

**Clinton Junior Public School  
School Council Minutes**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	October 7 2020	
<b>Start/End Time</b>	18:00 – 19:30  (ONLINE AT: <a href="https://meet.google.com/ixz-nyxt-jrz">https://meet.google.com/ixz-nyxt-jrz</a> )	
<b>Minutes Approved</b>		
<b>Attendees – Elected and Appointed Members</b>	TK SH SP JD NL KM NA	
<b>Attendees</b>	MM AW BS CM CL CT DT DC EG EC GM JKK JL JH JCR KH	L LB LG MN MMa NS SB SE SI TC TP VK VL (Unknown)
<b>Attendees – Staff &amp; Administration</b>	SA RC	

<b>Upcoming Events and Meetings</b>	
<u>2020-21 School Council Meetings</u>	<p>Come to School Council meetings to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the education experience of our school's children</li> <li>• Provide input and enhance school system accountability</li> <li>• Learn more about what's going on</li> </ul>
<b>2020-21 School Council Events</b>	Online Auction - November
<b>Action Items</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advocate for more outdoor learning supports and the green light for council to help provide materials/support</li> <li>2. Schedule Wish List meeting and November council meeting</li> </ol>	

*We acknowledge that We are hosted on the land of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, The Haundenosaunee, the Chippewa, and the Wendat Peoples. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples.*

## **1. Introduction and Welcome**

- Chairs TK and JD welcome all and outline the agenda. TK notes the atypical school year with pandemic restrictions in place and welcomes all new families and attendees. This is the first Clinton Council meeting to occur on Google Meet
- Introductions of 2019-2020 Council Members
- Katie Harding will continue on as the teaching staff rep for 2020-21

## **2. Co-Chair's Report**

- Co-Chair TK delivers a report from the Co-Chairs, outlining highlights of 2019-2020
- Mandate of the School Council is outlined, including fundraising, advocating for Clinton students and allowing parents and caregivers greater access to education process at the TDSB
- TK notes that the school year ended with approximately ½ of the planned Council activities completed.
- Council surveyed the school community, with the goal for this community survey to be bi-annual. Results of school community survey on the website.
- Community support fund – established a couple of years ago - was maintained to help support any families in community that would face barriers from participating fully in Clinton community events.
- Council established twice-a-month pizza lunches, which were very successful fundraisers.
- Colibri and Damien's hot sauce fundraisers
- Council exec participated in the Safe Reopening Committee
- Council financially supported and distributed the Students Safety Kits for return to school.
- Reusable water bottles are now stocked in the office for students who require them.
- Schoolyard Renovation was completed last year, following 3+ years of planning and fundraising.
- Clinton Rocks! concert, Spring Fair, Spring/Fall BBQ, and guest speakers were all cancelled as a result of the pandemic closures.
- Online Auction fundraiser is on hold, but we are hoping to hold it in November.

## **3. Treasurer's Report**

- Treasurer SP delivers a brief financial update
- No real financial activity between June and September 2020.
- SP notes some large donations were received to allow for the Student Safety fanny packs to be distributed to all Clinton students. Donations from individual families have been received by Council and by the TDSB on our behalf.
- School Council currently has approximately \$19,000 of funds available. SP notes the need to keep some funds available for future years.
- In 2019-2020, only ~1/2 of Wish List items were funded due to pandemic closure. These funds will roll over to this year during Wish List process. Closures also affected fundraising from Pizza Days.
- No Questions received from floor
  
- Chair TK notes the restraints on School Council funding. Council cannot fund core educational components – capital, curriculum books, staff, etc. We can fund enhancements to the educational experience – such as the sensory room, enhancements to the schoolyard, instruments, trips, etc.
- Currently School Councils are prohibited from funding PPE, or other TDSB covered items

Question from floor:

Can we fund enhancements to the rear overhang, such as an awning - so we have use of that area for the winter? Tenting?

A: SA – anything that would be physically connected to the school is considered a Facilities installation and it is highly unlikely these enhancements would be approved for funding. Facilities centralizes all capital improvements to the school.

Are there any other enhancements Council or the community could fund for outdoor learning (encourages creativity)?

A: (as below)

#### **4. Principal's Report**

- Principal SA delivers an update report from the Clinton Admin
- Heartfelt thank-you from Clinton staff and Admin to the parent and caregiver community for all of the support.
- SA thanks School Council and notes Fanny packs were well received by students. Inquiries came from the larger community of elementary schools downtown
- Beverley School also received 100 fanny packs delivered from Clinton School Council; Beverley is a congregated site which includes a community of students with special needs.
- Goal of admin was to be well informed decisions on reopening procedures, and efforts included meeting with experts within our parent community to inform the plan.
- Outdoor learning is a subject of parent interest. Current outdoor learning allocation is:
  - Each class is outside for 80 minutes each day with their homeroom teacher
  - Outside for one full hour under lunch time supervision
  - Drama, Gym, and music classes are scheduled outdoors as much as possible
  - Recently re-opened the playscape
- Adjustments to protocols being made week to week for continuous improvement to how school functions. Focus is on students feeling secure and safe at school.

Question from floor:

Can you speak to use of tents?

SA: TDSB has informed schools that tents are 'on hold'. TDSB may adopt a pilot in the future. SA is not opposed but at this time they are not allowed on the grounds.

- Chair TK notes Council will be advocating to Superintendent and Trustee for tents, outdoor instruction, and clear rules and instruction for School Communities to implement outdoor learning
- Chair JD notes that the parent community supports outdoor learning and all approaches and ideas welcome
- Principal SA notes that provincial standards do limit the number of children allowed outside in the yard at one time

Question from floor:

Are teachers going to be encouraged to take children to parks?

SA – Interest in parks is understood. Currently no process at Board level for supporting that as regular option. Some parents are not supportive and a Board process is needed first.

- Regarding PPE: TDSB ensuring ongoing delivery of masks and other PPE to schools. Clinton has an appropriate stock of both cleaning supplies and PPE, including for distribution to children as need arises.
- SA thanks the Trades group who are completing the window replacement project. Currently on the third floor. Classes relocated during two day replacement process for each classroom, with library being used as replacement class
- SA notes that painting and work related to schoolyard update project has been completed. School in good shape maintenance-wise, and schoolyard provides good space for students outdoors. Children enjoy the seating areas.
- Regarding the process for notification of COVID cases – this has been changing regularly. TDSB works with Ministry and Toronto Public Health to set and update policies.
- SA notes the case of a temporary Centro Clinton daycare staff member testing positive. TDSB communication regarding these cases was delayed.
- Good news - reorganization of TDSB staff which occurred this week: Clinton has received no staff cuts, our staff quota remains the same.
- SA notes that virtual families remain part of Clinton community and Admin will attempt to communicate out to all families (virtual and in-person) throughout the year

Question from floor:

What measures are in place to address mental health of children experiencing anxiety?

SA: School psychologist and Social worker are available if students are identified by teachers or parents. NL notes next ward forum will focus on student mental health. RC notes the mental health and wellbeing committee with parents and staff.

- SA notes work of Return to School Committee in supporting safe reopening of Clinton

Question in chat: Can we fundraise with pizza lunches?

A: At this time, TDSB policy is that no lunch programs are allowed.

## **5. Elections – Clinton Street Junior Public School Council Executive, 2020-21**

- Outgoing Co-Chair TK notes that the 2020-21 Wish List meeting will be held in late October. The Wish List request form is up on the website now. Everyone is welcome to submit suggestions.
- Elections will be held this evening for Clinton School Council executive for 2020-21. TK notes that anonymous voting is not possible at this evening's meeting due to online format. There are no objections.
- Nominations for executive positions have been received as follows: 1 for each of the two Co-Chair positions, 1 for Treasurer, 1 for Secretary, and 1 for Ward Rep. TK calls for nominations from the floor.
- No further nominations are received.

## Elections

Co-Chair

Jaimie Donovan expresses interest.

TK nominates JD

KM seconds

**Jaimie Donovan is acclaimed as Co-Chair**

Co-Chair

Tonia Krauser expresses interest.

DC nominates TK

SP seconds

**Tonia Krauser is acclaimed as Co-Chair**

Treasurer

Steve Parker expresses interest. Expression of interest of Treasurer

KM nominates SP

SH seconds

**Steve Parker is acclaimed as Treasurer**

Secretary

Nigel Lawson expresses interest.

JD nominates NL

SH seconds

**Nigel Lawson is acclaimed as Secretary**

Ward Rep

TK Notes parent Nadia Aleem has expressed interest.

TK nominates NA

SP seconds

**Nadia Aleem is acclaimed as Ward Rep**

- Chair TK notes that the position of Communications Coordinator is not elected. Kristi Marstrom has agreed to remain in the position. KM created the current School Council website which is envied by many schools.

2020-2021 Clinton School Council is:

Co-Chairs: Tonia Krauser and Jaimie Donovan  
 Treasurer: Steve Parker  
 Secretary: Nigel Lawson  
 Ward Rep: Nadia Aleem  
 Communications Coordinator: Kristi Marstrom

### **Question and Answer – COVID-19 and Clinton School**

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Dr. Matthew Muller  
 Dr. Valerie Waters  
 Infections Disease Physicians and parents in the Clinton community.

- Chair TK notes that some questions have been received via the online portal, and questions will be taken via chat or online tonight.
- Chair TK thanks MM and VW for their participation as experts

Q1: Parents are trying to weigh in-person (vs virtual) learning with risk of infection from COVID. Parents are interested in a 'tipping point' advice for parents – what are the data points parents should watch for and who should we be listening to? Do you have advice?

- Consider individuals children's risk for disease. Current general medical advice is that COVID is not typically serious condition in children. Underlying medical conditions will affect how children react and should be considered.
- Children can still transmit disease. Does the child live in home with an older person or compromised person?
- How does the child function with an online learning? Can they manage this on their own?
- Infection potential is related to case numbers in the public, and COVID numbers are currently rising and should be monitored by all parents.

Q2: What is the relevance or importance of the daily screening tool required for each student? Clinton is currently using the paper form.

- Primary importance is opportunity to check with children to see if they are demonstrating symptoms. Form plays a role as daily reminder to parents to monitor for symptoms in students before sending to school.
- Symptomatic children should not attend school as this limits transmission

Q3: Do clothes and the regular cleaning/laundry of clothes play a role in transmission of COVID?

- Very low risk relative to respiratory droplets in the air
- Washing of clothes can continue per the standard laundry schedule of the home

Q4: We are observing increasing rates of infection without corresponding increase in hospitalization / death as per the first wave - is this a reason for optimism?

- Too early to say definitively but some reason for optimism. Current increases are generally in a younger population.
- Lagging indicators of hospitalization/deaths.
- Spring 2020 saw exposure in long-term care facilities with highest risk patients. Current policies should help protect those patients.
- Continued rise in numbers will inevitably lead to outbreaks in all age groups, and strong public health action / individual action for social distancing, masking, hygiene etc is strongly encouraged

Q5: Is it okay for kids to not wear masks outside? Given it is an elementary school with very young children, is it possible for them to play outdoors without masks?

- Generally speaking, kids need breaks from masks and outdoors is a great time for kids
- Exposure to COVID outdoors is of low concern due to improved air circulation outdoors.
- Enclosed, indoors spaces are of most concern for transmission.
- Asking children to wear masks all day outdoors may not be feasible or desired for many families
- Transmission is possible outdoors, but very low risk
- Social distancing is still needed, but age appropriate, distanced play without mask while outdoors is okay.
- Contact sports not encouraged

Q6: What is your view of indoor playdates with children who are home-schooled and not in same class cohort?

- Follow public health instructions, which are currently not to be in other peoples homes. Indoor playdates are strongly discouraged.
- The more interactions with others, the increased risk for transmission to you and others. Indoor environments especially bad.

Question from Chat / Online:

Would high quality HEPA filter be of use in a classroom?

- Notes that HEPA filters are used in hospital environments and substantial capital investment required. Benefits of these investments currently unclear.
- Basics of outdoor time, good air circulation, masking, hand washing, and physical distancing are the most important factors currently.

Is there anything you've seen other schools do that Clinton could do? TK notes the great efforts of Clinton staff/community.

- Generally speaking, efforts made at Clinton seem to be very good. Take advantage of outdoor space as much as possible during good weather.

Keeping sick kids out of the school is mentioned as a big help – what programs can support kids at home to learn etc and support parents who have kids at home?

- Speaks to value of workplace programs to support working parents

Do you see merit in plexiglass screens in class to separate children's work spaces?

- Physical distancing, masks, hygiene measures are most important.
- No clear benefit to plexiglass given the drawbacks of isolating kids. Notes impact on noise / volume of speaking required.

Is the lack of serious infections in children due to their relative isolation during lockdown?

- Available data from countries with many infections, such as China, Italy and the United states indicate that children are still not as severely affected as adults by COVID infection

If a family has two children and sends one in-person, is there any limited exposure in this case?

- Risk with one in school remains. If one child has an underlying condition, there is an increased risk with one child at school bringing home exposure.
- Decision could be made based on child's schooling preferences

Any tips for testing, given that children will need tests? Can you speak to accuracy of tests for children?

- Notes current testing system strain due to numbers of tests. Lines are inevitable and will be present at testing centres
- Monitor children for high risk symptoms like fever or multiple symptoms which may indicate infection
- 'Spit-test' is currently being assessed and could be rolled out in the future.
- Traditional nasal swab is very good at detecting the virus; quality of sample from patient can influence outcome and test can be challenging with kids. Spit test more child friendly.

Can you speak to the COVID Long-hauler cases and lasting impacts?

- Good reminder that there is a lot we don't yet know about COVID as it's a new disease
- This outcome is not common, not enough data currently to comment
- More likely to affect adults rather than children

**NEXT MEETING TBD**