

# **A summary of our discussion from February 24<sup>th</sup>**

## **School Council Meeting**

### 1)Enrolment at DeWitt Carter this year with on-line and in-person learning

We started the year with about 150 students here and 75 on-line. We had about 10 come back in the first couple of weeks and about 20 in November. In September, we lost a classroom teacher who had to be transferred to on-line teaching due to the reduced numbers of students here and the number of students on-line across DSBN. In November, the number of students we had return to us allowed us to get this teacher back and open another classroom. Since that time, we have had several students return to us and several new registrations, as well. We still have about 35 students doing on-line learning.

In April, there will be another formal invitation to all Virtual School families to return to their home school for in-person learning. This will accompany a staffing process, like we experienced in November. Depending on how many students return, and to what classes, we may have to re-organize to accommodate the increase in numbers, or we may just be able to include them in our current classes. We will keep parents informed as we draw near that time.

### 2)Fund-raising

Currently the account sits at \$6770. There is approximately \$1900 earmarked to come out for chromebooks which were recently purchased. We have not been able to move money from these accounts with DSBN finance people working from home, and the courier closed, while we were in our January COVID shutdown. Together with the school, we purchased 26 new chromebooks.

We agreed that there was no urgency to fund-raise at this point. Currently, many families in our community are not in a financial position to take part in this. Additionally, there are many parameters around how fund-raising can be done while we are following Public Health guidelines.

### 3)Communication

Mr. Acaster reviewed the ways the school is communicating with parents. We are using fewer paper notices coming home. We are using the school phone message system and posting information to the home page of the website.

Mr. Acaster reminded parents about the importance of all parents screening their child's health before sending them to school. He showed us where the on-line, interactive screening tool was and how it can be used. He also told us about the quick look memo about screening criteria that is posted in a link in the DeWitt Carter home page.

### 4)Character Assemblies

We are still doing our character assemblies at the end of each month. The way we do it is every class is invited to a TEAMS meeting. Mr. Acaster announces the award winners and the recipients receive their certificate from the teacher and a small key-tag token as a prize. This month, we invited parents of the student award winners to come on-line with us in the virtual assembly.

## 5) Graduation

We know this topic is at the forefront of our grade eights' minds right now. We are unable to go through planning right now, as we must follow the guidelines of Public Health for an event like this. Mr. Acaster has inquired about graduation photos, to see if these can be done, in the least. He was told that photos are on hold still. The allowance of outside agencies into the schools is regulated strictly right now. As soon as any information is ready for us, Mr. Acaster will inform grade eight families. If school photos are allowed, all families will be notified.

## 6) Construction

We are currently undergoing some renovations and construction that will last for several months. All classrooms are fitted with new HEPA filters. This was done over the Christmas holidays. We will have an elevator that will service classroom floors one and two. It is being constructed in the middle stairwell on the north side of the school. A second lift will service between the first classroom floor, the foyer, and the library. Accessible washrooms are being constructed on the foyer floor and beside the library. We will have a ramp access off Fares Street to our front entranceway. Our library is going to have the carpet replaced with a vinyl flooring. Additionally, there will be some new shelving and overhead lighting. All classroom windows will be replaced with larger and more efficient glass and window coverings. There will also be brickwork and landscaping done to the front of the building.

## 7) Online Student Census Survey

Starting in late March and into April. All our students will be asked to do a survey about themselves and how they see themselves identified. The better we know our students, the better we can serve them in their education and their well-being. The survey will take place in two parts. First, our intermediate students will complete the survey, here at school, using our chromebooks. The second phase will be where our Kindergarten to Grade 6 students do their survey. Because of the complexity of the questions, this will be done at home with the parent/guardian's assistance. The survey itself, consists of 9 questions and will probably take about 15 to 20 minutes to complete it. It is voluntary, parent permission will be asked before beginning it and the results are confidential. We hope every family takes part in the survey – the more complete and genuine the responses, the more accurate our data will be. More information will be given to all our families before we embark on this journey.