

School of Technology and Arts I
Steering Committee Minutes
April 7th, 2020

Officers:

President: Doris Faucheux

Vice President:

Secretary: Kirsten Gabriel

Treasurer: Kerrie Moore

Principal: Ben Burns

Fundraising: Erika Cedergren

Teachers: Maria Henry and Mike Lawrence

Yearbook: Leah Lachman and Ashley Patros-Kader

District Wide Parent Rep: Dawn Wacek

Volunteer Coordinator: Clarissa Grover

Community Building: Judson Steinback

Technology: Renee Stowell

1. Review and Approve March Minutes.
 - a. Kerrie approved, Maria seconded.
2. Teacher's Report
 - a. The teachers have decided to move the Madison Field Trip and 4-5 Campout to 2021.
 - b. As is detailed in emails from the Superintendent, the teachers will be sending stuff in the mail to keep students on track.
3. Principal's Report
 - a. Started out with a Q/A session regarding the new teaching approach. Kristin Engstrom asked whether or not there has been discussion about recovering any learning loss that might occur during this time. Mr. Burns said there has been talk about the possibility of having the students spend more time reviewing the grade they left off from for the first part of next year. Mr. Burns encouraged parents to sign up for Summer School, especially Math and Reading. Some of the SOTA I Teachers who teach summer school usually teach at Emerson, so if you want your child to see a familiar face, that might be a good option. Just be aware that these teachers might not choose to teach summer school or your child might not end up in their class.
 - b. Mr. Burns has been meeting with the architect with plans to move forward with the expansion. Unfortunately, they are not able to start knocking down walls right now while the building is empty. (Bummer!) Mr. Burns plans to

communicate to parents virtually with what is going on.

- c. Plans for 4K continue forward. As of right now, the teachers feel it is best to keep all 8 4K students together in one class during the morning. The 1st grade kids will spend that time with Mrs. Henry. During the afternoon, classes will be split into the normal K1 classes.
4. GROW Options (See letter below)
 - a. After reviewing the options below, we felt it best to go with Option A. That will give us time to get an idea of where our finances stand after this pandemic is over. We did realize we needed to review the contract with GROW. Kerrie is going to review what we have paid in the past few years. Doris is going to be in touch with Jamie O'Neill to see exactly how much we would need to pay for ½ of the year. Ben will be in touch with the Hamilton PTO to see how much they feel they could give towards GROW in the future. An email vote will be taken once we have more info.
5. Summer Activities - Hopefully!!!
 - a. Rescheduled Bike Rodeo in Sept. instead of the Pool Party
 - b. K1 Picnic
 - i. Maria will talk to the K1 teachers to see if they still want to do this separately from the Bike Rodeo. Also, do they want to invite 4K families? Karen usually reserves the park for the Tuesday before school starts. Maria will confirm that Karen is doing that. The date should be Aug. 25th.
6. Budget
 - a. The budget looks great right now, thanks to fundraising from Scrip and higher than planned income from some of the activities. Additionally, there will be less activities to fund at the end of the year.
7. Fundraising
 - a. The Skate-A-Thon/Duct-Tape-Doris was fun and brought in over \$600. Looking forward and thinking about possible changes for next year, the Skate-A-Thon is one fundraiser that we might have to re-think because the ice arena might no longer exist. Also, we discussed being sensitive with our approach to fundraising. We could also look at timing fundraisers differently based on the how long this pandemic lasts.
8. Yearbook
 - a. Lifetouch will be discounting the yearbooks due to class groupings not being able to be included in this year's yearbook.
9. Has there been any talk about doing a digital Informance? I think it would be awesome!
 - a. I am imagining a video of what students did at school and at home being sent out to families. The video would be compiled of pictures/videos that were taken

while school was in session and pictures/videos from projects the students have been doing at home. Mr. Burns will talk to the teachers about this option if school get closed beyond April 24th.

10. Any position changes for next year?
 - a. Nope!
11. Discuss at next meeting - Open House, Online Directory, Partnering for some of our current officers if that is needed.
12. Next Meeting TBD.

Letter from Jamie O'Neill of GROW

We miss the children too. This time of year we're typically in full swing, providing over 1,650 children each month with outdoor garden lessons. Our program directors really enjoy leading the outside, hands-on learning and exploring with each class.

We were hoping that there was a chance that we would still be able to provide some in-person learning with the students this year. As that is starting to look more unlikely, we wanted to assure you that we are taking measures to ensure that we can remain strong as an organization in the future when life returns to normal. Therefore, here are some updates and some options for you and your PTO/Steering Committee.

Updates:

- At this time, we have devised a garden maintenance COVID-19 protocol. Interns and volunteers will help carry out maintenance this spring in all the gardens we have previously served using the safety protocol. GROW will provide oversight. The Buildings and Grounds department is aware of this plan. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the maintenance of your school garden, please contact me.
- All of our staff currently have no hours or diminished hours to ensure that we have a strong start when classes can resume. We will be applying for some relief assistance and if hours change, I will let you know. For now, please contact me with any questions and concerns.
- Our interns are building up some resources like [scavenger hunts](#) and [learning videos](#). If there is anything in addition that would be helpful for us to provide, please let us know.

Tentative Contract Options for Schools: Here are some options we've been thinking about offering as we probably won't be able to do any of our spring lessons unless we get word that school is opening up again soon. If you get a chance, let us know if one of these might be the best fit for you and your Steering Committee. Otherwise, we can

touch base once we have a clearer picture of when classes will resume.

A. Your Steering Committee can pay half of the year's amount to receive:

1. Traditional Fall 2020 lessons
2. Full GROW maintenance of your school garden

B. Your Steering Committee can choose to start the contract on a date this summer and receive:

1. Traditional Fall 2020 lessons, Spring 2021 lessons
2. Full GROW maintenance of your school garden

C. Your Steering Committee can pay the full year amount to receive:

1. Distance Learning 2020 Spring lessons for teachers to share with their students
2. Traditional Fall 2020 garden lessons
3. Full GROW maintenance of your school garden