

Courtland School Council
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 - 7pm

Attendance: Desiree Hinsperger, Mike Coates, Colin Nuber & Terisa Seung,, Alison Moore,
Marie Lee, Teresa Cornwell

1. We had a brief yet very exciting debrief of the Virtual BodyBreak with Hal Johnson and Joanne McLeod yesterday at Courtland. Very exciting for students and staff (and parents too!)
2. Introductions were made.
3. Principal/Staff Updates: Mike shared his empathy for students and parents in this difficult time. Notice has been short in terms of changes from remote - in person learning.
 - a. Parking Lot Design project meeting was held today - still moving along and considering all the ideas. There are space limitations but would like to still have pick up/drop off places. At a minimum it will all be repaved and an improved tarmac area for students.
 - b. Parent Reaching Out Grant - still collecting ideas - the proposal is due on January 14th (possibilities include Parent Engagement Nights, Family Fun Nights, Family Math Night). There was a Sources of Strength workshop (suicide prevention) booked and unfortunately had to be rescheduled due to a covid outbreak - now booked for May 30/31, 2022
 - c. Life was close to normal before the break - with some extracurricular activities including Volleyball clubs. There is lots of hope for the future to return to this again.
 - d. Huge success in the Food Drive before the break as well. The equivalent of 186 meals (238 pounds of food!) were collected at Courtland. 165 cards were written and distributed to local seniors as well. Lots of activities related to Kindness.
 - e. The number one goal with remote learning was connection, followed by wellness and then academics. The Courtland staff has been amazing at providing creative learning opportunities. The students are attending (even more than in the past) and participating.
 - f. There was a really fun assembly last week as well put on by Mr. Brubacher which allowed students the chance to sing along and finish the lyrics to songs.
 - g. There is a school-wide read-along happening at Courtland as well - Other Words for Home. This story has many connections for students at Courtland.
 - h. There is another Fun Friday coming this week - another Game Show assembly.
 - i. There is cautious optimism about returning to school next week. It is so important to get back to in-person connections. WRDSB will be sharing a memo in the coming days about the return to school on Monday, January 17th. There will be an updated screener that needs to be completed every day by staff and students. Masks will be available for students and staff as well. There have been significant upgrades to Courtland's ventilation system since September (and windows can be opened) so there will not be HEPA filters add in most

classrooms at this school at this point. There was a question about returning to school when there is a COVID case in a household. There is hope for additional guidance around this from Public Health. There will certainly be challenges in the days ahead.

- j. There is still hope to have lockers open at Courtland in the coming weeks. This is still on pause until there is further guidance.
 - k. In the coming days, Mr. Coates will be letting students know that there will be an “Off and Away” policy for cell phones going forward. There has been more and more concerns and drama attached to cell phone use at school. (cyber-bullying, tik tok challenges, use of video and cameras, etc). If calculators are needed, all students have been provided with those.
4. There was a question about the upcoming Grade 8 graduation. Are students reaching the curriculum requirements for graduation? Staff are doing their best to follow the curriculum. Mr. Coates talked about the consistency of school graduations across the board - there is a discussion about making this equitable. There will be more guidelines coming around what is allowed and what is not allowed. The last 2 years' ceremonies have been virtual. There is also going to be more of a focus on making it a celebration of all students (not just those strongest in academics).

Next Meeting:

February 9, 2022 at 7 pm via google meet