

**W.E. Gowling School Council  
Meeting Minutes  
October 13, 2020**

Virtual (Google Meet)  
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Monica White, Ashley Lewchuk, Cameron Ketchum, Colleen Weatherdon, Debbie Younger-Lewis, Jessica Roberts, Lauren Matys, Monate Praasma, Tara Beechey, Nadine Allen, Chrissy Rakobowchuk, Caretta DeAveiro Williams, Rebecca Pitt, Kim Douglas, Jessica Gibbs, Moon Ja Sue, Shawn Hocking, Robin Austin-McCleary, Laura McGavin

**1. Staff update**

- Contract tracing and recent confirmed COVID-19 case:
  - If there's a COVID-19 case in the school, OPH needs to complete contract tracing before the principal can notify staff and parents/guardians
  - High-risk contacts are anyone who comes into contact with an infected person for 15 minutes or longer, without a mask, during the last two weeks
  - OPH informs high-risk contacts to self-isolate
  - Contacts of contacts (i.e., anyone who comes into contact with a high-risk contact) won't be contacted by OPH and can still come to school
  - Contact tracing relies on school attendance and other records; this takes time to complete and must respect privacy
  - If your child's teacher or classmate test positive, you won't necessarily be notified; parents/guardians only get a follow-up from OPH if their child is a high-risk contact
  - The same process would be used for children registered in EDP—the school and OPH would handle the contract tracing and notifications
- Virtual school waitlist:
  - Gowling had a few students return from the virtual school to in-person learning
  - Gowling still has a waitlist of 11 students for admission to the virtual school
  - Movement into the virtual school will be prioritized for children with medical needs
- COVID-19 procedures and supply teaching staff:
  - Supply teachers should be aware of the COVID-related rules and procedures at school; Gowling provides them with masks, as well as face shields if they don't already have their own
- Clothing and rain boot collection:
  - The School Council community is currently accepting clothing and rain boot donations, gently used items welcome
  - Gowling will quarantine donated items for three days before giving them to students who need them

**2. Finance update**

- Total available spending funds are approximately \$8,400; in addition, we have \$5,000 set aside for schoolyard greening
- Council heard a proposal from Lauren Matys about purchasing schoolyard stencils to provide activities students can do outside during recess and physical education
  - Lauren polled Gowling teachers and chose six stencils, including cooperative play snakes and ladders, activity circuits, and targets on the wall

- Proposed dates for installation are Oct. 17 and 18
- School administration will come up with a way for outdoor play areas to rotate, so all students can use the stencils in their free play
- Council approved spending \$1,270 for schoolyard stencils—total cost will be \$2,270 (including tax), and Stephen Leacock Elementary is providing \$1,000 of this
- Additionally, Council approved \$250 of classroom spending funds for 18 in-person classrooms, which is a total expenditure of \$4,500
- We also discussed funding Je Lis reading programs for interested French teachers; Caretta to follow up and confirm how many classrooms want this and the total cost

### **3. Fundraising updates**

- FlipGive (phone app):
  - We can shop through this app and get kickbacks to WEG School Council
  - Participating businesses include Esso, Indigo, Amazon, The Bay and Simon's
  - We've raised close to \$300 with just five people signed up and actively using this
  - Great virtual fundraiser for this year, hopefully to replace some of the funds lost from pizza days and the annual craft fair
  - Anyone can use the app, including community members and grandparents
- Entripy Shop for Gowling Griffin clothing:
  - Tara has created a Google Doc with [suggested ways to sell WEG-branded items on Entripy.com](#)
  - Please read this proposal and come prepared to discuss it at the next School Council meeting, where we'll vote on how to go ahead with this fundraiser
- Tara will also be circulating info on a honey farm fundraiser

### **4. Elections to School Council Executive**

- Debbie Younger-Lewis will continue as Treasurer
- Laura McGavin will continue as Secretary
- Formal elections postponed to next School Council meeting
- Council is looking to fill at least two roles, both for Co-Chair of the Executive
- Anyone interested in sitting on the Executive Committee, please contact the outgoing Co-Chair, Cameron Ketchum, especially if you're interested in being a Co-Chair

### **5. Key updates for 2020-2021**

- Council has decided not to pursue a virtual craft fair this year

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, Nov. 10, 5:30-7:00 p.m. on Google Meet