

December 2020 Northdale School Council Meeting Minutes

The third meeting of the Northdale School Council for the 2020–2021 year was held on Monday, December 7, 2020, from 6:30–7:30 p.m. via Teams.

Attendees: Sean Noon, Ariel Noon, Christine Kramer, Julie Pulley, Andrea Waters, Penny Nowak, Carmen Jaques, Darla Manship, Tricia Friesen (plus one other phoned in)

1. Welcome (Sean)

2. Principal's Report (Christine, Julie):

- Staffing update: Michaela Voogd will continue to cover for Ms. Thomas half-days for the remainder of December. Ms. Carriere will continue to be in for Ms. Elliott for the remainder of this year.
- School Improvement: Language and Math continue to be a focus for this year. Literacy – based on our data collected by staff in diagnostic assessments we are focussing on word study and incorporating good practices into literacy program. Math –we are focussing on the use of number lines to place numbers, to use as a tool for solving problems.
- Safe Schools Committee: To promote positivity and belonging we are initiating positivity snowballs with gratitude and growth mindset images and quotes to be posted on the whiteboard in the main hallway. Monthly recognition awards – each classroom will have 2 students selected to receive an award recognizing their STARS qualities. STARS stands for “Success Through Academics, taking Responsibility, and Social awareness.” We have a designated bulletin board with winners’ pictures posted, and students receive their signed certificates. December awards are for Being a Good Listener (JR) / Attentive Listening (INT). January awards are Being Excited to Learn (JR) / Enthusiasm (INT). February awards are Never Giving Up (JR) / Perseverance (INT). March awards are Working Well with Others (JR) / Cooperation (INT). April awards are Responsibility (JR/INT). May awards are Honesty (JR)/ Integrity (INT). June awards are Being a Good Role Model (JR) / Citizenship (INT).
- Safe Schools surveys are being completed by grade 7–8 students over the next two weeks. An opportunity for the remainder of the school to complete with parents will happen in the new year. Focus on equity and inclusion of marginalized students.
- Grade 8 Grad recognition will be Wednesday, December 9. Certificates and awards will be mailed or delivered to students’ homes. There is also a program and a slideshow with a speech from our valedictorian and our award winners.
- Virtual Book Fair – 135 books sold. Bookmark winners were announced and STAR estimation jar winner (Julie).

- Brick replacement: They are working to replace the brick on the original part of the building over the next month.
- Early ID: Primary staff and LSTs are meeting to discuss student needs for all students grades 1 to 3. This information is used by our Speech and Language pathologist and is to support students. In the new year they will do the kindergarten students.

3. Teacher's Report (Darla):

- Update from Elizabeth Bruce: Kindergarten and primary classes have been adapting well to having gym classes outside this year. Most recently they've designed a frisbee mini putt golf course by standing hula hoops up in the snow. Gym will stay outside for the rest of the year except for inclement days.
- Receipt for the Lena Buitendyk Award from Ms. Magoffin for reimbursement (\$22.50).
- Request from the French department for an amplifier and microphone. With the mask and face shield it's very difficult for the students to understand the spoken French. Available on Amazon for around \$90. Sean moves to cover that. Penny seconds it.

4. Treasurer's Report (Ariel):

- Ariel has looked over the paperwork for the previous financials; will still need to give Ms. Kramer a call for some clarification.

5. TVPIC update (Sean):

- The last couple months they've met the Thursday after school council; discussion was on the Safe Schools survey.
- Haven't done too much this year because of COVID; hoping to be able to do more in the spring.
- Some memberships ended this month, so now it will be this year's council taking over.

6. New business:

- Update re OSNP (Andrea/Tricia) – Fundraiser is now closed; the school made \$202, which we applied to our snack program costs. We ordered boiled eggs and crackers to supplement the OSNP fresh produce. Tricia applied to continue the snack program into January and February.

- Festive Feast – We have had 290 meals ordered as of December 7, including the pay-it-forward meals (85% of the school pop). We will order 350 meals to cover all students and staff and School Council will pay for the difference. There are two lunch periods; hoping to serve it at 10:40 (8 primary and junior) and 11:20 (3 intermediates and 3 kindergartens). We need to contact Swiss Chalet and have the conversation about what time we need the meals delivered, making sure they have utensils. Tricia and Andrea will be serving the meals December 16. Tricia will keep her eyes open for a treat to add.
- Parking lot concerns – Ms. Kramer got a phone call from Faithway Baptist Church complaining that the church hadn't cleaned out their parking lot for parents to drop off their kids at school; he called the school to ask what was going on. The church's parking lot is private property and they do not clean the parking lot during the week. Liability is on the parents if they choose to park there. Construction on the school has taken away three parking spots, and snow piles have taken away a couple more. Parents have been pulling into the staff parking lot to drop off kids and then backing out. It's a safety concern. Need to reiterate that this is unsafe; ideally we are dropping kids off farther away from the school and having them walk the last distance to the school to avoid traffic. Penny: Is there any way we could contribute to a sign for them that says church parking only? Tricia: They did have a sign that said park at your own risk, not sure if it's still up.
- Sean: Kindergarten drop-off/pickup specifically, parents are not wearing masks and not adhering to the 2m distance. We are requesting that at drop-off and pickup when social distancing cannot be maintained parents do wear masks. Our kids have to do it, so we should lead by example. Ms. Kramer will add this to the newsletter updates as well.
- Ms. Kramer bought 25 more Chromebooks. With students learning at home or going into quarantine we require more tech in the school. Also got a program called Lexia for all grade 1s: goal is to have 75% of grade 1s reading at grade level by June.

Upcoming meetings: February 1, April 12, May 3, June 7