

17th September 2019 Hopewell Ave PS Council Minutes

Attendance: Daphne Dumbrille, Deborah Gomes-Schultz, Martina Sherwood, Jenny Dewan, Heather Barrett, Dianne McGee, Sarah Gilchrist, Allison Kelley, Fran Morrison, Mike Stewart, Petra Heikamp

Regrets: Eric Van de Torre, Katie Breen , Alex Randall, Patrick Hunter, Mike Waddington

1 Welcome, Approval of the Agenda, Approval of June 2018 minutes

Heather approved and Mike seconded the June 2019 minutes

2 Principal's report

We had a busy, but successful start-up. Due to many last minute registrations we have been allocated 2 additional classes. This has resulted in some shifting schedules. We currently have an enrolment of 881 children (projected: 832) and are staffed at 50.60 – this number includes teachers, P and VP. We also have 5.0 Early Childhood Educators, 4 Educational Assistants and a 0.8 Library Technician allocated to our school this year.

We have 38 homeroom classes – 5 Kindergarten, 14 Primary, and 10 Junior classes, 7 Intermediate classes and 1 Behaviour Intervention Program class.

Our staffing does continue as we fill the new positions that have resulted from the allocation of additional classes.

We had a lot of work take place in our building over the summer:

- Our WIFI was upgraded
- A new fire alarm system has been installed
- A new roof on the east side of our school is still in the process of being installed
- The timberwork project on the turf yard was completed
- We had repairs to the turf on the turf yard
- A new sign is now at the front of our school

On August 27th Jenny and I attended the OCDSB Launch Day at Longfields Davidson Heights School. During this day the Director speaks about the year to come and shares the ongoing initiatives to address the goals of the Strategic Plan. This year marks the launch of the new Strategic Plan focused around three key areas – Culture of Innovation, Culture of Caring and Culture of Social Responsibility.

Dr. Michael Unger, a researcher in the field of social and psychological resilience was our very engaging speaker and shared with us his research findings and how we might support our students' success and the conditions and resources that can be created to build resilience.

3 VP / Teacher Report

Fire drills: updated procedures were given to all staff before school started.
Southminster Church remains the evacuation point for the school.

Safety around the school at the end of school day is paramount, it is very busy on Hopewell Ave, please be vigilant as there are lots of people around.

Reminder to parents to keep the doorway clear at the Primary yard at pick up time to allow the classes out.

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Media forms have been sent electronically this year through website, a reminder will be sent to parents to fill out these forms.

Intermediate students are allowed off-property if they have signed permission. This only occurs in second break and only allows students to go within a healthy area of the school. Staff are out on the yard but there is not as much supervision as within school. There is a space for students in the school who don't wish to go off property and students don't have to go even if they have had the form signed. The students know where they can take their nutrition break and for recess.

Reminder to parents to dress children appropriately for the changing weather i.e. layers.

Lost and found items can be located inside the school building by the front doors. A reminder to label Hopewell gear as this can easily get confused. A reminder that the school council does gain a fundraising commission from Mabels Labels. There was a suggestion to put a Mabels label poster up near the Lost and Found items.

Deadline Friday September 27th for Hopewell Gear. A rack of items for checking sizes and colours is in the school office.

Grades 3-8 received an agenda with important information for the school year at the front e.g. use of technology, school hours.

Younger grades received the insert so they have the same information. Encourage parents to read and go through with students.

Adam Collins is our SRO - Ottawa Police School Resource Officer.

4 Treasurer's Report

As things stand at the end of August 2019 fundraising is above planned by \$6594.67

Approximately \$9000 to carry over into 2019/2020 - likely to be allocated to Kinder Yard fundraising

Pizza revenue for Sept 27th will go into 2019/2020 budget.

Fundraising

Hot lunch changes: this year Pizza to be offered on every Friday, however, parents have the option to pick which Fridays they want to place an order - not every Friday is required. Starts September 27th.

Subway will be offered every second Thursday, starting Oct 10th.

We will be taking orders for the full term (September to December) with the deadline of September 27th.

Negotiations with Panago went very well as they did want to raise prices, the Corporate Rep for the region wanted to maintain relationship therefore every pizza is now the same price and they also are providing two pizzas every week for the BIP class free of charge.

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Ordering for the Winter term to begin in December. (dates tbc)

Ongoing requirement for parent volunteers to help with the Pizza and Subway lunches.

Mazola still continues on Mondays - this program is not volunteer led.

Other fundraising

Ski and Skate Sale and Anything on Wheels (school receives 30% and owner of item receives 70% of sale revenue) Yard maintenance usually occurs at the same time

Rebekah Roy will be the lead Volunteer on for both Ski & Wheels sales.

Weekend planned for Ski and skate sale is October 26th/27th

Question raised on issue of bindings being out of date, response was that the council doesn't take out of date bindings.

5 Yard committee report

Mike wasn't available for the meeting but sent a report.

The wood boarders went in over the summer, weeding was also undertaken in the last week of the summer by his family and the custodial staff.

This 2018/19 year will be Mike's last year on the Environmental Committee as his last child is in Grade 8.

6 Movie Nights dates

Potential Movie Nights

Friday dates October 25th

November 22nd

January 17th

March 27th

Thursdays are available too.

Need to set up a movie night team.

Sarah Gilchrest put herself forward as a Movie night coordinator. She was involved in Movie night coordination at her son's previous school.

7 Election for Council 2019-2020

Due to low attendance the council didn't reach quorum to elect a chair or other positions. Elections will take place during October's meeting.

8 Other Business

Question regarding: **lice outbreak**

The current strain of Lice is particularly resistant to common brands of lice treatment and parents are finding their regular choice of treatment is not working. The brand NYDA seems to be effective. Suggestion to send a reminder to parents of preventative measures.

Question: ***Would there be a student fees this year?***

Yes to be paid School cash online more information to follow.

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Question: ***Feedback on the student's "Our School" Survey:***

The results were reviewed during the last PA day in June, when feedback was presented to staff. Information gathered from the survey will be embedded into the School Wellness Plan. Kids wanted to know the teachers and staff are present and visible. It was discovered via the survey that Junior and Intermediate students are highly engaged in social media and are always concerned about what people are saying on social media about them. The staff will keep this in mind and will address this issue with students throughout the year.

Teachers remain committed to students and they will make this better known throughout the year to the students.

Question: ***Request for a change to the format of Curriculum night***

For those in Grade 7-8 would it be possible to have a "timetable" of presentations, so able to see and hear from all teachers.

Question: ***Technology consent form: there was no option for having a varied response, yes to this no to that, but only have the option of No or Yes.***

Principal stated that even if parents had mixed responses, they would always err on the side of caution, therefore this year it was a straight yes or no question.

Question: ***Being prepared for strikes. What is the school situation on the potential strike vote.***

The school hasn't been given a lot of information from the board yet, there is often a strike vote position when go into contract negotiation year. Message is we are here for the kids, we honour the process, and we rely on central messaging for speaking to parents.

Kinder yard - standing agenda item to be on the agenda for the 2019/2020 year.

Question: ***Social media anxiety: What is our device policy?*** - This is in agenda. Government ruling was inline with what we were doing at Hopewell. Devices shouldn't be in classroom and permitted only under the following three circumstances

1. For educational purposes, as directed by the educator
2. For health and medical purposes as directed by a physician
3. to support special education needs as identified through a student Individual plan.

Phones should be in the locker. All intermediate students given locks.

Confiscated phones are held until the end of the day unless needed to buy lunch, when going off property and then they are requested to bring phones back.

A Communication was suggested to go to the parents on the new rules.

Social Networking Safety speaker, Paul Davis will be speaking on October 2nd.

Next meeting October 8th 2019