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# School Council Meeting Minutes (Approved)

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## Abraham Erb Public School

February 23, 2021 - Google Meet, 7:00pm

**Members Present:** Amy L. (minutes), Danielle G. (moderator), Hanan A., Jennifer K., Lee R., Leena S., Masoomah R., Megha B., Melinda H., Mitra D., Tamara C., Tracy M., Vaidhehi K., Julia M

**Absent:** Farhad H. (regrets), Farzana D., Vashti L., Vera J.,

**Guests (signed in only):** Evelyn M., Mina V.

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### Agenda item: Welcome

**Presenter: Jennifer K.**

#### Discussion:

- Territorial and Land Acknowledgement delivered by JK.
- MH motioned to approve January minutes. VK seconded.

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### Agenda item: Principal's Report

**Presenter: Pam K.**

#### Discussion:

- Two staff changes
  - Mrs. Banks is retiring as of March 1st. Mrs. McCarthy will be taking over starting March 1st. She was at Abe Erb last year so it should be a smooth transition. A socially distanced goodbye was done.
  - Madam Perron has extended her maternity leave until the end of May. The LTO has agreed to stay on.
- The final change of learning mode for the year comes into effect on March 4th.
- At this point, if a parent requests a change of learning mode:
  - If there is space in a class in the school and if there are extenuating circumstances, PK will try to accommodate the request.
  - Requests to move to distance learning are outside of PK's jurisdiction as those classes are board-wide.
- As of right now:
  - 26 requests to move from in-person to distance
  - 11 requests to move from distance to in-person
  - 196 total distance learners, 209 total in-person learners
- No reorganization will be needed for classes/teacher assignments.
- Junior Kindergarten registration is open and is all online.
  - 21 registrations so far. This is a "normal" amount as compared to past years. Registrations will continue to come in through September as people move into the community.
- New Covid reporting procedures came into effect on February 22nd.
  - Staff and students are required to stay home if anyone in the household develops a single symptom of Covid.
  - All staff must now do the covid checklist online before entering the building.
    - The new portal sends data to PK to ensure compliance.

- Two siblings tested positive for Covid in January. As per Public Health, the school community was not notified as there was no potential exposure as everyone was doing distance learning.
- DG mentioned memo about 5% of schools will be tested on evenings and weekends. PK has no further info.
- Spring break is now the week of April 12th.
- PK shared feedback given the last meeting about distance learning with the Superintendent and SPECed Superintendent. Feedback was also shared briefly with Associate Director and was sent to PKs direct supervisor as well.
- PK shared feedback with Superintendent on the Weather Impacted Learning Days days as well.
  - JK mentioned that the new policy might be because of tight staffing because of Covid. So if busses are cancelled they are simply closing the schools.
  - PK - classes cannot be combined so this could be the case. If they fail to get a supply teacher to fill in for an absent teacher she draws on internal resources, such as prep time. This time is paid back to the teacher at a later time.
- What is the expectation is about school work given on snow days?
  - PK - Not all students have access to a device so we are flexible on what can and cannot be accomplished. It would inequitable to base evaluation on work given on those days.
- Question about art in the classroom. This year art is mainly being taught by the homeroom teacher.

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## **Agenda item: Update on WRAPSC**

**Presenter: Jennifer K.**

### **Discussion:**

- WRAPSC - Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils is a parent let group, a “council of councils”. Great to find out what other schools/councils are doing. JK attends monthly.
- Collectively they feel that parent engagement has been stressed by some of the communication challenges between the board and the parents. They want to give parents an opportunity to provide feedback. They have drafted a letter to the trustees that includes specific examples and solutions. It is a template and can be modified. JK will send the template in case anyone wants to send a letter. A list is included with the contact information of all the trustees.
- One trustee was at the meeting and she said they are always open to communication from parents. They ask that you go through the right channels, but they are there to support us.
- JK will send an 8-minute video on Food for Kids. This isn’t used by our school right now, but it’s good to know about. This program fills the need for food insecurity on weekends and holidays. They provide healthy meal packets (fresh vegetables, yogurt, cheese, canned meat, etc). 850 kids in the region are part of this program. Drop off at school and the teacher discretely places the package in the child’s backpack.
- Board sent out a survey looking for feedback on how everything is going. The more people that submit the better the data.

### **Action Items:**

- JK - Send draft WRAPSC letter.
- JK - Send video link Food for Kids links.

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## **Agenda item: Parent Community Event Discussion**

**Presenter: Jennifer K.**

**Discussion:**

- Is there interest in putting on an event? Show of hands - most are not interested.
- MB is interested in connecting distance learning parents of children from the same class/grade to help support each other. Unfortunately, PK cannot facilitate this given privacy protections. Teachers also cannot be involved. Parents, however, can organize themselves.

**Action Items:**

- JK - Send the list of dates for meetings for the rest of the year.
- PK - Calendarize meeting invite for the rest of the year.

Next meeting: March 17th

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Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 pm

## APPENDIX #1: Log of Open Action Items

*Noted: Closed items are only noted here if the item was in open status at the beginning of the meeting*

Action	Person Responsible	Deadline	Status	Meeting Raised
How many parents are at Abe Erb? -> Data unavailable.	PK	Feb 2021	CLOSED	Jan 20, 2021
Gather information on how other schools have used the PRO Grant.	JK	Feb 2021	CLOSED	Jan 20, 2021
Send video link Food for Kids links.	JK	March 2021	OPEN	Feb 24, 2021
Send draft WRAPSC letter.	JK	March 2021	OPEN	Feb 24, 2021
List of dates for meeting for the rest of the year.	JK	March 2021	OPEN	Feb 24, 2021
Calendarize meeting invite for the rest of the year.	PK	March 2021	OPEN	Feb 24, 2021