

Irwin Memorial Public School
Online Virtual Online School Council Meeting
Monday September 14th 7pm

In Attendance:

Ian Patterson-Principal, Emma Platts-Boyle-Chair, Sarah Roberts-Co-chair,
Tamara Wright-Secretary, Nicole Bradley-Treasurer, Jen McCague, Tina Boyd, Becca Birnie,
Blair Wiley, Erin Wiley, France Armour, Trace Dunmore

Principal's Report:

-Ian reports that the time leading up to and including the beginning of this new school year has had the focus on the challenge of creating the online virtual school and the in school plan as well.

The challenge has been to create a balanced online school program and the focus has been on safety when it has come to the planning of the return of students to school at Irwin.

-Ian reports that the number of students at Irwin has gone from 135 students last year to 154 now. This initially increased the number of classrooms from 6 to 7 for the year, however, due to approximately 25 kids from Irwin going with the online schooling, there are currently 6 classrooms with split classes.

-Irwin lost 1.5 teachers due to the number of students that went to online schooling. Ian reports that one teacher is currently on a leave of absence at this point.

-Concerns that parents, teachers and students have about any positive covid cases are understandable. Ian reports that if this occurs, the school will take the lead from the Health Unit in regards to protocol and recommendations.

-Irwin is trying to have all the students outside as much as possible, 3 large size tents have been set up by volunteers and staff to ensure that this could occur. This outdoor learning opportunity also gives the students a break from wearing their masks all day. Ian reports that the kindergarten class has been outside the most and they are doing wonderfully well with this outdoor classroom. To minimize exposure to every student, each individual class stays with that class only for the whole day.

-Ian reports that all the students seem very happy, content and over all the staff at Irwin feel that the rules in place now are being readily accepted and going better than initially anticipated.

-Sanitization occurs all over the school and on a regular basis.

-Ian states that the end of October is the next available time that parents can change their child's option from in school to online or vice versa. Information regarding this will be released in the near future.

Treasurer Report:

-Nicole reports that she has prepared the financial report that goes from Jan 1st of this year to today (which is available for viewing). That balance is at \$1789.13. This balance does not include the proceeds raised from the Your Independent Grocer barbecue. The total raised from that was approximately \$900. This included \$500 dollars generously donated by Spy Cable.

Fundraising:

-Due to Covid, any fundraising, including hot lunches are not allowed to proceed until further notice.

Emma's Report:

-Emma reports that due to Covid, the annual Thanksgiving dinner that the School Council and the many wonderful volunteers that assist them cannot proceed at this time.

-Emma reports that the annual voting of the following positions will take place at the next meeting. The positions that are to be filled are as follows: Chairperson Co-chair, Secretary and Treasurer. If anyone is interested in these positions, please contact Emma and she will explain what every position entails. Voting will take place at the next meeting in October.

-Emma passed along that Nicole from the Lounge is asking for volunteers to pick up food from the grocery store and deliver it to the school for the Breakfast Club program. If interested, please contact the school.

Wishlist:

-Due to limitations on many activities at the school, Ian felt that the place of focus for perhaps some wish list items might be better suggested by the teachers and staff to facilitate outdoor oriented learning, etc at Irwin. Ian said he would brainstorm with the teachers before the next meeting and he would pass along this discussion at the next meeting.

Next meeting:

-The next Council Meeting is to be determined.