**Fultonvale School Council 2020/ 2021 Annual Report**

The 2020/2021 school year was different and presented challenges for our school council. Due to COVID 19 restrictions, parents and volunteers were not able to physically be in the schools, so school council had to be creative in engaging parents/guardians and supporting

student learning. All school council meetings were held via Google Meets enabling us to reach new parents. Initiatives that we usually kick-off in person, were done virtually. Volunteer opportunities were not allowed. We improvised and worked closely with our school administration to ensure a coherent relationship with everyone involved.

We started off our school year with a new principal leading our school and we are so fortunate to have Mr. Jeff Spady. His leadership, guidance and steady hand has led our school through a very uncertain year. Constant communication, an open-phone policy, continuity, kindness, and fairness were just some of the qualities parents have come to know, since Mr. Spady took the helm. We want to thank Mr. Spady and Mr. Wever for ensuring that this year was as normal as possible for our students. For ensuring that they were safe and healthy. We recognize that this year was very unusual, and the leadership of our administration was paramount in our students being successful this year. I also thank you for attending our meetings and keeping us up to date with the goings on in our school.

Our positive working relationship with our administration, for the 2020/2021 school year, started off strong back in August. With all the uncertainty around the return of in-school learning and the deadline for parents to choose out-of-school learning quickly approaching, Mr. Spady took the time to attend a virtual Q & A. This Q & A was proposed by our School Council as we saw an influx in questions and uncertainty after the release of the District’s Re-entry plan. We asked that parents submit their questions in advance to give Mr. Spady the opportunity to research and answer the questions as best he could. Between staff and parents, we had over 50 participants on this virtual call. I want to thank Mr. Spady again, for taking this time to meet with parents before the school year even started. We recognize that this was a very unusual and unprecedented ask, but with the fluid changes of the COVID-19 situation, that 2-hour meeting not only helped answer questions, but it also helped settle nerves of parents.

I want to extend a thank you to Trustee Seutter who attended all our council meetings to offer Board Reports and keep us up on what was happening in the division.

FTV School Council was well represented at COSC (Committee of School Council) meetings,

having two FTV parents present at most meetings. We also had two members attend the Alberta School Councils Association’s (ASCA) virtual conference and AGM this year – one as an ASCA Board Member and one as a voting delegate.

We welcomed Stacey Pederson and Jasmyn Middleton to our School Council meetings to give updates on their roles as our Mental Health Capacity Builders at FTV this year. They provided many resources on mental health for caregivers that we were able to share amongst our school community. This school year was our last for the physical presence of our Mental Health Capacity Builders and we want to thank them for their contributions to our school, especially this year. We were fortunate, that for our final year, we were able to have two supports to help both our Elementary and Jr. High Students. This year, more than ever, those supports were greatly utilized and the work they did with our students on the importance of Mental Health will be needed once we start the recovery process after COVID 19.

FTV School Council and the School worked together to come up a community project to help bring us all together during this COVID time. Utilizing previously obtained Councillor Priority Funds and coordinating through Mural Mosaic, families and students, from both in-school and out-of-school learners, created and contributed tiles that were arranged to form our Community Tree Mural. This Mural was completed virtually and is now displayed proudly in our school as a lasting piece of history showing how our school came together during COVID.

Virtually, School Council continued to offer support to the Wee Reads programs by sharing resources and information through our Parents Facebook Page. We offered numerous links/articles to parents on literacy, numeracy, mental health, healthy digital citizenship, social media concerns, caregiver education sessions and county presentations. At our meetings, we discussed school/district/provincial budgets, fees, staffing, education funding, building community, results review, the Draft Curriculum, initial fee consultations, events at FTV, and so much more.

Our school community came together virtually to recognize the tragic loss our school encountered a year ago. The Gartner Family Memorial, which was held on May 4, was open to our Jr. High students and teachers to attend in person and made available for parents, friends, and community members through an online feed. This event was planned through a committee made up of our school administration, teachers, students, and parents. Thank you to the committee for this work and planning such a beautiful memorial that provided the much-needed closure our community needed.

Moving forward, School Council will continue to work closely with Mr. Spady and Mr. Wever and continue to work with staff to support initiatives. We are hoping that with the relaxation of some restrictions, volunteers will be allowed back into our school to support our student’s educational journeys. We will continue to attend COSC meetings and the ASCA conference, revamp our 4-year plan in accordance with our schools’ plan and provide feedback to all levels involved in education. We will continue to inquire about and provide relevant information around education from our administration, the district and the province and encourage parental engagement at all levels. We will continue to build our school community, to make it strong, to make it a great place to be. Most importantly, we will do what we can to help our school and students when we move into the COVID Recovery phase.

I want to send a huge thank you to our outgoing grade nine parents and families. I want to recognize everything you have contributed to our community over these years and wish you and your children luck in their future endeavors, wherever those might take them. I also want to thank our FTV School Council members, for their time, commitment and support they provided virtually this year. I know that this year has been difficult for some and different for everyone. I appreciate you taking time away from your families to attend these meetings every month. While we were not physically in the school, we still found a way to come together to be an engaged group of parents.

We have learnt a lot this year and will continue to find a way to engage our parents and families next school year. The first meeting of the 2021/2022 school year will take place on September 15th, 2021.