



**Pleasant Park Public School Parent Council Meeting Minutes**  
**February 17 at 6:45pm**

1. Welcome, it's nice to see you here! Carolyn makes land acknowledgement.
2. Approval of Agenda and January's meeting Minutes
  - a. Diane motions to accept the Agenda, and Emily seconds.
  - b. Diane motions to accept the Minutes from January 20, 2021, and Emily seconds.
3. Introducing MLO (Multicultural Liaison Officer) for Pleasant Park PS.: Susan Al-Riffai
  - a. Susan works for OCISO, organization that helps immigrants integrate into community. OCISO is well-known in the immigrant communities.
  - b. OCISO facilitates instructive and culturally sensitive support to students, provides services free-of-charge.
  - c. Susan will participate in PPPS staff meetings.
4. Financial Report
  - a. Amount raised/parent donated: \$5,202
  - b. Amount spent: \$4,798
  - c. Amount committed: \$11,768
  - d. Current available balance: \$7,141
5. Council Update:
  - a. LUV to Groove: may not be viable.
  - b. Scientists in Schools is moving forward, with more teachers booking.
  - c. Educator Allotment requests are trickling in.
6. Fundraising
  - a. FlipGive update: We have raised around \$30 since Christmas
  - b. Pizza Thursdays: School will receive 10% of sales through fundraiser held between 4pm and 8pm every Thursday for the remainder of the year.
  - c. Bingo Night: Planning an upcoming bingo night on a Thursday or Friday.



# Pleasant Park *Public School* Parent Council

564 Pleasant Park Road, Ottawa Ontario, K1H 5N1 Phone: (613) 733-5253 Fax: (613) 733-2375



## 7. Discussion Items:

- a. Question from parents: grass path leading from the City path near the tennis courts at Playfair Park onto school grounds. Could it be plowed/cleared into the yard to make walking onto school grounds easier. Custodian Manny explains that there is a strict mandate not to clear non-asphalt paths.
- b. Concern about dangerous incidents, blocked driveways with parents picking up and dropping off students on Thistle Crescent. Principal Petrie advises concerned families to document incidents and share them with city by-law officers.

## 8. Outdoor Initiatives Committee

- a. The committee received 65 responses to parent survey. Lots of interest in covered classroom. Interest in more use of outdoor spaces for physical education, forest school.
- b. Received list of prospective volunteers.
- c. Staff survey will go out next week: ask about any concerns staff have with teaching outdoors.
- d. Lisa asks council to keep in mind that the Outdoors Initiatives Committee may be seeking funding later this year.

## 9. Custodian Update

- a. Drainage issue with field: the board is funding repairs to the drainage system. Work will be done in the spring.
- b. Ventilation: we have sufficient ventilation. The portables have already been modified before the start of the school year.
- c. The roof is soft and is due for repairs soon.
- d. The City of Ottawa is going to install a backflow preventer.

## 10. Administration's Update (See Admin Report to School Council appended below.)

- a. Important for families to provide multiple masks to students to allow them to change them throughout the day.
- b. Roadmap for promoting equity for all identities.
- c. Electronic report cards will be delivered in the next week.
- d. Lunch program is going ahead.
- e. It is vital that families support OPH guidelines and get students tested if they show COVID systems.



- f. Parents need to make sure to stay in the designated areas only when picking up students.
  - g. Charlene provides update on teachers' initiatives and on how resources from Parent Council have been used.
  - h. Emily asks if there will be COVID testing at PPPS. Principal Petrie explains that PPPS is not currently included in rapid testing outreach initiative. This may be because PPPS has avoided an outbreak in the school so far.
11. New Business
12. Next school council meeting - March 17 at 6:45 (March Break is pushed to April 12).
13. Adjournment was at 7:55pm.



## **Admin Report to School Council - February 17, 2021**

**It's certainly wonderful to be back with our students in-person again! Overall, we were very pleased with the students and families efforts to stay engaged in online learning during the shutdown period. We know it was hard for many, and even nearly impossible for some, and we really appreciated all you did to make the best of it!**

**Health and safety continues to be a priority, especially with the new virus variants. Our grades 1-3 students are doing a great job wearing their masks, and our Junior students continue to take their responsibilities seriously. Extra masks in backpacks are important, as they get wet at recess and during outdoor learning, so need to be changed. Many thanks to all our families for your ongoing support.**

**As a Pleasant Park PS educational team, we continue to be very committed to our Equity work. Recently, the board, and the Office of the Human Rights and Equity Advisor, created the Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Roadmap (2020-2023). This reflects a human rights-based approach focusing on equality and nondiscrimination, participation and inclusion, and transparency and accountability. We are all working together to eliminate barriers to success, to provide the best education for every student while nurturing their sense of belonging and all their hopes and dreams.**

**Last Friday, February 11th, we were engaged in a half day of Equity work, and a half day of health and safety learning. During the morning, we worked through some important learning about the Roadmap, and the school board's position on racial slurs (meaning pejorative terms used to describe Indigenous peoples, racial, ethnic, religious, sex, gender, sexual orientation, and/or disability attributes) and epithets (meaning disparaging or abusive words or phrases to describe certain identities). We also focused on student voice while exploring the concept of belonging. We will be turning to our students to hear about what it means to belong in their class communities. It's particularly important this year, as student well-being is being carefully monitored, and because our class cohorts do not mix. We are working hard to be sure our class communities are safe and welcoming spaces where all students feel their identities are respected, and that they belong.**

**We are so happy to have Susan, our Multicultural Liaison Officer join us this evening! Susan will be supporting our efforts to make sure all Pleasant Park families who are new to the country, feel like they belong!**

**Electronic report cards and IEPs are scheduled to be sent home Thursday, February 18th. The delays were due to challenges with the report card portal, and we appreciate your patience.**

**We are now able to staff our Breakfast program, and letters will be coming to our families this week. This is an inclusive program, meant to honour all family situations and needs. We will be providing individually packaged and portioned snacks, easily managed at student desks. More to come!**



**A reminder to all families to engage in the screening process before students attend school each day. As well, we are feeling increased push back from some of our families when we call home to report that a child has a symptom. We continue to follow all OPH guidelines, and school board procedures when supporting our staff and students. If a student is picked up with a symptom, OPH requires they stay home until 24 hours symptom free or get a COVID test. Attestation letters need to come back with the children if a test was not done. A note from CHEO...there aren't many other viruses being spread in our communities right now...other than COVID-19. Symptoms in children are most likely to be related to COVID, so please take these seriously.**

**To be shared with your friends and family...we cannot have parents on school property before school, or during dismissal. We are seeing an increase in parents trying to pick up their children, and walking, some with dogs, onto property. We need to remind each other that students being picked up need to be met behind the path, behind the primary play structure. As always, please wear your masks and distance from others.**

**Thought Exchange opportunity for all families - a follow up to the survey from the fall. Please check your email and complete the survey!**