

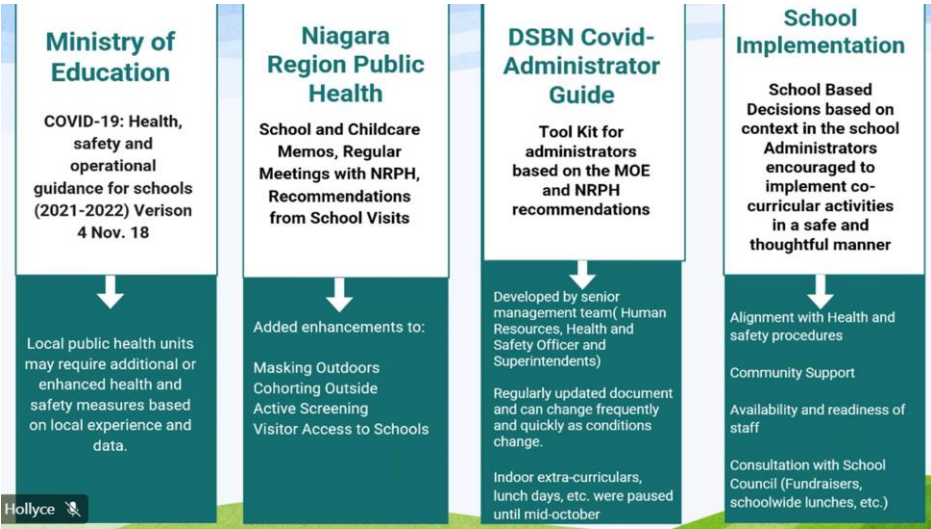
Gainsborough School Council

Minutes

November 23, 2021

Attendees: Julie A, Cam & Erica M, Alison M., Amanda F, Connie M., Dawn H., Kristen H., Linda V., Melissa & Dave M., Rachel K., Shilo C., Shari M., Shawn W., Stephanie M., Tanya S., Cathy V., Brianne & Scott D. Staff: Kim Bartlett, Lisa Gravelle, Hollyce Nunnenmacher, Simon Hancox

Regrets: Tara V.

Notes	Actions / Updates
<p>Welcome & Introductions Everyone introduced themselves. Sad news announced about the Kubik family. An email will be sent around regarding how we will reach out to them in the coming weeks.</p>	
<p>Welcome Superintendent Simon Hancox Superintendent: Area 3 - 19 schools from St Catharines to Caistor</p> <p>How we address covid concerns at the Board level:</p>  <p>Framework regarding how decisions are made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation guidance Ministry of Education • Niag Reg Pub Health • DSBN Covid Administrator Guide • School Implementation <p>Cohorting outside ('boxes' at recess) – Ministry of Education provincially says not necessary; however, Niagara Public Health recommends it is done in our region.</p> <p>Active screening – regional</p> <p>Visitor access to schools – Board wide there is no non-essential visits inside the school.</p>	

A lot goes into decision making. Every school is unique. Different communities. Community support. Readiness of staff. Etc.

Schools have been asked to consult with neighbouring schools to share planning and strategies for implementing co-curricular activities so they may be 'on the same page'. Gainsborough groups with Caistor and Smithville.

Principal's Report

Sports –

Need staff to do coaching. Some staff are not comfortable doing that yet, and we need to be respectful of that. This is not required of them. They are volunteering their time.

- Running club was offered to grades 1-8 in the Fall. Outdoors, distanced.
- Soccer for intermediate only was offered across DSBN. 60% of schools participated. At that time, we could not participate due to comfort level of staff.
- Volleyball – 60% schools showed interested. Gainsborough didn't have staff to coach. Since that time, Mr. Reid and Mrs. Gravelle have decided to start up a volleyball activity for the Intermediate students during breaks within pre-existing cohorts. Parents would like the teachers and principal to look at the option of the intermediate students not being cohorted during the playing of the volleyball. This will be discussed.

Other extracurriculars –

- The grade 4 class doing Eco-Club
- We are looking at possibility of Lego Robotics
- Students are discussing chess
- During the PD day staff were talking about class "Break Bins" with items suggested by the students in each class. Teachers will give lists to Ms. Nunnenmacher who will look into purchasing items for the class's "Break Bin".

Playground equipment –

As a recap for new members:

- The playground needs money put into it every year. \$3000 of woodchips was put in to the JK/SK playground a couple years ago. The swing set was just fixed/replace last Spring.
- We have been fortunate to have had a community raised 'Woerlen Fund' that not only funded the whole playground 17 years ago but has also been used for repairs since then.
- Until very recently, School Council did not know they were ultimately responsible for playground expenses. It was something that was never raised with past or current School Council members to anyone's recollection. Tonight, it was confirmed by Simon Hancox that Ministry of Education does not pay for playgrounds province wide.

More recently:

- Our last annual playground inspection was this past summer. It was presented to School Council in September. It showed need to fix some minor issues as well as replenish the woodchips to the sum of approx. \$7000. In Sept Council approved to order woodchips for all areas except for blue physical fitness area. Keeping this area closed for now saved us a couple thousand dollars so we could afford the rest of the fixes. Eventually it will be opened back up once the woodchips are purchased.

Gravelle/Nunnenmacher
(update: class cohorts will play against other class cohorts)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase order went in, but supply chain issue at this time is slowing down the order. • Structures remain closed until that time. Playground is also closed in winter due to safety (hard ground, icy, etc). Question was raised whether we should wait to have woodchips delivered in Spring to 'save' them from overwintering, therefore lasting longer. Hollyce will look into this. <p>Moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Playground sub-committee has been formed. If you would like to help, contact Julie Adams. This committee will look into all options surrounding the playground such as the longevity predictions of the current structures; future woodchip purchases vs rubber matting expense; who and when to approach for fundraising; etc. <p>Field –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The field is too wet for kids to play in. Kids are playing on tarmac. Once frozen, the students should be able to use it again. • A meeting is planned in April regarding investigating the field saturation issue and looking to see if there is a drainage issue. • From previous meeting, the baseball diamond is on the Board's list to look at in the spring. <p>Gym use -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First choice is to have the students outside for gym (fresh air, mask break), however should that not be possible (weather, activity) the gym is used 	<p>Nunnenmacher</p>
<p>Hot lunches –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In October it was brought forward from the Board that we could look into this, so Caistor, Smithville and Gainsborough met to talk about ideas. • Subs were suggested as they meet health and safety requirements (packaged separately with names, boxed by the class, etc.) • What day should this be? People thought Fridays sounded good. Looking at December 10th. School Cash Online payments only at this time. Hollyce looking into any alternative for those who don't use credit cards online. 	<p>Nunnenmacher</p> <p><i>(update: request for a hard copy and paying by cash is an option)</i></p>
<p>Other:</p> <p>School council used to do popcorn/ice cream sales. A question was asked if these could be done again since they also are pre-packaged. Hollyce is going to look into it.</p> <p>More items: Spirit wear on sale Grad hoodies on sale Grad photos March 31, 2022 Photo retakes December 7, 2021 Holiday concert same as last year, link to video for a period of time for families to enjoy Guardian/Teacher interviews this week</p>	<p>Nunnenmacher</p>
<p>Website update –</p> <p>Live calendar is on front page, can scroll through to see each month, can hover over to see what is written, below calendar is the school's Twitter feed School Council info is found under the 'About Gainsborough' page. Question asked if there was an easier way to find? Hollyce suggested moving a link.</p>	<p>Nunnenmacher</p> <p><i>(update: link has been added to the homepage)</i></p>

Teacher's Report

Mrs. Gravelle provided a teacher update:

- Food drive challenge (5 days of giving). Kick off with a virtual assembly tomorrow (Nov.24). Intermediate students are leading this. The winning school will be determined by total weight of donated goods. Parents can drop by and drop stuff at door.
- Theme days (grade 8 came up with ideas) are on the last Friday of month. Nov 25 Mismatch Day. December 23 is PJ Day. Jan is Jersey Day.
- Gr.8 grad hoodies decided upon by the grade 8 students

Treasurer's Report

No changes. Layout of summary table was discussed.

Fundraising

Little Caesars Pizza Kits. We are moving forward with Little Caesars as our January Fundraiser. We are thinking we'll send out info first week back from Christmas holidays. Deadline for orders is Jan26 (online only). Delivery looks so far like it's Feb 10. Anyone interested in helping, email Connie at conniemittag@gmail.com

We will profit \$6 per kit sold.

Tru earth

- Contactless fundraiser. Order online, shipped directly to house. Ongoing all the time.
- Summary: Nov 1-9, 9 clicks, \$44 sales, \$8 profit
- *Personal experience: Ordered October 29. Received November 7. (email confirmation says shipping can take up to 30 days!). Anywhere from \$1/wash to \$0.50/wash.*
- Be sure to log in using Gainsborough's site <https://fundraising.tru.earth/GainsboroughPS>

Fundscrip

- Contactless fundraiser. Order gift cards online, shipped directly to house. Ongoing all the time.
- Summary: 14 people have signed up. 2 have ordered. Approx.\$15 profit.
- *Personal experience: Ordered November 1; Shipped November 4; Received November 7. \$150 gift card ordered got \$8'ish profit for school (could have been \$10 but used credit card to pay).*
- Be sure to use school code **SV5PRF** to set up an account at <https://www.fundscrip.com/support-a-group>

Donation summary

- If someone just wants to make a donation to the school, they can click the green DONATE button on the website homepage.
- There are 4 options (General, Capital, Scholarship, Specific Program). Define amount then checkout as per a regular School Cash Online purchase (guest account option available). Tax receipt given.
- Be sure to identify where funds are to be directed such as "School Council" or "Playground Fund".

<p><u>PIC</u> Parent Involvement Committees (PIC) is an advisory body that operate as a direct link between parents and the board of education. Analogous to school councils focussing on the local school community, PIC operates at the Board level focusing on things that are board-wide (or at least affect more than one school)</p> <p>This is Alison’s second year on PIC. They do great work. The one most people are familiar with is the Parent Conference offered every Fall at Eden [dinner, choice of educational sessions, vendor fair, babysitting (pizza and mad science)]. Due to COVID, last year and this year the conference has been replaced with the PIC Speaker Series.</p> <p>On November 24 our first speaker for this school year will be Dr. Jean Chilton, who works in Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster. She is renowned nationally and internationally as an advocate for children's issues, and will be discussing the power of relationships, buffering children's stresses, and building resilience.</p> <p>Many more speakers to come.</p> <p>Another thing PIC does is filters a small amount of funding from the Ministry of Education through to school councils (\$500) to support parent engagement. In the past we have used this money to support our family pasta nights and local speaker series. Principals should already see this or be seeing this in their budget for this year.</p> <p>Finally, Pro-grant. This was additional money available to schools on a case-by-case basis through an application. We utilized this money was when we did the Jump to Math night. This has not been offered the past couple years</p>	
<p><u>Parent Involvement at Gainsborough</u> Next meeting Julie will be leading a discussion on getting ideas for Parent Involvement Activities through Gainsborough.</p>	Julie
<p><u>New Business</u> We went around the ‘room’, and everyone had the opportunity to bring up anything that hadn’t already been discussed.</p> <p>Can we switch up meetings? Some people not available Tuesdays.</p> <p>Some questions addressed here have been incorporated into discussion above (i.e. volleyball)</p>	
<p><u>Next Meeting</u> Thursday December 16th at 6:45PM. Send agenda items to Julie.</p>	