

Virtual School Committee Meeting

Date: March 1, 2021

Time: 7:00pm

Attendees:

Atousa Faraz (Virtual School Chair)

Liz Alderson (Secretary)

Jessy Balendra

Laura Maria Nikolareizi (School Council Chair)

Tracey Jewitt

Scott Woolford (Principal)

1. Question for the Virtual School Principal: Online photograph of the class: A virtual class photo/screen shot of all the kids has been requested as a memento of the year. In person schooling vendor protocols are being reviewed so that in person photos can be taken, it may be that they are setting up something for virtual schools.
Action: Scott: *To set up an introduction between Atousa and Virtual School Principal regarding an opportunity to take a "class" photograph for virtual school, and open a dialogue for other topics, see below.*
2. Feedback for the Virtual School Principal: General feedback on French teaching experience: Very variable; some are unruly, and kids are afraid to speak up, in other classes teachers get kids to take turns. There have been instances of some shy students being graded poorly because they couldn't speak up over the more unruly kids, and the teachers didn't encourage individual turn taking, instead marking down for not having heard the child speak. It would be preferable to have smaller classes specifically for French so that all kids can take a turn at practicing speaking the language. French classes need to be more inclusive.
Some parents are turning to duolingo and other software to help bolster their child's French.
3. Feedback for the Virtual School Principal: General feedback on the overall provisions for virtual school.
 - TDSB good job - much better than last year.
 - Appreciate that the TDSB and ministry have the option of switching back and forth.
 - Better prepared if it has to be done
4. Question for the Virtual School Principal: Will TDSB still offer online schooling in September if the vaccinations are not all rolled out by then. It was suggested that smaller local groupings for virtual schooling would be preferable with home school support to prevent kids falling through the cracks - need to maintain a dialogue between home school and virtual school.
5. Events to keep kids connected with their home school - what is the best way. Events are typically during scheduled class time - as part of student wellness, virtual school teachers will likely understand if a parent takes their kid out for a period to attend a home school event.

Next meeting: 29th March 7:00 pm;