

**St. John Fisher Jr Elementary
Governing Board Agenda 2021-04-07
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Online via ZOOM**

Type of meeting: **Governing Board – Regular 2020-21 #8**

Distribution:

Parent Members: Angela Kovalak, Phil Lambert, Nadia Lawand, Naomi Proctor, Christina Cory

Parent Substitutes: Christine Archambault, Allison Gerhart, Matthew Knox

Staff: Nadine Emond, Michèle Larin, Martine Létourneau, Tania Nouvet, Sandi Hammock

Ex-Officio: Natasha Mentore, Evelyne Hornblower, Rebecca Cherry

Community Reps: Andrew Gunther

Invited: Judith Kelley

Agenda Topics

8.1	Land Acknowledgment	N. Lawand
8.2	Call to Order & Welcome	N. Lawand
8.3	Adoption of the Agenda	N. Lawand
8.4	Adoption of the November 23 rd , 2020 Minutes *	N. Lawand
8.5	Adoption of the February 3 rd , 2021 Minutes *	N. Lawand
8.6	Adoption of the February 15 th , 2021 Minutes *	N. Lawand
8.7	Adoption of the March 10 th , 2021 Minutes *	N. Lawand
8.8	Questions from Public	
8.9	Business Arising	
8.9.1	Blood Drive (Feb 15 th , 2022)	N. Mentore
8.9.2	Annual Report	N. Mentore
8.9.3	Mask Recall & Masks on buses	N. Mentore
8.9.4	Late Start School Change	N. Lawand
8.10	New Business	
8.10.1	GB Composition Consultation 2021-2022. *	N. Lawand
8.10.2	Daycare Budget	S. Hammock
8.10.3	Daycare Policy Handbook	S. Hammock
8.10.4	Field Trips	N. Mentore
8.10.5	Rentals	N. Mentore
8.11	Reports	
8.11.1	Regional Parents' Committee *	C. Cory
8.11.2	SNAC-AGM	E. Hornblower
8.11.3	H&S Liaison *	R. Cherry
8.11.4	Daycare	S. Hammock
8.11.5	Council of Commissioners' Minutes	J. Kelley
8.11.6	Teachers'	N. Emond
8.11.7	Principal's	N. Mentore
8.12	Questions from Public	
8.13	Correspondence	N. Lawand
8.14	Varia	N. Lawand
8.15	Adjournment: Next meeting May 5 th , 2021	N. Lawand

**St. John Fisher Elementary – Junior Campus
Governing Board Minutes – 2021/04/07
7:01 – 8:29 PM
Zoom Meeting**

Type of meeting: Governing Board – Regular 20-21 #8

Participants:

Parents: Christina Cory, Angela Kovalak, Phil Lambert, Nadia Lawand,
Naomi Proctor, Mathew Knox (alternate) Allison Gerhart (alternate),
Christina Archambault (alternate)

Teachers: Nadine Emond, Michèle Larin, Martine Létourneau, Tania Nouvet

Support Staff: Sandi Hammock

Principal: Natasha Mentore

Commissioner: Judy Kelley

Community Rep: Andrew Gunther

Visitor(s): Evelyne Hornblower (SNAC), Rebecca Cherry (Hands),

Absent: None

Regrets:

AGENDA TOPICS

8.1 Land Acknowledgment

N. Lawand read out the Land Acknowledgment statement to the GB members.

8.2 Call to Order & Welcome

N. Lawand called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. Quorum was established with eight parent representatives (including the three alternate parent representative).

8.3 Adoption of the Agenda

P. Lambert asked if the Jr. GB will be approving the Sr. and Jr. Joint Special Meeting minutes. N. Mentore mentioned that this must be done by both Governing Boards and put forward the idea of holding a certain amount of joint meetings a year for this purpose.

20-21-39 *N. Lawand then called for a motion to approve the agenda. It was moved by M. Létourneau that the agenda be approved with minor administrative corrections. The motion was seconded by M. Larin and was unanimously resolved.*

8.4 Adoption of the November 23rd, 2020 Minutes

20-21-40 *Motion duly proposed by N. Proctor and seconded by M. Larin to approve the November 23rd, 2020 Emergency Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

8.5 Adoption of the February 3rd, 2021 Minutes

20-21-41 *Motion duly proposed by N. Létourneau and seconded by M. Emond to approve the February 3rd, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

8.6 Adoption of the February 15th, 2021 Minutes

20-21-42 *Motion duly proposed by N. Proctor and seconded by M. Emond to approve the February 15th, 2021 Emergency Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

8.7 Adoption of the March 10th, 2021 Minutes

N. Lawand asked that the adoption of the March 10th, 2021 Emergency Meeting be postponed as the minutes are not available for this meeting. This item will therefore be added to the next meeting's agenda

20-21-43 *Motion duly proposed by N. Lawand and seconded by P. Lambert to postpone the approval of the March 10th, 2021 Emergency Meeting Minutes until the next regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

8.8 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No questions from the public at this time.

8.9 **BUSINESS ARISING**

8.9.1 **Blood Drive (Feb 15th, 2022)**

N. Mentore mentioned that Hema Quebec has proposed the date of Feb 15th 2022 (Tuesday) for the blood drive. However, this year the blood drive was held on the weekend and the turnout was great. It was also safer for all as students and blood donors did not overlap. As such, the GB recommends that next year's blood drive be held on the weekend.

The final date for the 2022 blood drive will be fixed at a later date after discussing it with Hema Quebec.

20-21-44 *Motion duly proposed by N. Lawand and seconded by P. Lambert that the GB is in favor of hosting a 2022 blood drive but would prefer it be held on a Saturday or Sunday. Motion carried unanimously.*

8.9.2 **Annual Report**

N. Mentore reviewed the annual report is not as complete as per usual due to the current pandemic and missing information (data).

20-21-45 *Motion duly proposed by C. Cory and seconded by N. Proctor to approve the annual report as presented, noting that it is less detailed than in the past due to the Pandemic. Motion carried unanimously.*

8.9.3 **Mask Recall & Masks on buses**

N. Mentore explained that the mask recall has not affected students at the junior school as only certain adult size masks were recalled. Unfortunately, this did affect some masks for teachers and staff.

There were also some questions on why students are required to use masks provided by the school as opposed to their own personal masks. Students are required to use masks provided by the School Board purchased from preapproved suppliers that meet government standards. According to government recommendations at the time of this meeting, K4 and K5 students are not required to wear masks. This also applies to K4 and K5 students on school busses.

It was also noted that all visitors to the school must wear surgical masks and that the bus companies are not required to supply the masks.

A GB member asked how can parents increase the number of masks available to students for both school and especially for the bus as the students are having to use used masks for the next morning's bus ride. It was mentioned that parents would need to lobby the Minister of Education and/or the Minister of Health to push for supplementary funding. Currently the school boards have the funding for two masks a day.

8.9.4 Late Start School Change

N. Lawand explained that the late start school change for St. John Fisher School has been passed. Reversing the decision for the 2021/2022 school year is not possible at this time. However, some parents have discussed creating a committee to look into how to change back to an early start time.

N. Lawand mentioned that we should shift our attention to trying to help parents adjust to the new later start time for the upcoming school year. Such as, looking to reduce the amount of homework in order to help families who will now have less time in the evenings.

The Council of Commissioners' have passed a resolution to ask the transportation department to look at the current transportation plan for possibilities to improve the current system in order to help schools who might like to have a different start time.

It was also mentioned the philosophical and educational aspects on who would benefit the most from an earlier start time and a later start time.

20-21-46 *Motion duly proposed by N. Lawand and seconded by C. Cory that the GB agree to continue the discussion via a subcommittee or GB member group to push for a review of the school start times jointly with the senior campus. Motion carried unanimously.*

8.10 NEW BUSINESS

8.10.1 GB Composition Consultation 2021-2022

N. Lawand presented the current GB member composition with a total of 12 members including 5 parents, 4 teachers and non-teaching staff, 1 daycare representative and 2 community representatives (non-voting).

20-21-47 *Motion duly proposed by N. Proctor and seconded by M. Emond to maintain the current GB composition.*

8.10.2 Daycare Budget

S. Hammock presented the Daycare Budget and prepared an outline of a letter that will be sent in response to the Budget Consultation.

The Daycare ran a deficit this school year due to lower daycare numbers because of the Pandemic while maintaining full staff (reduced daycare to student ratios). There was also a deficit carried over from the previous year.

It was also noted that the lunch program at 2\$/day per student is does not cover the cost running the lunch program. This has been the case for the last couple of years.

It appears that the majority of daycares are running a deficit because of the current pandemic. Since this is a generalized issue, the hope is that the government will allocate more funds to help cover daycare costs.

20-21-48 *Motion duly proposed by C. Cory and seconded by M. Larin to adopt the daycare budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.*

8.10.3 Daycare Policy Handbook

S. Hammock presented the Daycare Policy Handbook. There are a few incomplete sections such as the lunch hours and kindergarten start times as they have yet to be determined.

The sporadic fees have gone up to 13.50\$/day (students using Daycare 2 or less days per week).

The lunch fees will increase to 2.50\$/day to a maximum of 450\$/yr.

20-21-49 *Motion duly proposed by M. Proctor and seconded by T. Nouvet to adopt the Daycare Policy Handbook as presented. This includes the increase of the sporadic fees to 13.50\$/day and the daycare lunch program fee to 2.50\$/day. Motion carried unanimously.*

8.10.4 Field Trips

No fieldtrips requests presented.

8.10.5 Rental

The School Board has received a few rental requests but at this time, the School Board is not permitting any rentals.

8.11 REPORTS

8.11.1 Regional Parents' Committee

Parents' Committee Meeting was cancelled. The meeting will be held next week.

No report.

8.11.2 SNAC-AGM

E. Hornblower summarized last week's SNAC meeting.

No report.

Please consult the following link to view SNAC meeting minutes:

<http://snac.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/minutes/page.asp>

8.11.3 H&S Liaison

R. Cherry highlighted this past month's fundraisers including the current spring fundraiser with Felix & Norton cookies which ends on April 12th.

The next Home and School meeting will be April 21st at 7pm.

Home and School report attached.

Please consult the following link to view the HandS newsletters:

<http://stjohnfisher.lbpsb.qc.ca/hsdocs.htm#News> and the meeting minutes: <http://stjohnfisher.lbpsb.qc.ca/hs.htm>

8.11.4 Daycare

S. Hammock mentioned that there has been a change to next year's back-to-back Ped days on March 28th and March 29th 2022. Daycare will be closed on March 28th 2022 as it will be a professional development day for daycare employees.

No report

8.11.5 Council of Commissioners' Minutes

Council of Commissioners report attached (2 reports and 2 FYI information sheets)

Please consult the following link to view council of commissioners' meeting minutes: <http://www.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/council/cminutes.asp>

8.11.6 Teachers'

N. Emond presented the teachers' report.

Teachers report attached.

8.11.7 Principal's

N. Mentore presented the principal's report.

Principal's report attached.

8.12 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No questions from the public at this time.

8.13 CORRESPONDENCE

None

8.14 VARIA

None

8.15 ADJOURNEMENT

20-21-50 *Motion duly proposed by N. Lawand and seconded by P. Lambert that the meeting be adjourned.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday May 5th, 2021

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Philip Lambert



ST. JOHN FISHER
HOME AND SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION



H&S Report to GB

April 2021

- H&S meetings took place on February 17th and March 17th
- Scholastic book fair (virtual) took place March 15 to 29
 - Junior school :
Virtual fair = \$590.60 net sales (59 books)
This brings your total to **\$1,763.97** rewards balance available (including those from prior fairs) to spend on Scholastic products.
 - Senior school :
Virtual fair = \$495.35 net sales (48 books sold)
This gives you \$99 of rewards to spend in Scholastic products. There is also a balance of approx. \$1000 in H&S bank account from Scholastic available for you.
- Domino's Family Pizza Night on March 2- \$500 was raised
- Pizza/Subway and tcbby credits were given last year to students who had signed up for those fundraisers. We will be discussing the best way to refund the money (refund or gift card) at the next H&S meeting.
- Spring Fundraiser with Felix & Norton cookies on now until April 12th (online orders).
More information found on our website
<https://sjfhands.wordpress.com/2021/03/30/felix-norton-cookie-fundraiser/>
- Spring H&S Newsletter will be sent out in the next couple of weeks
 - Please let us know if you have something you would like to put in the newsletter.
We like to hear what's happening in the schools.

Next Meeting Wednesday, April 21 at 7pm

Judy Kelley – Vice Chair of the LBPSB – Commissioner: Ward 4 - St. John Fisher Jr. & Sr., John Rennie, Lindsay Place, St. Thomas and Horizon High School
jkelly@lbpsb.qc.ca

Monday March 8th was International Women’s Day. It is important to acknowledge the work women do for our world, our society, our education system, on this day, and also every day.



Report from Council February - March 2021

- I need to keep repeating this message: We continue to be living in unpredictable times. My thank you extends to everyone who is working to ensure our students have the best possible educational experience within the confines of the current public health crisis. It is not easy at home or at school. We are adjusting; we are adapting, but it is draining. I hope the March break helped you to recharge. May the sunshine and longer spring days feed us with energy and hope for all things positive in the weeks and months ahead.
- Black History Month: The tradition of recognizing Black History Month throughout our school board was officially recognized in passing this resolution presented by our Co-Opted Commissioner, Allison Saunders:

LBSPB Acknowledgement of Black History Month

WHEREAS observance of Black History Month is an opportunity for our community as well as our schools and centres to reflect on, commemorate and recognize the contributions of Black people, including Black Canadians and Black Quebecers from all walks of life throughout our history; and

WHEREAS the Lester B. Pearson School Board recognizes Black History Month as an occasion for each of its schools and centres to offer students an opportunity to understand the common humanity underlying all people, to develop pride in their own identity and heritage and to understand, respect and accept the identity and heritage of others;

WHEREAS, not only during the month of February, but throughout the school year, it is important to recognize both disparities and opportunities in working towards greater equity in our schools, in the community and throughout the education system:

WHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: THAT the Lester B. Pearson School Board acknowledge February as Black History Month as observed in its schools and centres.

- Some highlights from committee reports:

- June Exams: Mathieu Canavan reported that because the Ministry cancelled provincial exams, the DEEN (Directors of Education in the English Network) committee is in the process of working out how our common provincial exams will be handled. Discussions of what June evaluations will look like are taking place
- Online Campus: Our online campus serves approximately 780 students: 400 elementary students (350 LBPSB, 50 NFSB) & 380 high school students (320 LBPSB, 50 NFSB, 5 CQSB). Despite the many obstacles and challenges put before them, the team has done a great job providing students with the best possible educational experience.
- Regions Report: Colleen Galley reported that schools successfully remained open during the fall until the holiday break. Celebrations took place “Covid style” to maintain some normalcy for our students. Re-confinement plans were finalized so that all schools are prepared to switch to online learning. Enrichment exams for grade 6 students also took place. Elementary report cards were sent out Jan 30th, and High School report cards were sent out Jan 23rd . Virtual open houses for both Elementary Schools and High schools were held. C. Galley reported that implicit bias training is ongoing in our schools, Black History activities are taking place system-wide and highlighted Muslim Awareness week, which took place the week of January 24th.
- One new feature of the LBPSB website is the “In the news” section: <https://boardsite.lbpsb.qc.ca/in-the-news> where you can find Lester B Pearson School Board media mentions.

Annual Report:

The 2019-2020 Annual Report was approved by Council. I urge you to read through the report to get a clear snapshot of the LBPSB community in the past year.

<https://sharepoint.lbpsb.qc.ca/Committees/Council Meeting 20-21/Lists/Agenda/Attachments/321/ATTACH 2019-2020AnnualReport v5.pdf>

On a personal note: I would like to acknowledge the questions posed at Council on February 22nd and the receipt of letters and emails from the St. John Fisher Jr. and Sr. communities regarding the notification of a change to the school start/finish time for 2021-22. I understand and empathize with your concerns about the impact that any change will have on families and employees.

Please feel free to send me questions and concerns at any time. It is an honour to represent the constituents of Ward 4 and to work for the LBPSB.

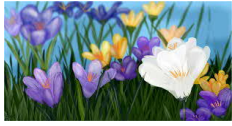
Respectfully, Judy Kelley

All the best for a healthy March.



Judy Kelley – Vice Chair of the LBPSB – Commissioner: Ward 4 - St. John Fisher Jr. & Sr., John Rennie, Lindsay Place, St. Thomas and Horizon High School

jkelly@lbpsb.qc.ca



Report from Council March 2021

- Thank you to all school personnel and families who are working to help students be the very best they can be while navigating the twists and turns of the day-to-day this school year. Thank you, also to our school communities who are planning for 2021-2022 and for their patience in making adjustments that for many are huge and difficult. I would also like to acknowledge and recognize everyone in the St. John Fisher Jr. and Sr. communities who devoted much time, energy and emotion in working through a school start and finish change. Although “only an hour”, an hour has an enormous impact on families and school staff and on the children whose routine will also change. But, I do think children are resilient, and as we have seen for the last 12 months, they do adapt to the most unusual of circumstances. The year behind us has challenged us all to adjust to a new reality which is not normal and a year ahead that will ask even more of us. My suggestion is that we move forward embracing what is positive, what will work and how it will work with all of us at the table together.
- Transportation Plan 2021-22 was passed at Council on March 22nd.
- In continuation of the LBPSB work on equity and inclusivity and in support of anti-Black racism, a resolution was passed proclaiming that the speaking/utterance of the “N-word” will not be tolerated within our board.
- Some highlights from Committee reports:

Central Students: The students are the process of organizing a virtual conference.

Executive: 2021-2022 Governing Board Composition: A resolution was adopted initiating the annual consultation required by the Education Act on the number of parents and staff representatives on the Governing Board of each school and centre of the Lester B. Pearson School Board. The consultation will be launched during the week of March 22, 2021, with responses to be returned to the Secretariat no later than May 20, 2021. The final Governing Board Composition for 2021- 2022 of each school and centre will be submitted for adoption at the regular meeting of the Executive Committee of May 25, 2021.

SNAC: Special Presentation: Educating Students with Special Needs a Portrait of the LBPSB 2020-2021 by Stephanie Stever (Director Student Services) highlights:

- The total population of students in LBPSB from 4K-11 in 2020-2021 is 19,696 students ● 13% (2574) of students within LBPSB are identified as in difficulty or with a code (EHDA - élèves en difficultés d'adaptation ou d'apprentissage). Stable for the past 3 years. ● 59% (1524 of the 2574) are students considered to be in difficulty (learning difficulties, mild intellectual impairments, behavior disorders etc.) ● 41% (1050 of the 2574) are students with a handicapped code (Students with coding such as Autism, Psychopathological, Language Disorders, Hearing Impairments etc.)
- LBPSB Services to Students (inclusive approach) ● Teaching (Classroom teachers, resource teachers). Differentiation in class, remedial & resource support ● Learning and Behavior. Support Integration aide (in class)/special education technician / social work technician ● Non-teaching professional services. Consultation, Assessment, Intervention ● Understanding that student needs & services change over time and context

Please visit the SNAC Facebook page which was launched a year ago and since then has been very active and informative.

Intercultural Advisory: The IAC project funding applications were reviewed. 20 of the 22 projects submitted were approved.

Green Committee: The policy, Environmental and Sustainability Policy, found, on the LBPSB website, has recently been updated:

https://boardsite.lbpsb.qc.ca/Modules/FileManagement/files/Root/Council/docs/policies/Environmental_and_Sustainability_Policy__Sept.21_2020_ADOPTED.pdf

One new feature of the LBPSB website is the "In the news" section: <https://boardsite.lbpsb.qc.ca/in-the-news>.

On a personal note: I would like to acknowledge the questions posed at Council on March 22nd from the St. John Fisher Jr. and Sr. communities regarding the change to the school start/finish time for 2021-22. I understand and empathize with your concerns about the impact that any change will have on families and employees.

Please feel free to send me questions and concerns at any time. It is an honour to represent the constituents of Ward 4 and to work for the LBPSB.

Respectfully, Judy Kelley

All the best for a relaxing Easter weekend break.





March 23rd 2021

To ensure members of the Lester B. Pearson School Board community remain up to date regarding what transpires at regular Council of Commissioners meetings, the Department of Communications and Community Development sends out summaries of the different decisions that are taken following each meeting.

Please find some of the highlights below that were taken during the March 22nd regular meeting. Different Committee reports that were presented as well as the minutes will be available at the following link by the end of the week: <http://www.lbpsb.qc.ca/eng/council/CommitteeReports.asp>

1. The Council of Commissioners of the Lester B. Pearson School Board unanimously adopted a resolution proclaiming that the “n” word must never be uttered within the confines of the LBPSB schools and centres considering that it is derogatory, denigrating and harmful to the safety and well-being of the school board community. The resolution also states that the LBPSB denounces racism and discrimination in all forms, that the board has always been committed to equity, inclusion and respect for all and that the devastating impact of discrimination can no longer be ignored.
2. The Council of Commissioners of the Lester B. Pearson School Board unanimously adopted a resolution calling on the Quebec government to reimburse all funds that the board is already forced to spend on school elections, which were postponed on two separate occasions last year, and is expected to finance when they are rescheduled. The resolution states that while the government postponed the elections the board incurred many additional costs to prepare for the elections and shouldn't have to foot the bill out of operating expenses.
3. The Council of Commissioners adopted the Lester B. Pearson School Board's 2021-2022 Student Transportation Organizational Plan following a recommendation by the Transportation Advisory Committee.
4. The Council of Commissioners approved the purchase of two new Ford Transit service trucks for a maximum budgetary price of \$135,000 before taxes, including all required modifications. The purchase is required in order to replace two aging service trucks with funding from the 2020-2021 Capital Budget. The two vehicles are suitable for the different needs of the School Board.
5. The Council of Commissioners awarded a contract for Lindsay Place High School Project #2006 Civil, for the West parking asphalt renovation and drainage and St-John Fisher Jr./Church joined land portion renovation to the lowest compliant bidder, Excavation D.D.L., in accordance with the tender documents for the amount of 466 305.00\$ (before taxes). The Facilities and Security Committee recommended the awarding of this contract.
6. The Council of Commissioners approved a decision that will see the current rental of facilities rates increased by 1% for the 2021-2022 school year. This decision follows a recommendation by the Facilities and Security Committee.



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Please find some of the highlights below that were taken during the February 22nd regular meeting. Different Committee reports that were presented as well as the minutes will be **available here** by the end of the week.

1. The Council of Commissioners unanimously adopted a resolution whereby the Lester B. Pearson School Board acknowledges February 2021 as Black History Month as observed in its different schools and centres. The resolution states that Black History Month provides an opportunity to reflect on, commemorate and recognize the contributions of Black Canadians and Quebecers from all walks of life throughout history.
2. The Council of Commissioners approved the 2019-2020 Annual Report in accordance with Section 220 of the Education Act. The Annual report will be sent to Quebec Premier François Legault, the Quebec Minister of Education as well as other board partners. A copy of the report is **available here**.
3. The Council of Commissioners approved the administrative appointment of Jason Ferris to the position of Principal at Beurling Academy effective March 8th 2021. Jason had been working as Vice-Principal at Beaconsfield High School.
4. The Council of Commissioners approved the Food Service Contract Renewal with Groupe Compass (Quebec) for the provision of food services throughout the network of schools, centres and offices of the Lester B. Pearson School Board under the same terms and conditions for a period of 1 year running from July 1st 2021 to June 30th 2022.
5. The Council of Commissioners approved that the following three Commissioners will attend the annual conference of *L'institut des troubles d'apprentissage* taking place in Montreal from March 24th to March 26th 2021 and that expenses be reimbursed in accordance with the School Board's Policy governing Commissioners' Local Travel, Conference and other Expenses.

- 1) Susana Lazaro
- 2) Angela Berryman
- 3) Allison Saunders

GB Teachers 'report February 2021

Kindergarten teachers workshop Monday March 29th :

- New Kindergarten program 4-5 years old

Martine Létourneau online workshops Monday March 29th

- Going beyond Math Worksheets
- La littératie structurée au 1er cycle

Monique Shannon online workshop of Monday March 29th

- TI PPS: Behaviour, reflection and strategies
- La littératie structurée au 1er cycle

Administration Report for St-John Fisher Jr - Review of March 2021

Pink T-Shirt Day

Our students talked about being kind and caring for each other. It was a successful day that students used to remind each other of how far kindness goes and focus on what to do if people make wrong choices.

Black History Month

A big thank you goes out to the school librarian who ensured that all classes had books, videos, and visuals to share with the classes. We will continue to purchase books that encourage diversity and acceptance.

Teacher Appreciation

A big thank you goes out to Home and School for the wonderful treats and generous gift card. It was more than appreciated. We are so fortunate to be a part of such a loving and caring community.

COVID Moment of Silence

On Thursday, March 11, 2021 as a Day of Remembrance in honour of the victims of COVID-19, the Premier Legault has asked that all public buildings lower their flags to half-mast. In addition, all Quebecers are being invited to observe a moment of silence at 1:00 p.m. to commemorate those affected by COVID-19.

Air Filters

The filters in the school were changed this week. The system is working well.

St-Patrick's Day

We celebrated together and posted each class on our social media. We are proud to be wearing our school t-shirts!

Wellness Initiative

Some students will be invited to participate in a wellness initiative within their class groups. To promote calm and mindfulness, especially during this difficult time. We also did ***International SEL DAY***- on Friday, March 26 is International Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Day and this year the theme is Building Bonds, Reimagining Community. SEL provides many benefits to students such as improved social-emotional skills, better well-being, and enhanced academic outcomes. Therefore, International #SELDAY is intended to celebrate the people and institutions that promote social-emotional learning. The SEL Day website provides information, resources and toolkits to help your classroom celebrate social-emotional learning and promote SEL in your school community. Ms. Francis organized mindfulness activities for the entire school. Classes that were interested participated in this special event.

Fire Drill & Lockdown Drill

Parents were advised via ERMS that we would be having a mock fire drill (just playing the bells and a lockdown drill. We held the fire drill on March 16th and the lockdown drill on March 18th. Both drills went well. We went over our school protocol and our expectations of staff who are outside in the event of an urgent situation.

Enrollment

We currently have 229 students enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year. Enrollments are a little low all throughout the school board as some parents are still registered online, others are homeschooling and some are late registering.

Virtual Kindergarten Orientation

We will be looking at how we will be organizing this for our tiny learners. We want to ensure that our families get all the information they need and ensure that we have a good opportunity to place the students in the best class groupings. A few ideas have been hashed out and we may be reaching out to governing board and Home and School for some assistance (remotely).

IAC Grant Request

The committee reviewed over all the grant requests on March 18th. Mme Letourneau made a request to have an Inuit Presentation. The committee summary reads; 'learning about the great diversity that characterizes society. A former student will present her Inuit heritage vis video montage'. The request was for \$300 and it has been granted.

Home and School

Several Fundraisers are in place and will continue. For a list of information you can visit: <https://sjfhands.wordpress.com/>. At the end of the year they will no longer be giving the senior or junior cheques. We can make requests for funds and submit receipts for funds. Their association needs them to keep a record of all funds being distributed and itemized.

Playground Grant

The small committee continues to look at potential structures and quotes. We will have professionals surveying the land to see where the installation can be made. We hope to have the installation in place towards the end of August so that our students have the opportunity to be amongst the first to access it.

Sewage Odor

Workers from our school board were tasked to figure out the issue we are having with sewage odor in the school (this issue has been present for several years). They indicated that 12 vents on the roof that expel sewage gases and odors on the roof were all blocked with rocks and debris (some had wasp nests in them as well). This was preventing the venting of all sewage odors. They have now been cleared. They are also looking into having some pipes changed as well (on a weekend later in the Spring). We will be looking at the situation to see if those steps improve the situation. Please let me know if there is still a bad odor starting now. Today (April 7th) SaniVac came to clear several swers outside of the school (on our property) as they were blocked with debris and the water was no longer draining).