

November 17, 2020 Hopewell Ave PS School Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Daphne Dumbrille, Bryce Colenbrander, Martina Sherwood, Christopher Werely, Claire Kerry, Peter Nielsen, Matt Brown, Dean Paripoush, Renee Labrosse, Norah Lynn Paddock, Cecilia Fritz-Gegesy, Petra Heitkamp, Erik Van Der Torre, Helen Mackie, Katie Breen, Adam Jacques, Deborah MacAskill, Karen Skelly, Deborah Gomes schultz

Regrets: Allison Kelley, Fran Morrison

1. Welcome, Approval of the Agenda, Approval of October 2020 minutes

Agenda approved by Claire Kerry

Minutes moved by Norah Lynne Paddock and seconded by Bryce Colenbrander.

Carried, none opposed.

2. Principal's Report

Progress Reports will be accessible through the parent portal on Friday. We will be offering virtual interviews on the evening of November 26th. To do this we will be using an online interview booking application called Schoolinterviews.ca. 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.

As a school team we have taken some time to review the OCDSB Strategic Plan and make connections between the 4 year district plan and our work on the ground at Hopewell. The plan identifies three strategic objectives – Culture of Innovation, Culture of Caring and Culture of Social Responsibility. With each objective there are a number of Key Performance Indicators. Much of our intentional work has recently been in the area of building our capacity in equity and inclusive practice to support our students (falls under the Culture of Caring objective). This is something that Renée Labrosse will speak in more detail about this evening. Not coincidentally, an Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Roadmap was recently released by our district. This document identifies specific actions and accountabilities towards achieving the goals of disrupting and addressing system structures that are oppressive and discriminatory. In the coming months this is something that will be unpacking to fully understand how we can be a part of this important work.

The long planned and anticipated Mural Project is back online. Ms. Johnston has done a fabulous job of bringing together all of the pieces for this project and it is coming together. Even students who have left Hopewell for secondary school have been provided with all the materials they need to complete their pieces remotely. At this time students are working every Wednesday, physically distanced and with their own set of brushes/paints to complete this project. Thank you to the School Council for funding this project! We are hoping for a virtual vernissage by the new year.

3. VP Report

Yard Zones: Feedback from staff and students has led to a change in recess zones in the school yard - kids were reporting boredom in certain zones and not having enough room to move around from the beginning of every month classes will switch

zones. There is also some concern about what the yard will look like when it snows as it will take away yard space, there might be some re-thinking of recess plans.

Safety of kids in school is paramount with social distancing during transitions and in lines up for recess etc. Parents asked to help in reminding older kids to go to their line when they enter the school yard as they can't socialise. Safe transitions are important and it is an ongoing process with kids, that covid isn't going away yet... and for the time being we need to remain focused.

Gym: will soon be able to use equipment and to start using the gyms indoors, which will be good in the winter. Three gyms at school but one is currently a storage room for furniture that had to be removed from classrooms. Currently gyms are just used by Kindergarten classes but older kids are going to be able use them. No equipment (eg soccer balls) is allowed at recess, need to remind kids not to bring them from home. PE equipment can only be used under strict conditions, and supervision and needs to be controlled.

Anti- bullying week no assemblies this year but lots of work happening on this topic some classes focusing on cyber bullying, how to use social media safely and inclusively. Drama activities conducted on how to handle certain situations, with the aim of creating an environment that does not support bullying.

Question: Any preparation for school shut down e.g. extended winter break, it was on a teacher by teacher basis in the spring is there anything going on behind the scenes to plan for teacher activity online.

In September we had to make sure we had options for going to remote learning if need be, so we are prepared for Jan 4th not being back at school. Expectation was on the teachers that there would be a learning management system up and running from the beginning of term, so if we had to pivot to distance learning this could easily be done. There was an example where a class had to pivot to virtual within 24 hours when there was a class with a covid case. Priority is on Math and Language. To note that there is currently no information to suggest that winter break will be extending. Speculation that if the break was extended there would be virtual school for the additional weeks and it wouldn't be an extended holiday.

4. Teachers report

Renee Labrosse - guest teacher - speaking to the school council on the anti-black racism work that is happening at Hopewell.

6 teachers attended a virtual session held with the Superintendent and different community leaders on anti-black racism. The work is continuing with 15 teachers within the school. Goal is discussing racism in authentic ways with students, they have found students aren't too young, and they are sharing stories that are by BIPOC.

Our teachers are putting together resources for teachers to use within their classrooms. In Grade 7 and 8 groups are working on a bulletin board with Black Lives Matter messages and a Flip video for community use. Students are very engaged and a google classroom is set up. A banner has been created and stickers printed with "BLM We Stand Together" message which have been put in all classrooms.

Appreciate that engaging community members is harder in COVID times, but we are willing to learn and to have community members speak in COVID appropriate ways.

Martina thanked Renee and team for all their hard work on this so far and that other schools have requested the information.

Questions: What is happening at the board level to help teachers who don't feel that they have the resources to teach on anti-black racism topics.

Within the Strategic plan there are deliverables to have teacher learning and Professional Development, which will translate into work we will do at the school. Link to Strategic Plan https://ocdsb.ca/about_us/strategic_plan

Karen Skelley - Teacher representative

Halloween - there didn't seem to be any difference from pre-COVID lots of fun had by students. Many kids dressed up and were extremely happy to have halloween.

Remembrance Day - Live virtual presentation from the board by a great great granddaughter of an Indigenous Veteran.

In a Grade 3 virtual presentation Dr Ruth Phillips, Art History presentation on Indigenous art.

Fitness club up and running, virtually students are adding up their running distance to "virtually run to Kingston."

The school has had Blue Community designation. The Blue Communities Project encourages municipalities and Indigenous communities to support the idea of a water commons framework, recognizing that water is a shared resource for all and to recognize water and sanitation as a human right. This is to be integrated into learning about water through different subjects.

More information can be found <https://canadians.org/bluecommunities>

Rideauwood Addictions and Family Services presented to Grade 7 and 8 on healthy use of technology and provided a lot of takeaways for students, Also work on menstrual equity, how products are taxed and making accessibility of products for women.

O Canada to be performed in sign language by students that will be filmed and shown in December to Trustees.

5. Treasurer's Report (Allison Kelley)

Allison was not present - No updates from last month.

6. SANDBox Update

Updated provided by Daphne on Fran's behalf.

Ready to move forward to direct communication for donations to corporate businesses who might be able to provide support. Fundraising volunteers are needed, kindergarten teachers are involved.

Timelines are short and currently have \$90k hoping to raise up to \$140. Hoping to go to tender in February might get a better bid price, push for fundraising in December and January.

7. OCASC Meeting report: Fundraising during COVID-19

OCASC (Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils) Umbrella group for school councils. The meeting focused on the impact of fundraising this year with no hot lunch programmes that provide most of the fundraising opportunity.

Encouraging community virtual events such as family trivia night or community book exchange. There might be the opportunity to use different platforms for events previously done in person eg - The Great Glebe Garage sale switched to virtual.

Would like to set up a fundraising committee, where some of these ideas can be worked through. Some fundraising ideas brought up at the meeting are:

- Read-a-thon
- Sell items (coffee, syrup)
- Family pizza night (sponsor from Panago, a percentage of a certain night's sales goes to Hopewell)

It is important to understand "What are the wants and needs from the school" - some of the line items that we would normally fundraise for may not happen this year (e.g. grade 5 cross country ski trip). The focus of the fundraising will be the Kinderyard (Project SANDBOX)

The benchmark this year for school is to stay open and students and staff to be healthy. Some of the items that would be on a wishlist are more Chromebooks, equity resources especially in French (books are very expensive in French) and PE equipment.

8. Forming the Budget committee

Erik, Daphne, Bryce, Fran, Allison had already agreed to be on the Budget committee. Petra, Cecilia, Norah Lynne volunteered during the meeting to join the budget committee for this year,

Committee involves looking at line items in the current budget and deciding which items we still need and how much funds should be allocated to each line. Erik has the spreadsheets set up, it is not a big commitment but the committee should meet once or twice before presenting the budget in December.

Erik isn't leading the committee this year as it would be good for a transition to another member to lead as his twins are in grade 7 and will be leaving the school soon.

9. Committee lead position sign up

During the meeting Norah Lynn Paddock volunteered for Division Representative for Primary (grades 1 - 3)

Communications: Deborah MacAskill

10. Schedule meeting dates for the year

Discussion held on if we should hold monthly or bimonthly meetings. Monthly meetings have been put into the calendar, with the option to reduce meetings if needed.

December 8th - meeting agenda to discuss and pass budget plus any Principal update only.

Dates for the rest of the school year

January - 12th

February, 9th

March 9th

April 13th

May 11th

June 8th

11. Varia

Question: Students have asked where they are going to be putting their coats and boots when they have wet items when the snow comes.

Issue was discussed at the last staff meeting where the decision was made to not use lockers - some schools are using lockers but with 725+ students Hopewell is still over capacity and still a very full school therefore we can't use lockers safely. Hopewell has a locker bay not near classrooms so it wouldn't be able to be supervised.

Each classroom is configured a bit differently due to different ages of the building so not able to have a blanket plan. In Grade 1 to 8 each student has a desk for storage of items. Boots will go outside the classroom with indoor shoes in the classroom (to be left on chairs at the end of day). Kindergarten classrooms are using cubbies and students go in a staggered way to use cubbies, to reduce numbers.

Question: What do the teachers specifically need that's different in pandemic school. Class sets of equipment that are used for the week and then given to each student sanitized ready for reuse the following week. We are looking at items that can be used in an accessible way.

Question: Can any other outdoor spaces around the school such as Brewer Park, College of Physicians be used at recess or throughout the school day?

Issues arise when going out of the school grounds, it is viewed as a field trip and requires approval, also Brewer park is where the covid test centres is and bathroom access. There was a request to be able to close the street (Hopewell ave adjacent the school) however this couldn't be done as the street needs to be open for emergency use.

Executive positions and Committee lead positions for 2020-2021 School Council: Elections and other roles. As it stands at the end of the November meeting:

Co-Chairs:

Daphne Dumbrille

Bryce Colenbrander

Next meeting: December 8th 2020 7pm via Google meet
Topic - Budget approval.