
School Council Meeting Minutes (Approved)

Abraham Erb Public School

January 20, 2021 - Google Meet, 7:00pm

Members Present: Amy L. (minutes), Danielle G (moderator), Farhad H., Farzana D. Hanan A., Jennifer K., Lee R., Leena S., Masoomah R., Megha B., Melinda H., Tamara C., Tracy M., Vaidhehi K., Vashti L., Vera J., Chris G., Christina L.

Absent: Julia M. (Regrets), Mitra D.

Guests (signed in only): None

Agenda item: Welcome

Presenter: Jennifer K.

Discussion:

- Territorial and Land Acknowledgement delivered by JK.
- Announcement today that distance learning will continue.
- VK motioned to approve the November minutes. TC seconded. All in favour.
- Microphone action item will be discussed in the principal's report.

Agenda item: Principal's Report

Presenter: Pam K.

Discussion:

- Two microphones were ordered as discussed at the last meeting. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive so additional units were ordered for the rest of the teachers, except one. Units were paid for out of school funds as the cost wasn't too high and the units could then be used immediately.
 - VK asked about teachers who did not choose to get a unit.
 - PK said that they can still get a unit if they want. It's a resource that's available and a personal choice for each teacher.
- Change of learning mode deadline has been extended to January 29th. This was moved up after the province extended online learning. This may change.
- As of right now (note that numbers change daily):
 - 29 requests to move from in-person to distance
 - 14 requests to move from distance to in-person
 - 1 request to move from paper to distance
 - No requests to move from online to paper
 - 183 total distance learning, 306 total in-person learners
 - CG asked for more information on the paper option for distance learners.
 - PK said there's a package that's picked up at the school and the parent must return it. There are still calls and google meets as needed. It's less screen time using the paper option.
 - MH asked if classes will be reshuffled

- PK - It depends on where the students who are leaving and returning fall. But it's not ideal to shuffle classes, so if at all possible classes will not be shuffled.

Important Dates:

- Feb 17 - Reports card; will be mailed
- Jan 22 - PD Day
- Feb 15 - Family day
- March 15-19 - March Break
- April 2-5 - Easter
- May 24 - Victoria Day
- June 4 - PD Day
- June 28 - Final report cards
- June 29 - PD Day

Agenda item: Treasurer's Report

Presenter: Farhad H.

Discussion:

- Funds available as of the last meeting: \$21,213.94.
- Paid for two water filling stations for a total of \$6,045.50.
- Fund currently available \$15,168.44.
- No planned fundraising or spending for the rest of the year.

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Agenda item: Roundtable discussion on Parental and Family Engagement

Presenter: Jennifer K.

Discussion:

- Everyone will have a minute to reflect on a wish and star. This is optional.
- PK - Request is to hear how things are going with distance learning. Acknowledged the distance learning stressors and parent support requirements. Noted that parents are not expected to replicate what teachers do in the classroom. Whatever parents can do is deeply appreciated. Looking for what's going well and what are growth areas. Can also call or email if something specific needs to be discussed.
- Wish:
 - Synchronize schedules across classrooms and schools. This will help parents better manage time for lunches, breaks, and outside when there are multiple children at home.
 - Please don't shuffle classes as the relationships are established with teachers and friends.
 - Add more structure in the day so kids and parents know what teacher will be on next.
 - Getting EA support has been difficult. Need more support for kids with special needs.
 - Provide a more consistent workload between classes. One kid has lots to keep busy and engaged, and one barely has 30 minutes of work a day.
 - Kids need clear expectations. Unable to ask questions to the teacher. Kids are working much more than necessary.
 - PK recommended reaching out to the teacher directly and facilitating a conversation.
 - Grace with the assessment. We're all just trying to do our best! Please give us some grace and give the teacher some grace too. They're doing their best.

- Would like more opportunity to be informed on assessments, such as when learning was in person, the teacher would send home rubrics with completed assignments.
- Please be extremely clear with written instructions.
- Personal/individual check-ins with kids would be very helpful for parents and the kids. Perhaps every 48 hours so the children feel more connected and have the opportunity to ask questions and clarify instructions.
- Star:
 - Agility of learners at home, adapting quickly; kids are doing great.
 - Teachers have been agile too, trying different things, and changing when things aren't working. Continuous improvement by teachers, what they are offering.
 - Teachers are doing a very good job and not giving too much work.
 - Teachers are continuing to teach the curriculum.
 - Giving a weekly schedule for each kid each week is very helpful.
 - Major positive difference between March and now.
 - Time management skills, regulation of work have been improving for children.
 - Teachers are using creative ways to get kids engaged, which is wonderful.
- PK - Appreciate the depth and sincerity of feedback. Scheduling feedback is particularly eye-opening and helpful. Will be taking the feedback to the staff and the superintendent. Please feel free to reach out directly.

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Agenda item: Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

Presenter: Jennifer K.

Discussion:

- School councils can apply for \$500 per school for any activity to support parent engagement.
- In the past, we've used the money for art and science night.
- Application process is open and due February 5th. Must spend money by June 15th.
- Considering not applying this year as we have plenty of money in the bank and no specific plans. As the board has a limited budget, this would leave more money available to schools that might not have the funds that we have available.
- PK - Parents do so much for teachers to show appreciation (like coffee and taco day). Could the council consider doing something for the parents to thank them for their contribution?
- JK - Pro Grant cannot be used for this purpose. Do we want to do this with our funds?
- VK - How many parents are there? What would the cost be? Don't want to take funds away from spending on the school/kids.
- FD - Suggestion to use funds to host a webinar for parents on the platforms that the school is using. This would help parents who aren't comfortable or familiar, reinforce the expectations, and provide a forum for parents to communicate.
- JK - A virtual technology session was put on by the board last week. If it would be helpful, yes, but don't want to add more as we're already overloaded with virtual meetings.
- FH - How can we transfer the tribal knowledge between parents?
- MB - A forum for parents, best practices, to support each other would be helpful
- JK - Is there an interested group in putting on such an event? Will discuss this at the next meeting.
- JK will gather information on what other schools have done with the Pro Grand funds.

Action Items:

- PK - Determine how many parents are at the school.
- JK - Gather information on how other schools have used their PRO Grant money.

Next meeting: February 24th

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 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
Gather information on amplification units and results of trial by teachers that are receiving them.	PK	Jan 2021	CLOSED	Nov 11, 2020
How many parents are at Abe Erb?	PK	Feb 2021	OPEN	Jan 20, 2021
Gather information on how other schools have used the PRO Grant.	JK	Feb 2021	OPEN	Jan 20, 2021