



**Ecole John W. McLeod / Fleming Tower School
School Advisory Counsel
Meeting**

Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 6:00 pm (Virtual)

Attending: Bekah Townsend (Parent Rep, Chair), Denise Jarvis (Vice-Principal), Ben Pryde (Parent Rep, Secretary), Lisa Bennett (Teacher Rep), Emily Thompson (Teacher Rep), Emily Quigley (Principal), Dawn Maskine (Community Rep)

Absent: Jenny Nodelman (Parent Rep), Shannon MacDonald (Community Rep)

1. Call to Order, Welcome

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:03 pm

2. Review and Approval of Minutes from September 29th Meeting

- a. To be conducted via email.

3. Principal's Report – Emily Quigley

- a. Terry Fox Run was successful;
 - i. Not able to have it in the Frog Pond because of lack of parent volunteers;
 - ii. Have reduced fundraising goals associated with Terry Fox run;
 - iii. Had 3 separate runs due to covid;
 - iv. Had grade 4 leaders assisting;
- b. Indigenous smudge ceremony was conducted for a portion of the students and students also painted and placed stones beside a tree;
- c. Outdoor classroom is being constructed. Original plan was to put it in the woods but this would have involved tree removal so the current site was selected. Trees are being planted around the site.
- d. Vandalism has occurred twice at the school. Graffiti was removed within hours and police were contacted.
- e. Photo day was held and occurred inside rather than outside (as was conducted last year).
- f. Grade 3's and 4's are having an optional choir this year.
- g. Arrangements for a holiday concert are being considered. In-person concert is not recommended / an option. Trying to do a performance day that will be filmed and be distributed to parents online. Children without media releases on file would be placed in areas where they would not be visible but can still perform with their class.

- h. Traffic concerns around Fleming Tower. People parking where they shouldn't be and trying to turn around where they shouldn't be etc. HRM traffic enforcement has been contacted and additional presence has been requested. Bekah Townsend suggested that traffic cones could be used to prevent parking on Randolph. Dawn Maskine has indicated that Colindale is a better option for parking for parents dropping off at Fleming Tower. Emily Quigley is contemplating sending another note to the community on this item.
- i. School success plan update:
 - i. Focusing on writing and achieving this goal through reading.
 - ii. Identifying reading level for all students and working hard with those not at grade level.
 - iii. Collaborative teaching groups are being used to help achieve goals.
 - iv. Teacher education and PD improve classrooms / outcomes.
- j. Reading recovery program:
 - i. One of the first schools in HRM to re-establish this program;
 - ii. Lindsay Chandler is French reading recovery teacher;
 - iii. Heather Davies is English reading recovery teacher;
 - iv. Emily Quigley and other reading recovery specialists recently viewed Lindsay conducting a reading recovery lesson with a students for the purposes of learning / feedback;

4. Community Report

- a. Nothing specific to report.

5. Teacher Report

- a. Nothing specific to report.

6. Parent Report

- a. Capacity – Current enrollment is under 400 children. All classrooms under cap. One empty classroom. Could theoretically remove a portable. Anecdotally doesn't seem as crowded.
- b. Pre-Primary – There will be a 'buddy program' between the primary and pre-primary classes where each pre-primary will be paired with a primary student to further integrate the pre-primary students into the school.
- c. Lunch Program – A third party lunch program is permitted and 'Lunch Lady' is being considered. Delay in commencing the program is caused by the fact that the school secretary typically runs / coordinates the program and we have had to integrate a new secretary into the school with Kim Ritcey's departure.
- d. Fundraising - Emily Quigley was told by HRCE that schools should not be fundraising but evidently that is not being followed by other schools. Emily indicated that she expects fundraising will be permitted by HRCE going forward although in-person events (such as pumpkin-palooza) likely won't be permitted until children are vaccinated. Dawn Maskine suggested that online fundraising would be a good covid-friendly options. Fundraising typically netted \$3,000 - \$4,000 per event and fundraising dollars were used to support school trips, other extra-curricular activities etc.

7. New Business:

- a. Discussion on spending SAC funds pushed to next meeting.

8. Date for Next Meeting:

- a. January 5, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.