

8th October 2019 Hopewell Ave PS Council Minutes

Attendance: Daphne Dumbrille, Deborah Gomes-Schultz, Martina Sherwood, Jenny Dewan, Claire Kerry, Kristy Hannah, Alex Randall, Patrick Hunter, Roopa Dolvae, Cleia Fritz-Gegesy, Fran Morrison, Mike Waddington, Adam Jaques, Hilary Patton, Petra Heitkamp, Heather Barrett

Regrets: Mike Stewart, Tanya Trevors, Erik Van de Torre, Saira David, Allison Kelly.

1. Welcome, Approval of the Agenda, Approval of September 2019 minutes

Corrections to September minutes:

2019/2020 will be the last year for Mike Waddington (Lead for the yard committee) as this is the last year his daughter is at Hopewell.

Question was raised on which classes were created with the late registrations - these were in the Grade 3 English and Grade 7/8 English programmes.

September minutes were approved by Fran Morrison and seconded by Kristy Hannah.

2. Principal's report

Our updated Emergency Procedures are now in place. As a school team we continue to monitor our safety protocols and make changes as needed. The safety and well-being of your children is always our highest priority. We have had two of our three required fire drills and are planning a lockdown practice in the near future.

We also continue to follow the goals set out in our Well-Being plan – promoting a safe and welcoming school where all students have a sense of belonging. The healthy transitions program for all grade 6's is returning later this month. This program is delivered in partnership with Ottawa Public Health. Our intermediate students will be participating in Rideauwood presentations on two occasions this year. Presentations to the grade 7's will be about Technology and Responsibility and The Changing World of Substances. Presentations to the grade 8's will be about Emotions and Substance Use (Part 1 Session and Part 2 Session). We have also confirmed that Get REAL will be coming back to Hopewell. Get REAL is a non-profit group focused on combatting 2SLGBTQ+ discrimination and promoting acceptance. They presented to our intermediate students two year ago.

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Their presentation was very powerful and the feedback was extremely positive. Colleagues in our primary grades continue to employ variety of strategies and programs to support student well-being. Mindfulness, yoga and Zones of Regulation, a program designed to foster self-regulation and emotional control. On October 29th, Mme Labrosse and Ms. Scrim will be launching the Mindful Morning Club. This club will be for students in grades 3 and 4 and will be held in the library. Students will engage in mindfulness activities, including music, art, stretching and cooperative games.

We are looking ahead to a busy PA Day on Friday. Our morning will be focussed on monitoring student learning, beginning with a look at Creating the Conditions for Learning. As part of this work we will be revisiting a document that we have looked at before – Culturally Responsive Pedagogy. As a team we will be reviewing various common assessment tools that we can use to measure where students are at in their learning. We will be breaking out into groups – Math Educators, French Educators and Kindergarten Educators. Reading and math tools in particular will be highlighted. We will also have a half day session engaging in Commit to Kids: Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training.

With all of our work on our PA Day we will develop our School Learning Plan and School Well-Being Plan. Parental involvement on this is essential. We will be reaching out for input.

EQAO results were released at the end of September and as with many schools in our province, Math presented as an area that requires work. We will be unpacking this data in the coming weeks to deepen our understanding of where we may have gaps and what we can do to improve.

Grade 3

| Subject | School | Board | Province |
|---------|--------|-------|----------|
| Reading | 91 | 76 | 74 |
| Writing | 90 | 68 | 69 |
| Math | 87 | 59 | 58 |

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Grade 6

| Subject | School | Board | Province |
|---------|--------|-------|----------|
| Reading | 93 | 82 | 81 |
| Writing | 88 | 82 | 82 |
| Math | 63 | 50 | 48 |

Complete details can be found at www.eqao.com . As a school team we will be taking time to unpack the details of these results and will use this information to help inform us in the development of our School Learning Plan.

We are beginning to develop Progress Reports for Grades 1 to 8 and Initial Observations for our Kindergarten students. These will be going home on November 7th and interview/consultation dates with parents/guardians are November 14th in the evening and November 15th in the morning.

Question - regarding trees that were uprooted in planters at the front of the school during the recent work are these trees to be replaced? Yes the board will be replanting in the spring.

Question raised on why there would be a drop in the Maths scores in Grade 6 compared to Grade 3. Reasons could be based on the style of how the questions were asked and also some parents choose not to let students write and then this counts as a zero which pulls down the overall score.

3. VP / Teacher Report

Report from Hilary Patton our 2019/2020 teacher rep.

Renee Labrosse and Alyson Scrim will be launching the Mindful Morning Club (see above in Principal's report for further details)

Jennifer Thiessen and Grace Kennedy are involved with the Caribou Contest, a

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national online competition for math. This will run in mid October for Junior and Intermediate grades.

The Terry Fox run was a fantastic success with \$400 raised for the Terry Fox Foundation. Parents were asked to donate Toonies for Terry; perhaps need more promotion for this next year.

Nathalie Gosselin wanted to bring to the table the idea of a Friendship bench for the primary yard where children, especially those in Grade 1, can gather if they can't find their friends or want to make new friends. It wouldn't necessarily have to be a bench, but an area where the students would know is a place to meet others looking for friends. The grade 1 team felt this was particularly needy as the Grade 1s can find the transition to the big yard daunting when out at recess with so many kids. The grade 1 teachers will discuss with their students how this bench area could be used.

This topic brought up lots of discussion on options available and whether there was a need to do something before the snow. Suggestions were brainstormed about where the bench or space could be located this fall, followed by a spring installation. More discussion and research is needed.

The purchase of yard toys was also suggested as an option to channel students' energy when in the yard. Staff agreed that toys would be welcome as the play structures close, but added that there is a need to be careful about the type of toys, i.e. if they are susceptible to breakages and become dangerous. This could be part of the Divisions' ask funds, or the "say yes" fund.

4. Yard committee Report & SandBox Update

The Timberwork in the junior yard has finally been completed, which is a positive addition to the yard. Now mulch will need to be added.

The Committee's main focus for this year will be maintaining the yards. Next spring, they will assess what needs adding.

Question regarding the safety of mulch levels around the play structure: it was clarified that this is not a direct responsibility of the yard committee, but the caretaker staff and school board.

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Yard clean up will be happening the same weekend as the ski and skate sale. (Ski and Skate sale: sale of used winter gear where seller names their price and gets 70%, with the remaining 30% of the sale goes to Council. The Ski and skate sale/Yard clean up is will be held on 26th/27th October

Sandbox

SandBox (Kinder yard renewal project)

Fundraising is well underway, with a few grants received from the city and \$10k from TD Place, bringing the total to \$25K raised to date. The team prefers a natural playground (cost around \$140 K).

A number of great fundraising ideas are being generated, including a Danceathon, which was a big fundraiser the last time there was a yard renewal project. A Backpack drop of information to Hopewell families is to happen soon. Donations for the yard will be collected via Chimp (online charitable donation platform).

Hopewell staff and staff of Glebe Parents Daycare have been consulted, as have parents of daycare children who are likely to be future Hopewell kindergarten children.

Next meeting for Sandbox committee: Wednesday 16th October

5. Treasurer's Report

No spending yet this month.

Pizza sales up by 54% after extending Pizza to every Friday.

The group was asked to think about how we should recognize Panago, as the renegotiated contract (huge thanks to Ilia!) allows us to raise a considerably higher amount of funds for Hopewell.

Call out for volunteers for each of the hot lunch programmes Panago (Friday)/ Subway (every second Thursday).

6. Safe & Accepting School Team committee report

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Paul Davis (Technology Safety Specialist) spoke at Hopewell on Oct. 2nd. His talk was greatly appreciated and was highly recommended by those who attended. His main messages include:

- Kids are put in vulnerable positions due to the parents' lack of understanding or awareness of when and how their kids are accessing social media (Adults are access to the portal).
- High percentage of students have these platforms, with too much freedom, and at too young an age and are therefore easy prey for stalkers;
- High levels of peer attachment couple with high levels of anxiety amongst students.
- Parents should implement protection strategies and wait until an appropriate age for kids to have access to devices; and when they do access these, they need to have rules, guidelines and consequences imposed by parents (i.e. don't have devices in bedroom. This can promote isolation and lack of parental supervision).

Students (Grades 4-8) came out of the talk from Paul Davis with an awareness of the issues and dangers related to social media. Kids are aware that what goes on social media is permanent.

- How should children use devices/technology? Channel their energies with devices in different ways, including coding and building a website.

7. 2019-2020 Council - sign-up sheet circulation and striking of the Budget committee

Sign up sheet circulated.

Next meeting: November 12, 2019