

TCS School Council
Meeting: Wednesday, June 16th, 2021 10-11am
Via Zoom

Chair:
Stephanie Dyck

Vice Chair:
Sophie Kolterjahn

Secretary:
Nicole Sharpe

AGENDA

Call to order – June Meeting

In Attendance

Parents: Timothy Bootsveld, Leah McPhail, Lauren Gilbert, Leanne Brown, Edom Zeleke, Melissa Schwann, Deonne McCausland, Arlene Reimer,
Admin: Michelle Duimel, Dawn Peart
Board Representative: Mike Humphries
Teacher Representative: Kendra Lake

1. Welcome and Introductions – Stephanie Dyck
 - Thank you to everyone who joined us this morning!
2. Opening Prayer: Mike Humphries
3. Motion to Approve Agenda:
 - Mike / Kendra
 - Motion approved
4. Motion to Approve TCS School Council Minutes – *May 5, 2021*
 - Nicole / Sophie
 - Motion approved
5. Principal/Executive Director's Message:
 - a. Reflections on 2020-2021 School Year: (Michelle)
 - terrific year, despite all of the challenges and restrictions;
 - 95% attendance all year long;
 - only had to send one class home this entire year
 - b. Staffing updates (Michelle)
 - Most hires complete, a few EA postings that will be filled near end of August
 - Teaching updates: Mr. Roper moving to Nanaimo Christian School, Mrs. Dykshoorn is moving into the elementary VP role, Mrs. Lake is leaving kindergarten and transitioning into junior high, Mrs. Hedley is moving to GCA and Mr. Graffunder is moving to Menno Simons Christian School
 - New staff: Caroline Hearn will be teaching kindergarten, Emma Throness and Dereka Nielsen will be joining the junior high teaching team
 - c. Fall 2021 (Michelle)
 - Grade 6's will move back upstairs
 - Re-instating the learning commons for all students to use
 - Entrances and exits will remain as is; it has really improved traffic flow
 - Increased recess time will remain in place
 - Gr 4/5/6 will have lunch recess and an afternoon recess, with phys. ed in the morning – allowing for more body breaks throughout their day
 - Intentions to continuously enhance the playground / re-imagine recess

- **Ask from Admin:** can School Council brainstorm creative outdoor spaces / enhanced recess break ideas?
- Admin considering a potential staggered entry for 2021-2022 as it really enhanced school start up; admin received very positive feedback from teachers, overall positive student experience. School families will be informed by the end of the school year.
- d. School Goals Evaluation (Michelle)
 - Michelle reviewed the school goals for 2020-2021 and provided examples of evidence gathered from teachers (kindergarten to grade 9) at most recent PD day
 - School admin / teachers feel that goals were met, and are continuing to grow in these areas
 - Goal 1: TCS will endeavour to intentionally enhance teaching practice to create opportunities that support numeracy and literacy through differentiation
 - Incorporate project-based learning at all levels, to get students to become critical thinkers, problem solvers, collaborators, develop resiliency
 - Create the next generation of thinkers, innovators, creators, designers
 - Help students understand who they are as learners, and how to bring their gifts forward
 - Goal 2: TCS will endeavor to create a community of grace and support as we navigate a challenging world together
 - Focused on the whole child
 - Being intentional about student connection / be present with the students
 - Example from Junior high – started the day with relationship building, in the gym, low demands, being present together, connecting with one another – very positive feedback, strong attendance rate at bell time, high student engagement, evidence of resiliency in students
- e. Palliser Updates
 - Budget is the same as last year
 - Slight increase in FTE which has been maximized
- f. Board update
 - 3 new board members, officially voted in at the Society meeting – Kristina Haley, Allison Rousell, Danny Gordon- and 3 board members retiring
 - Current focus: working to utilize and maximize the facility for the school population that we have – looking at long term solutions

Response:

- Melissa Schwann- the students really enjoyed playing in the sand pit at recess; can we explore expanding this with a sand cart or sand toys to accompany this?
 - Kendra Lake – agreement with Melissa re: sand as positive recess experience for kindergarten
- Arlene Reimer
 - **Q1:** Is the junior high retreat confirmed? **A:** Yes it is booked (Michelle)
 - **Q2:** For incoming / existing junior high students, can we have a power school tutorial for parents? **A:** Yes, Lesley Wenzel will organize this for the Fall (Michelle)
- Sophie Kolterjahn:
 - **Q1:**How are we evolving around diversity stats in our board members? **A:** This topic has been acknowledged and discussed on the board, and continues to be considered (Mike)
 - **Q2:** Has the school heard of or explored the “Not Myself Today” campaign – mental health initiative through AHS. Is this something we want to explore at TCS? Sophie is willing to explore this further with admin if there is interest. **A:** Admin is certainly interested in exploring it further (Michelle).
- Please feel free to connect with the school council via email if any other ideas or questions arise

6. Executive's Update:

a. What is School Council?

- Stephanie presented 2 slides reviewing school council role
- Expect two documents in the fall: School Council Operating Procedures and Welcome to School Council
- **Ask:** Please consider these questions over the summer:
 - What are your expectations of school council?
 - What does meaningful involvement in school council look like for you?

b. Who is your Executive and what do we do?

- Chair: Stephanie Dyck
 - Chair all school council meetings
 - Coordinate meeting agendas and communicate regularly with admin
 - Ensure regular communication with school community
- Vice Chair: Sophie Kolterjahn
 - To support Stephanie, act as chair in Stephanie's absence
 - Support our practice around PIPA
 - Performance Metrics around School Council performance
- Secretary: Nicole Sharpe
 - To accurately document School Council meeting minutes
 - Make meeting minutes public to the TCS community following meetings

c. School Council Email: schoolcouncil@tcskids.com

- Check your junk email the first time, as it is a new account
- Email address will remain the same, but will migrate to a google account soon

7. Old Business

- a. Action: One chair led meeting prior to end of 2020-2021 school year - accomplished
- b. Action: Set meeting dates for 2021-2022 school year
 - We will establish our meeting dates and times in the Fall, historically we have 5 meetings a year
- c. Pastor Tim asked how he can support TCS parents in the discipleship of their children?
 - Please feel free to reach out to him directly

8. New Business

a. Committee Reports and volunteer opportunities

- Staff Appreciation: Sophie, Melissa, Steph
 - Please connect with school council if you are interested in volunteering on this committee
 - June 18th is Staff Appreciation
- Banking Coordinator
 - We are currently looking for a volunteer
 - Commitment is 1-1.5 hours 2x per month to support students in making their deposits, in addition to a small commitment at the start of the year to get oriented
 - For more information please contact School Council
- Lost and Found Coordinator
 - Melissa Schwann has accepted this position – thank you!
 - 1 day/week tidying and organizing the lost and found items,
 - Melissa has donated recent items not claimed to First Alliance Church
 - Many families in need this year and they are very appreciative of the items they have received

b. Performance Metrics

- Sophie reviewed considerations for 2021-2022 school year

- We will begin to establish these metrics for School Council in the Fall

Response: No questions

9. Next Meeting Date: TBD and set within first 40 days of 2021-2022 school year.

10. Motion to Adjourn TCS School Council Meeting *June 16th, 2021*

- Dawn / Dionne
- Motion carried

11. Closing Prayer: Stephanie