such as meeting participation, other terms of reference, priorities/objectives etc.

Nicole has offered to help with the Treasury Role.

Activities

- Monster Mashup with Halloween pictures is currently posted on the Le Phare Youtube Channel, and will also be available on the Twitter site in the future.
- Responses from staff regarding the questions Council had asked them this fall - a “get to know your teacher” activity, will be compiled and turned into a 1 page / profile for distribution for families.
- Victoria has planned a Yoga evening for families. The approximate cost is \$120-\$145. Le Phare will promote it, Victoria will facilitate virtually, and offer 2 versions of the yoga evening - a younger version (with stuffies etc.) and a version for older kids. A money motion will be sent around via email to Council members.
- Ashley has started planning a virtual pizza party. The format will be a Google Meet platform Friday January 21st. Families will order or make their own pizzas and tune in over a 1 hour period, to enjoy music from a Piano improv performer, as well as activities such as scavenger hunts. Sam Neale proposed the idea of using Nona’s Pizza box for the pizzas as a fundraiser for Le Phare during this event. (\$25 per box, which makes 2two pizzas. 30% of that goes to charity,

and the charity could be Le Phare, so it would be a net of \$17.50 per box if Council chose Le Phare as the charity.)

Supporting Families

- Council would like to distribute Gift Cards again this year for families in need, with an emphasis on empowering families to purchase their own items they need. Last year Council distributed \$750 in \$25 dollar increments (including \$250 to Carson Grove families). A money motion will be distributed via email for holiday hampers / gift cards and with various options that Council members can vote on.
- A new toy drop off at Le Phare will be promoted in the next Council newsletter/email to parents.

Next meeting: January 18th, 2022 7-9 pm

ACTION ITEMS

1. Constitution document, yoga and pizza nights, support for families initiatives, discuss / plan Snowshoe Stompathon in winter 2022.