



South Branch School Council Meeting Agenda Minutes

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 - 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Samantha Kutowy, Denise Mahony, Melody Busuttil, Christie LaBrash, Kami Link

1. **Welcome & attendance** accepted at 8:05pm by Denise and Melody
2. **Additions & acceptance of meeting agenda** accepted by Denise and Melody
3. **Acceptance of April 2021 meeting minutes** accepted by Denise and Melody
4. **Teacher's Report** shared by Kami Link

Mrs. O'Connor has been doing Star Wars Music themed lessons synchronously to engage student participation, seems to be going over very well. May the 4th with be you, was well-received.

Some of our Kinder classes are learning about plant life and infusing various activities to encompass both literacy and numeracy. Others have been learning all about bees and are anxiously awaiting a guest speaker from Bee City (In Toronto) virtually on May 26th. They have also been focusing on 5 fingers retell for fiction texts, sounding out words, letter sounds, rhyming, and doing some tongue twisters for fun!

Primary classes are doing a variety of things, from learning to tell time, reading fairy tales and fables, creating their own fairy tales, yoga and just having fun doing just dance together for afternoon QEDP. Some of our grade 2 and 3 students have been learning about simple machines and structures. Doing writing about Healthy Eating and problem solving in math. In Science, that have been learning about Energy in our lives.

In Grade 1 FI Social Studies, we are learning about all the enterprises in Kemptville that offer us products in exchange for money. The students are coming up with a few stores/enterprises that they want to open.

In Grade 2 FI Social Studies, we are learning about the lifestyles of the people in 3 different communities (the Amazon Forest in Brazil, Japan, and Russia) and some of the ways in which they meet their needs. (i.e. transportation, food, shelter, clothing, leisure activities) and how the people have adapted to their climate and physical features (i.e. Brazil - the Amazon, Japan - earthquakes, Russia - the White Nights)

Junior classes are also doing a variety of things. Continuing with day structure as much as possible to regular schedule by engaging in shared readings, read aloud, independent reading, word work,

daily journals, math concepts, science experiments (Mr. Wormald's class are building structures), social studies and getting outside and being active.

Grades 1-3 in core French have been "digging" into Spring. They have been studying vocabulary related to activities, clothing, and insects. Some of our classes have made presentations saying goodbye to winter items and hello to Spring things. E.g., Au Revoir tranieau et bonjour bicyclette. Next up, they are starting a sporting unit.

Grades 4-6 in core French have recently moved out of the sugar bush in Canada unit and landed in the kitchen where they are creating their own restaurants based on their food preferences.

We are learning new "la nourriture" (food)vocabulary and are presenting our restaurant menus we have created using our newly learned food items. The students are presenting the project in the style of a cooking show host. We have a guest speaker this week to discuss food around the world for cultures and traditions. We are also doing many interactive activities that are food related for example, journal writing, kahoot, blooket online, charades and recipe reading and writing.

Our spec Ed team are busy organizing remote IPRCs and grade 6 transition meetings with North Grenville. They are also tapping into various classes to offer both small group and 1:1 check-ins with many students online. We have one student currently attending school with a spec Ed teacher on-site and a couple of EAs to support his programming.

1. Principal's Report (Christie LaBrash and Kami Link)

Staffing - Staff have been given potential assignments at this point as we are into the staffing process

Teaching and Learning updates:

We have made the pivot to remote learning. We have connected with all families at this point. Non digital pickup #14 happened today.

What has been Happening

In the Staffing process, starting to look at class lists and placements for next year.

We will be saying goodbye to Mrs. Spronck, Mrs. Blake, Mrs. Bowman, Mrs. Barrette,

Mrs. Byrd and Mrs. Hodgson are retiring.

As per Christie LaBrash: Admin moves are happening currently. Unfortunately, I have been informed I will be moving to be Principal at Merrickville PS and Kami Link, will be moving to Smiths Falls HS as VP. It is with mixed emotions that we share this news.

We were approved for 1500.00 still awaiting confirmation to go ahead with spending to get started

- Receipts are to be kept at the school to support spending. Please have funding spent (received and invoiced) by May 31, 2021.
- Funding may not be used for release time at this time
- We will stay connected facilities, please ensure all steps have been followed (Cathy C to be involved and Deb Gaw for financial)

Yearbooks – template given by Photovisions to use. One Drive folder has been set up for teachers to load pictures into. If we went with 28 pages...we could do 1 page per grade with class pic and other pics, tiger spirit days, kinder, primary, junior page, outdoor learning/recess fun page, friends page, dedication to last year's 6's and goodbye to this year's grade 6's

On the Radar

Health nurse visiting tomorrow- go through new and old protocols: goal to get kids back to school

Planning for virtual Kindergarten "Welcome to School" event

Grade 6 Leaving ceremony and transitions

2. Treasurer's Report (Emily)

- a. Fund distribution decisions need to be finalized.
 - 1. Leaving ceremony-review \$\$ amounts needed to support
 - 2. End of year treat for students – usually popsicles from B&H
 - 3. End of year – staff appreciation and student treat – ask for donations to cover cost, bring supplies the week before
 - 4. Three requests from staff
 - 5. Playground: transfer of funds once June meeting reviewed
 - 6. Garden top up (if needed)

No quorum so deferred to June's meeting.

3. Fundraising Report (Katie)

- a. South Branch Pizza Nights with Mr. Mozzarella - update
- b. FlipGive – need to replace volunteer

4. Discussion Topics – Open for any issues parents would like to discuss (to be addressed now and future meetings)

- a. Garden – update Denise, Cathy and Christie met to share details, location, and spending
 - shared connection made by fellow parent Chris H for building support
 - location back right portion of yard next to shaded area
 - Deb Gaw to journal all spending entries and share with board.
- b. Playground Revitalization – update: requesting update and to be put in cue with other schools to share importance of moving forward asap

- c. School Yearbook – order *due date to order* deadline May 20th. Options to try and share photos? One drive? Any templates still available? Payment? PayPal? Cost options \$12/\$15? Front and back Grade 6's?
- d. Online payment – update: Pam working on link to share prior to next meeting to request donations for end of year
- e. Parking lot issues – suggestions for change: add to June meeting
- f. Leaving Ceremony – date, plans: June 24th
- g. End of year – staff appreciation and student treat – ask for donations to cover cost?: will send out email to different local companies to get ideas of single meals and costs to present to next meeting. Meal options need to be individually packaged as per covid protocols. Date for planned event June 23rd.

Open discussion: Clarification re Covid Protocol from last meeting. What is expected moving forward whether kids go back to school June and/or September ongoing?

- Daily Covid screener. Most likely an app via My Family Room. MUST be filled out daily.
- If ANY symptom is answered “yes”, child has option of being tested with a negative result prior to return to school OR child to remain home for 14 days (if testing not preferred).

Lecce announcement regarding upcoming protocols in September regarding digital/non digital options. What are the options at school level? Board level? Do we as parents have a choice? Does board present options to government?

- Non digital/paper option will be eliminated
- Synchronous/Asynchronous only
- Ex: High School will be online

Review Kinder play structure

- Reviewed option and requested again to be put in line/cue and start movement on Kinder play structure. Knowing timeline to pair with OOTR transition for 2022, requesting playground design options now

Next meeting will ask New Principle, Tanya Preston to attend, if possible.

- 5. Final meeting of the 2020-2021 school year is June 8th at 6:00 p.m.
- 6. Adjournment of Meeting

Dates to Remember

Meeting dates for the 2020-2021 school year. SBSC meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month during the school year. We meet at 6:00 p.m. online via TEAMS. Please add the dates to your calendar!

September 29th

February 9th

October 13th

March 9th

November 10th

April 20th ***Note Change of Date***

December 8th

May 11th

January 12th

June 8th

Please contact School Council Chair for more information at southbranchcouncil@gmail.com