

## Hopewell Ave P.S. School Council Meeting 9th June 2020

*Attendees: Daphne Dumbille, Deborah Gomes-Schultz, Martin Sherwood, Christopher Wereley, Cecilia Fritz-Gegesy, Fran Morrison, Claire Kerry, Heather Barrett, Allison Kelley, Roopa Dolvane, Kristy Hannah, Neena Kushwaha, PetraHeitKamp, Alex Randall, Patrick Hunter, Adam Jaques, Katie Breen, Deepali Mani, Fran Morrison, Heather Barrett, Chandi Chandrasena*

Regrets: Mike Waddington

### **1. Welcome, Approval of the Agenda, Approval of February 2020 minutes**

Meeting held via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions

Kristy Hannah approved the minutes and Adam Jaques seconded the minutes from the February meeting.

### **2. Principal's report**

We continue to be engaged in work that is quite different and new to our school team. We have hoped that the very thorough District updates, our school messaging and our Twitter feed have been great sources of information for families. Learning at Home, educator training in a variety areas such as: online platforms, using technology to support student learning, assessment and evaluation in a Learning at Home environment, online report cards, retrieval of items, COVID Screening... all are new to our world.

Our planning for next year does continue... this has included developing a school organization, staffing, timetabling, developing class lists etc. At this time we can share the following:

- Our projected enrolment is 910. Currently, approximately 855 students are pre-registered for September.
- We have a staffing allocation of 53.26 (Teachers, Principal and Vice-Principal). That's an increase of 2.66 from this year.
- We have an allocation of 6 Registered Early Childhood Educators (increase of 1) and 4.5 Educational Assistants (decrease of 0.50).
- We have been allocated 39 homeroom classes. This is an increase of 2. We have an additional junior EFI homeroom, Intermediate EMFI homeroom and Kindergarten class. There has been a reduction of one class in our English program.

Our spaces are able to accommodate this growth. We had an unused kindergarten space this year and an additional classroom on the first floor has been released to use for use from the Glebe Parents' Daycare.

We continue to fill teaching positions for next year as a result of growth and teachers who are on leave next year. We do not have any retirements.

Class lists for next year are in progress. Due to the potential for changes in staffing and enrolment over the summer students will receive class placements just before the first day of school through an email.

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We have had many questions about what start-up next year will look like. At this time we do not know. We are expecting Ministry direction at the end of the month that will then be used to inform our District's start up plan which will then be communicated to schools.

This summer we are looking ahead to some projects. These include, new duct work, a complete renovation of our front ramp / entrance / stairs, re-surfacing of our garage floor, re-numbering of our entire school that will include new number plaques that have a braille feature. AND... we are hopeful that the kindergarten yard will be transformed over the summer so that all of the hard work, vision and dreams will be realized.

As was mentioned in our most recent School Message to families, our school team has been engaging in anti-Black racism dialogue, self-reflection, resource sharing and acknowledging the depth and breadth of the challenges that remain. The murder of George Floyd has sparked many emotions in our school community and has served as a very harsh reminder that we still have lots to do.

Yesterday all Principals, Vice-Principals, Managers and the District's senior team met to engage in a conversation about anti-Black racism and on Wednesday Mr. Wereley, myself and some members of our school team, along with other members of our Superintendency are participating in a discussion with Superintendent, Prince Duah.

As a school team we want to reaffirm our commitment to equity and inclusion and our dedication to engage in the big work that still needs to be done. We will be counting on the continued partnership of our entire school community as we work together, listen together, speak out against racism and move forward in creating change.

A huge thank you to School Council for all of the support and involvement. It is wonderful to work with a group of people who share a common goal of doing what's best for our Hopewell students. I look forward to working alongside Council next year as we continue to break new ground and learn together

Question asked to the Principal *how will it be possible to finish the mural if Natalie Johnson is going back to Canterbury School?* Natalie Johnson is not going back to Canterbury for the school year 2020/21, students working on the mural are aware that that mural work is ongoing and Grade 8 students will be able to come back to help complete the mural and gain some volunteer hours.

### **3. VP Report**

Staff have been invited to come in to school to pack up student belongings. Clear garbage bags have been ordered to contain student items. lockers are being emptied locker combinations were requested but bolt cutters were used for those who have forgotten combinations, cubbies and desks cleared out, epi-pens and medication collected from the office. Parents have received an email regarding information on curb side pick up and the ability to pick a time slot. Two evening slots as well as day time slots were provided to ensure that times were suitable for all parents. Music instruments are also to be distributed.

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Question asked *Will curb side pickup of belongings include items from EDP as well?* At the moment there aren't included but will look to see if there is the option to add them, also might depend if EDP is allowed to operate.

Grade 8 Graduation is going to be a virtual ceremony on June 24th it is not going to be a live ceremony but a asynchronous event filmed in advanced, media permission forms have been issued to Grade 8 parents as this is for a specific event, parents have been sending in pictures, Grad photos/year book to be online. Discussion around how to commemorate each student through a gift.

In response to distance learning due to COVID-19 11,000 chrome books were sent out by the boards and Hopewell shared out some of their own with schools whose need was greater. Also 12,000 wifi hotspots were provided for those who don't have access to the internet. Borrowed devices don't have to be returned until the fall, this is incase some of learning in the Fall might at home, only Grade 12 students will be asked to return devices. Wifi hotspots are to be turned off if students are not registered in a summer programme.

The online Summer school offered at the moment is not different to the summer school program that is normally offered.

Qu. *Were there enough chrome books for those that requested them?* Hopewell was able to contribute Chrome books to some other higher needs schools in the Board.

Qu. *If September is normal will the Chrome books return to hopewell?* yes that is the plan the priority was for equity of access to education across the board it is natural to expect some might be lost or damaged.

### **4. Yard Committee Report**

A couple of trees died in the yard, however, once both gates were shut due to COVID measures, some of the other trees are prospering as they are getting a reprieve from the students.

**SANDBOX Update** - reporting on funds raised to date and plans for the build.

\$23,000 raised from Dance-a-thon. Prize distribution interrupted for class-level prizes; the SANDBOX committee will need to have a meeting to work out how to reward the classes.

Construction is likely to start over the summer; final tender drawings need to ensure they are compliant with health and safety measures.

Martina will check the lease with Glebe parents to see if they are going to need the yard in the summer.

Thanks given to the Sandbox team for the work they have done, Fran to pass on thanks to the team.

### **5. Treasurer's Report**

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### **Update on hot lunch refunds**

Refunds were available to parents who requested them refunds totalled \$5,500. This left a total of \$23,000 raised from hot lunches this year, far more than hoped to raise due to less outgoings for the hot lunches.

Low spending year \$11,000 balance due to events we didn't spend on.

Kinder yard \$90,000 money from CHIMP either will go into School Council account also might go into renovations budget that is held by the board.

Budget committee met and proposed the 65%/35% split concern that extra money shouldn't all go to the yard. This will be in addition to the amount that we normally contribute to other causes.

*Q: How much short \$140K from dream yard were we in terms of design features?* Now there will be some off the shelf items not all bespoke but we will have the much needed drainage.

### **6. Executive positions and Committee lead positions for 2020-2021 School Council**

Deborah Gomes-Schultz is stepping down as co-chair as her youngest child at Hopewell moves onto High school. A co-chair is required for the new school council year.

Illia is stepping down from organizing Pizza hot lunches a replacement would need to be found if the hot lunch program is to continue in September.

A member of school council wanted to pass on a thank you to the teachers for a putting in so much effort in for the distance learning. It was agreed that they made it seamless, despite a challenging situation it was amazing what has been done in the short term.

### **7. Safe and caring Committee Update:**

Hopefully in the Fall the speakers would return but due to unknown environment nothing as yet has been scheduled.

Community use of school bookings - Thursday nights kept free for potential use by school council for movie nights

Next meeting - **Tuesday September 22nd 2020**