



Elmsdale District School

75 MacMillan Drive

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eld.ccrce.ca

School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting on April 14, 2021

Attendance:

Principal - Dawn Langille

Chairperson - Rachael McBay

Teacher Rep - Denise Palmer

Teacher Rep - Theresa Nickerson

Parent Rep - Janine MacIlreith

Parent Rep – Laurie Jay

Community Rep - Wendy Matheson Withrow

1. Meeting called to order at 5:33 p.m.
2. Agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve agenda made by Denise and unanimously carried.
3. Minutes from last meeting (Feb. 2021) reviewed. Motion to approve minutes made by Rachael and unanimously carried.

At this point in the meeting, we did not have quorum. We acknowledged this, but decided to proceed as no new decisions had to be made this evening. By 6:50 pm, we had quorum.

4. Business arising from the meeting minutes:

- a) Vice-Chair - Dawn said that we need to fill this position, but that because at that point in the meeting only 4 members were present, this should be tabled until the next meeting.
- b) Dawn explained that the laptops we helped fund have arrived. However, our computer tech has resigned, and a temporary replacement tech has been assigned. He has been slowly deploying laptops to staff. Dawn noted that the speakers we purchased with SAC funds arrived and are in use in classrooms. Dawn explained that the school was not able to purchase Lego by the budget deadline. That money was put toward purchasing laptops. The possibility of purchasing Lego with current fiscal year funds exists, and can be discussed at a later meeting.
- c) Dawn noted that T-shirts with the new school logo on them have been ordered for all students and staff. They are expected to arrive in 1 ½ weeks. The option exists for a school clothing order in the future. Dawn also spoke about the reveal of the new logo to students via a virtual assembly. Students received stickers with the new logo on them, as well as a package of Bear Paw cookies.



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5. SSP Update:

Dawn shared that data for Term 2 has been collected. The goal is to have the SSP process guided by teachers and teams of teachers for each goal are now meeting monthly. She explained that our SSP Consultants have both gone on leave and a teacher, Dania Hayward, has taken over their role in organizing data for the school in their absence. The Math team is now looking at whether or not all teachers are measuring the correct concepts that fit with our goal (making sure all teachers are on the same page as to what is being assessed). The Literacy team is examining student engagement in writing. The Well-being team have created drafts of the expectations matrix. They have held student focus groups about the matrix. Their next step is to translate and send the matrix to the print shop for a design draft, and decide how to celebrate student successes (student of the month, for example).

6. New Business

a) School Update:

Dawn outlined CCRCE's focus on guided reading in grades 1-3. It is data-driven, and EDS's reading data is meeting or exceeding CCRCE averages. This information will be used to identify students for various levels of support in reading. The CCRCE and EDS goal is to have as many students as possible reading at grade level by the end of June. Part of this focus on guided reading asks teachers to look for times during the school day when guided reading lessons can happen, even for 5 minutes (during Art class, for example, when students are working independently). Data will be collected by the school and sent to CCRCE in June to see if progress has taken place.

Dawn shared that the provincial and federal governments will make funds available to outdoor learning areas/structures.

Dawn noted that the school has received new garden boxes through support from Schools Plus.

Dawn shared that cross-country skis could not be found for purchase as planned. The school got permission to spend the grant money on fishing poles instead so that students can learn to fish in Phys. Ed. class or in the classroom.

Dawn noted that the school is applying for another grant for disc golf equipment.

Dawn shared that she has not yet received a staffing profile for next school year. She has preliminary Primary enrolment numbers: 27 in the English program, and 31 in the French.



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School Update cont'd

Dawn currently has no information regarding the possibility of an in-person graduation ceremony for Grade 5s like there is for Grade 12s.

Dawn shared that Tamara Minard is on leave and her replacement is Daphrose Nyiraminani. Natasha Gilby has gone on Maternity Leave and her replacement is Hayley MacNeil.

Dawn shared that despite Covid-19 protocols, EDS has had some guest speakers in the school and virtually. The Uplift leaders and our Attendance Support Teacher, Nevin Jackson, have been in to work with the grade 5s. The students in Primary Robers had a virtual presentation on the environment via Zoom.

Dawn noted that as part of the Uplift grant, the grade 5 students decided on purchasing a yurt for sheltered outdoor learning. The Uplift leaders are currently looking into where to purchase one.

Dawn shared that the gaga ball pits have been built and are regularly used, and that virtual field trips are currently being planned by some teachers.

b) Any Other Business:

Wendy noted that she had heard about a funding opportunity that required money to be spent by April 30 of this year. She thought it might be the previously mentioned outdoor learning spaces funding. Dawn checked the media release, and the only deadline on it was that projects must be completed by Dec. 31, 2021. She has not yet received any information, including a spending deadline, about the outdoor learning spaces funding from the province or CCRCE.

While Dawn was looking into the funding deadline, Theresa shared that she applied for a grant for outdoor learning materials from Birkenstock.

Rachael asked if there was money in the school budget to spend on teachers working with outdoor learning experts. Dawn explained that SSP funds could be used for this. Wendy added that a school in the valley was a pilot for an outdoor learning program, and suggested that a person from there could be contacted. Theresa explained that the school has access to a Healthy Living Coordinator and Dawn noted that the Uplift leaders could connect us to experts as well.

Wendy asked if the DOECD or CCRCE provided a list of suggestions for how outdoor learning grants could be spent. Dawn answered that this has not been provided as yet.



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7. Input from the public:

No members of the public were present as meetings are closed due to Covid-19.

8. Next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

9. Meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.