



Council

**Emily Carr School Council Meeting Minutes (Google Meet)
October 6th @ 6:30 pm**

Present: Keri Coulson, Karen Green, Jennifer Neill, Nora Kennedy, Tanya Monteiro, Lisa Lovric, Derek Black, Aline Vesely, David Manias, Jess Hearty, Holly Melanson, Inara Bajwa, Gerrian MacKinnon, Jordan Martin, Julianne Johnson, Luisa Cardarelli, Leslie Wittenberg, Nina Ryan, Stephanie Berthelet, Stephanie Ettinger, Sharon Thomas

Guest: Sandra Schwartz (Trustee)

Regrets: Jessica Faure

1. Welcome/Call to order: Tanya M / Nora K @ 6:30

2. Approval of the Agenda:

- Agenda will be modified to keep meeting short. Missed points will be covered at next meeting
- Stephanie: motion to approve/ Derek: seconded

3. Approval of the June 2020 School Council Minutes (Lisa L):

- To be done at next meeting

4. Treasurer Report (Derek B):

- To be done at next meeting

5. Principal's Report (Keri C):

See "Principal's Report" (included below minutes) for details on:

- Current COVID precautions – 1 case in school today
- Current Staffing Slate
- Leave of Absence Mrs. Morrison / Mr. Lines
- Virtual Meet-the-Teacher are being scheduled started this Thursday evening

Questions:

- Derek Black: Doctors are not aware that schools are not doing vaccines this year. Request that Keri let parents know to have students vaccinated.
- Tanya Monteiro: Message to parents that personal devices are welcome is not clear. Keri will let parents know.
- Nora Kennedy: Question about ventilation system in school. Keri: All systems are working at 100% and filters are being cleaned/ changed often. Sliders between spaces are left open to improve air flow. Open concept is a plus right now.

6. Trustees Report – Sandra Schwartz:

- Welcome back to parents & students
- Spring was probably horrendous for all of us and many of us felt that we had to have kids back in the classroom for the fall.
- Thank you to staff members and teachers for the hard work in getting everyone back in school.
- Trustees had many meetings/conversations about money / safety concerns with all levels of education and OPH. Plans kept changing as more information came out in August. Budget didn't pass until late August (instead of June). Summer was challenging but now seeing how well the plans are working. Still many questions and not all issues figured out.
- Questions about switching to Virtual and when. Currently, it is on a case-by-case basis. With cases going up, more families want to switch, but it has to be for extra-ordinary circumstances. Many of the virtual classes already have 30 or more children so cannot keep adding students.
- There is also a staff shortage across the province. Time off for sickness or other reasons has increased as well. Trustees are asking for weekly reports to see trends. There are more absences of course, many due to 'may have contacted' and teachers have to take time off.
- There are also questions about school closures. The plan and hope is to keep the schools open. There may be occasions where schools have to close, not because of sickness, but because of lack of staff.
- Sandra appreciated the messages of support especially over a very challenging summer.
- Many questions about whether policies work/make sense. They are making changes as necessary. Flexibility is key. Also in close contact with Director and Superintendent. Trustees are also notified when an outbreak occurs in a school.
- Questions about the Emily Carr in particular should go to Keri, but Sandra is happy to talk about the school or broader board-wide issues.

Questions:

- Nora: Is there anything parents should know that they don't? Sandra: What are the contingencies? Contingency plans are being continually worked on based on length of time. School shut-down would need to shift to on-line learning/education. If class is quarantined, students will be meeting the teacher on-line and do either synchronous or asynchronous learning. Distribution availability of devices is also a challenge. An order of 8000 Chromebooks has been put in by the Board, but there are many needs – all Virtual students have to have a device and after that they hope to distribute more.

Sandra is very impressed by the staff and educators and the work that they have been doing to help students. Most information is being shared through weekly emails from the OCDSB. Trustees are trying to have more rather than less communication. OCDSB is a large system and we need to be able to shift quickly. However, Sandra does not think we will have a spring like we had last year for on-line learning, should that be required. Retired teachers/staff members are being asked to fill the spots for missing staff.

Keri says staff is working well with putting information/homework online. Teachers are putting all the work on Google classroom so that the work is there for students who cannot be in the classroom. Many webinars/seminars are available on-line for teachers and they are getting more training all the time. If there is information missing, contact the teacher or Keri and let them know what you need.

Sandra commented on transfer from/to Virtual or Actual school. There is no confirmed date for changing. We all made decisions about where to put our children without all the information. It was frustrating for everyone. Even though case numbers are going up for OCDSB schools (approx. 43), it is a very small number if you think about a system of 70000 students (and not

including educators). Everyone is working very hard to keep numbers low. Funding is coming to provincial 'hot spots' including Ottawa. We will continue to have staffing issues even with more money. If province had given some directions earlier, the Board would have been able to make their decisions sooner. It was a miracle that schools were able to open when they did.

Nora: Do we spend the money in our budget this year or reserve it for next year? Sandra: it has come up peripherally in conversations, but current mandates didn't anticipate a pandemic. It is up to the Council about whether to put money in the schools this year. Sandra will bring it forward but doesn't expect that anyone will get in trouble for this year's decisions.

Nora: Sandra, on behalf of the parent community, thank you for your time. We appreciate that you are only a phone call or email away and that you are a great resource.

7. Nora / Tanya: Suggest postponing remainder of points till another meeting. Council will probably flip every other meeting from Tuesday to Wednesday so that majority can attend.

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm

- Derek: motion to adjourn / David: seconded

Next Meeting: October 21st, 2020 at 6:30pm.

Principal's Report

October 2020

Welcome to all new and returning School Council members. A warm welcome to Trustee Schwartz, as well as Ms. Neill who has volunteered to be the teacher representative on Council this year. It is so good to be back at school, even as we adjust to our new normal. I hope the return to school has been smooth for you and your family. I am so proud of all Thunderbirds for their commitment to following the health and safety protocols in school. Everyone is taking the daily self-assessment seriously, remaining in their designated seat, wearing masks and hand sanitizing. Students are demonstrating creative ways to enjoy their recesses despite the lack of equipment and designated recess zones. Social distancing during recesses continues to be more of a challenge for students and we will continue to reinforce this important safety measure with students. Your help in encouraging your child to keep their distance from their peers is appreciated.

As you know though, there is a confirmed positive Covid-19 case that has impacted our school community. It is very worrisome to receive this news – I know this as a parent as well as a school administrator. Please know that we are here to help you and your child through this. The Public Health Nurse assigned to ECMS has been communicating with me regularly as she continues to work through OPH's processes for the management of positive cases. I am in contact with her multiple times a day and I have confidence that she is managing things appropriately. Families are encouraged to contact OPH at 613-580-9656 with their questions. As is so typical of the ECMS community, I have received many positive emails and calls since my message went out this afternoon. I cannot express how much these messages mean to me and the ECMS staff – thank you! Together, we will get through this.

Our school organization has changed due to student enrollment in the virtual school. We currently have 10 homerooms (down from 11) as follows:

Gr. 6 Regular - Ms. Neill
Gr. 6 Regular – Ms. McLennan
Gr. 7 Regular – Ms. Dawson
Gr. 7/8 Regular – Mr. Rados

Gr. 6 Early French Immersion – Mme James
Gr. Early French Immersion – Mme Baldwin
Gr. 7 Early French Immersion – M. Hearty
Gr. 7 Early French Immersion – Ms. Slater
Gr. 7/8 Early French Immersion – Mme Lupin
Gr. 8 Early French Immersion – Mr. White

Mrs. Cooper has just completed a term office position at Gloucester H.S. and started back at ECMS yesterday. This means we said good-bye to Mrs. Choudhry on Friday. Ms. Morrison and Mr. Lines have taken leaves of absences this year.

New staff members include Mr. Sean Lewis (English and Math to EF6B), Ms. Ashley Ruel (Designated Occasional Teacher) and Vanessa Sylvestre (Lunch Time Monitor).

On Friday September 25th, I lead my first ever virtual school-wide assembly. It was an opportunity for me to connect with our entire student body, recognize our new students and acknowledge our most senior. The focus was on the OCDSB's Character Wheel, Learning Skills, health and safety measures and wrapped up with a video about resilience – something that we have relied upon over the last 7 months and must continue to draw upon. As I told all Thunderbirds, we may get knocked down but we always get back up, even in a pandemic.

We had our first fire drill today. Following the Covid-19 protocols, we evacuated in shifts to ensure social distancing could be maintained. Of course, in an actual evacuation, we would not stagger our exit and all students and staff would evacuate in an orderly manner. Students took the drill seriously and followed the protocol as expected.

We are hosting our first virtual Meet the Teacher this Thursday evening. Two sessions have been scheduled (6:30 – 7:00 pm; 7:05 – 7:35 pm) so that families may choose the time slot that works best for them. One of the sessions will be recorded and the link shared for families unable to attend either session. Although this is not the ideal format, establishing a close home-school connection is important and our hope is that this event will help to begin form solid working relationships despite the distance between us.

Thank you again for all your support!

EMILY CARR SCHOOL COUNCIL
Budget 2020 - 2021 22 October 2020

	Budget	To Date	Actual
	(plan)	(active)	(final)
<u>REVENUE</u>			
<u>Primary Fundraising</u>			
Pizza Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Parent Involvement Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Misc Fundraising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SubTotal Fundraising	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Carryover from 2019/20	\$13,494.95	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUE	\$13,994.95	\$ -	\$ -
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
<u>SCHOOL SUPPORT</u>			
Forest of Reading Books	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ -
Grade 6 (Incoming) Orientation	\$ 375.00	\$ -	\$ -
Grade 8 School Leaving Ceremony	\$ 900.00	\$ -	\$ -
SubTotal School Support	\$ 1,775.00	\$ -	\$ -
<u>SCHOOL COUNCIL</u>			
OCASC Membership	\$ 35.00	\$ -	\$ -
ECSC Operating Expenses	\$ 50.00	\$ -	\$ -
NSF Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Bank Fees	\$ 27.00	\$ -	\$ -
SubTotal School Council Expenses	\$ 112.00	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,887.00	\$ -	\$ -
Less Reserve Holdings	-\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Plus Cash Float	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Less Committed Funds (2020/21)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<u>NET INCOME</u>	\$10,107.95	\$ -	\$ -