

November 2019 Hopewell Ave PS Council Minutes

Attendance: Katie Breen, Deborah Gomes-Schultz, Martina Sherwood, Jenny Dewan, Kristy Hannah, Alex Randall, Patrick Hunter, Roopa Dolvane, Cleia Fritz-Gegesy, Fran Morrison, Mike Waddington, Erik van der Torre, Petra Heitkamp, Sarah Gilchrist, Heather Barrett.

Regrets: Daphne Dumbrille, Claire Kerry, Tanya Trevors, Allison Kelly.

1. Principal's Report

- ◆ Progress Reports went home on November 7th and parent consultations will be taking place this Thursday evening and Friday morning. Our goal continues to be to give parents an overview of how their child is progressing in parent-friendly language. The Progress Report is not a final assessment, it is a discussion of their progress at this point.
- ◆ School Learning and Well-Being Plan Update: The curricular focus of our School Learning Plan will be Mathematics once again, with a focus on grades 3 and 6. At this time we are planning to meeting with our primary and junior educators to discuss how we can identify needs and target instruction to support learning. The well-being plan part has not been formalized. We will look ahead to bringing together our Safe and Accepting Schools team to identify priorities and next steps. As with last year, student voice will be a key piece. Jenna Neerhof and Andrew Wood have launched a Student Voice initiative following attending a Leadership Symposium with about 25 of our grade 7 students. We have lots of young people with big ideas as to how to make our school better!
- ◆ Budget presentation: Both School Budget and School Generated Funds were discussed.

2. Yard Committee Report and Sandbox Update

Yard:

- Sadly, no yard clean up due to weather this fall. Primary yard tree roots are becoming exposed, and mulch needs topping up to protect them. Composted pine mulch is preferred to previous mulch as it adheres more together.
- Martina to ask Dan Fournier (OCDSB) about the pine mulch.

SANDBox:

- Project going well. Need people to take the lead on each fundraiser planned. Table to be set up to present project overview on parent/teacher interview night. Donations will also be accepted that night through CHIMP.
- Fundraising ideas: on-line auction, trivia night, movie night, grocery cards, dance-a-thon
- Goal is to finish by the end of December, if not February (a push by the OCDSB for earlier). Target is \$150,000.
- Still business asks to happen.
- Next meeting: Wed., Nov 20
- Movie night on Nov. 22 to go towards the project. Movie: Toy Story 4

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3. Safe and Accepting Schools Team

- Fall 2019 - Core Leadership Symposium: 25 grade 7 students attended
- March 2020 - Get Real: appropriate use of language, gender, identity, impact of chosen words

4. Division Reps

Primary:

- A primary parent raised a question (Hopewell being a school of benefit) regarding how can we help other schools who may be struggling to raise funds. Suggestion to set aside % of money raised by Hopewell community for a/these schools.
- Feedback from another parent who felt that Hopewell money should go to Hopewell students; that would reflect transparency. Could be considered if support to other schools is intended and stated upfront of any fundraising activity.
- Hopewell has a history of supporting other schools and philanthropy via the OCDSB education fund. School Council members have engaged in discussions with the OCDSB trustees and other school councils in recent years on how to ensure more equitable fundraising and opportunities for all OCDSB students.
- A comment was made that fundraising with purpose is excellent at Hopewell; there is diligence done as a group and based on needs, not just for the sake of fundraising.

Junior:

- Praise for the many sport options for students and thanks to the amazing teachers going above and beyond. Noted that a better job could be done by teachers to communicate about transport to and from tournaments. One fall sports event in particular needed more communication this fall, as parents were left not knowing that students would not be back to school at bell time.
- Martina will ensure that there is a contact number or the admin available to answer phones in the event that a tournament runs late in future.

Intermediate:

- More pinnies needed! Students needed to share wet pinnies during cross-country race or run without. Suggestion that the Phys. Ed team consider purchasing more with Council funds provided.

Questions:

- Blizzard Bazaar: not being organized this year. Event fatigue and teachers cautious with the "political climate" (education union-government labour negotiations).
- Annual Gr. 7 Quebec City trip (June 2020) is planned as there is no deposit required; however, planning is proceeding cautiously to avoid disappointment if there is labour action taken by the unions.
- Any labour action could potentially impact fundraising.

5. 2019-2020 School Council Budget proposal:

- Budget proposal presented and unanimously approved; no concerns raised (see annex)

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6. Other Business

Erik van de Torre - Pedestrian Safety (OSCA Traffic Committee):

- Lights at Aylmer, Sunnyside and Cameron at Bank now have advance pedestrian signal! Still seeking to get Belmont approved.
- An assessment of Hopewell Ave. will be conducted all the way down to Brewer Park with the new Councillor.
- Cross walk on Hopewell Ave. between the school yards: staff on duty not allowed to direct traffic, but are there as crossing guards for students.

Lyra Evans - Trustee:

- Lyra attended the meeting to touch base with the Hopewell School Council.

Next Meeting: 14 January 2020

No December Meeting