

Mundy Road Elementary School

PAC General Meeting Minutes

January 28th, 2021

Present: Leann Buteau, Jon Lundquist, Serena Boivin, Samantha Cohene, Una Wong, Janice Doege, Jay Hilliker, Phalguni Bhatt, Jenny Gasparini, Ed Rathonyi, Lily Gu, Mimi Fei, Larissa Ringham, Anita Rasoda, Shannon McGeehan, Sonia Maglio, Katie Eng

Meeting called to order: 7:04

Approve minutes from January 13th 2021: Motion: Larissa Second: Jay

Motion to approve agenda: Motion: Jenny Second: Samantha

New Business:

- Meeting was originally called to vote on the expenditure of plexi-glass shields, however this has since changed now to *“vote to approve the expenditure for the PAC to purchase items and/or equipment to help support the staff in keeping our children safe from COVID exposures”*.
 - Janice had sourced plexi-glass shields – this idea was brought to staff, who seemed keen on the idea, but have since tried out the shields in the classrooms and experienced some concerns resulting in 6 out of 10 classes stating they would not use the shields in class.
 - As a result, this meeting will focus on what we can do to support teachers in their COVID safety measures, as the number of exposures at Mundy Road is rather high (third highest in the district).

Open Discussion:

This was a long discussion - it is noted chronologically however the discussion focused on three main areas – the shields, mask-wearing, and supplies to support outdoor learning – for clarity, these three areas are noted.

- **PLEXI-GLASS SHIELDS**
- Leann:
 - When Leann notified the teachers about the upcoming vote for the purchase of shields, many teachers discussed the matter with Mr. Porter, who tried out the shield in his class. There were several concerns – children were speaking more loudly, around the barrier, students’ sight lines were obstructed, cleaning of the shields, etc...
 - Leann has purchased some outdoor learning supplies (sit-upons – rubberized mats) and staff has also formed a committee for outdoor learning. If there are any ways to support this venture, Leann will bring the information forward to the teachers.
 - Janice mentioned she had brought up the idea of tents and more opportunities for outdoor learning in the fall.
- Janice reiterated some of the benefits of the individualized plexi-glass shields and mentioned a few schools where the plexi-glass is already in use – Leann however spoke with these three

schools and the one major difference is that their shields are fixed, which makes a big difference in classrooms.

- We currently do have some plexi-glass shields, which are used more for TOCs, teachers, or non-enrolling staff that work with different classes.
- There was some concern about desks/tables being placed together – but as Leann explained, this is permissible within “learning bubbles”

- **MASK-WEARING**

- Leann mentioned that here is currently no “mask mandate” in schools – some parents inquired why – this is not up to Leann, but the PHO. The school is trying to create a “mask wearing culture” by having masks available, but staff are not allowed to enforce mask wearing as children are not required to wear them. Administrators cannot mandate for any additional protocols to be used.

- Sonia reiterated that school rules are very different from “public” rules – kids can interact within a learning bubble and do not require masks. At Sonia’s school, they have put together outdoor learning kits which seem to be working very well and getting classes outside more often.
- Jenny mentioned that although there have been many exposures in the school, there has not been any student-to-student transmission. Ed said that this may not be altogether true given inaccurate reporting from FH. Leann said any cases at Mundy Road have been deemed community -transmission.
 - Discussion about the government management of COVID ensued.
- Una asked if kids can wear face-shields, Leann replied yes, children can wear what they wish, but the school cannot enforce it. She did say however that parents can let the school know that they would like their child to wear a mask, and the staff can then encourage that particular child to wear their mask. Leann says 60-70% of students are currently wearing masks at school.
 - Jon mentioned that it would be great to make parents aware that if they wish for their child to wear a mask, the parents should let their teachers know so that this can be encouraged at school. Leann will include this note in the newsletter.
 - Shannon thought it might be useful to educate parents on the most effective ways of preventing the spread of COVID/mask-wearing. Anita had some resources to share from FH.
- Jon suggested buying each student a mask, Anita suggested a “safety-kit”.
 - Leann made a similar kit for staff at the beginning of the year. She is happy to contribute by personalizing the kit for each student. The staff kits that she put together cost very little – the biggest expense for us would be the masks (the Mundy Road fundraiser ones – although these would all need to have a space for personalization). Katie suggested purchasing two masks per child. It was then suggested that PAC purchase one mask and parents purchase the 2nd.
 - A parent inquired if the mask is 3 layers – they are not, only 2 layer.

- **OUTDOOR EDUCATION:**

- Jenny suggested that we ask teachers what would help them most in the classroom. Leann responded that any support for outdoor education would be greatly appreciated.

- If PAC can vote on spending a certain amount, then Leann can work with staff on what the purchases would look like within that budget.
- Leann said the mats cost \$2 each and would be very helpful, as well as a tent, or portable picnic tables. Seating would be the biggest priority, followed by shelters/tent.
 - A parent was concerned about sanitization, but Leann said the times would be scheduled for use of these materials, followed by sanitization after each use.
- Una inquired about installing more sturdy/permanent shelter structures. Leann can go over this with the maintenance department.
 - Due to weather, vandalization concerns, it was agreed that a sturdy but portable tent would be best.
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- Jon suggested putting a dollar amount on what we are willing to spend for these purchases.
 - We were going to spend \$6000 on the shields, we have about \$20k in our general account, however we still need to replace computers from these funds.
 - Jon suggested \$4000 to spend for this specific cause. Many members agreed that his amount seemed reasonable (approximately \$20 per kid). Some PAC members were not willing to commit to a dollar amount before we know exactly what we are purchasing.
 - Instead of voting a specific dollar amount immediately, Leann will go the staff, ask what their needs are, we will put it on the agenda for next meeting then a vote will happen at that time for the dollar amount needed for the supplies the teachers have requested.
 - Leann can have a wish list back to us by February 2nd as the agenda needs to be put out very shortly afterward.

ACTION: Leann will put together a COVID wish list from staff, send the list to Jon with a dollar amount, this expenditure will be voted on at the February 9th PAC meeting.

Motion to adjourn: all

Time: 8:10

Next Meeting: February 9th at 7:00 pm via ZOOM