

January 12th, 2021 Hopewell Ave PS School Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Daphne Dumbrille, Bryce Colenbrander, Martina Sherwood, Christopher Wereley, Claire Kerry, Matt Brown, Norah Lynn Paddock, Sarah Parke, Adam Jaques, Petra Heitkamp, Fran Morrison, Heather Barrett, Deborah MacAskill, Allison Kelley

Regrets: Cecilia Fritz-Gegesy

1. Approval of minutes

Minutes moved by Bryce Colenbrander and seconded by Fran Morrison
Carried, none opposed

2. Principal's report

Happy New Year!

Our start up for the new year was not what we were hoping for, but we were certainly prepared for a move into a remote learning environment.

Late last summer, the Ministry of Education released PPM 164, outlining requirements for remote learning. Educators began the school year ensuring they had a Learning Management System (such as Google Classroom) up and running and were ready to pivot to remote learning should the need present. With this planning in place we were able to be up and running in a virtual environment quickly. At this time all of our homerooms have developed timetables for students that include 225 minutes of synchronous learning and 75 minutes of asynchronous learning (grade 1 to 8) and 180 minutes of synchronous and 120 minutes of asynchronous (kindergarten). Following ministry direction, our specialized behaviour intervention program class is in-person so we do have students and staff attending daily.

Mr. Wereley and I walk our school virtually daily and we are able to see all of the great things that are happening in our virtual classrooms. Students are practicing excellent “netiquette” and engaging respectfully in their classes. Teachers are making use of many online resources, tools and Google Classroom capabilities to enrich the learning environment, such as Jamboard and breakout rooms. Feedback from families has helped educators tweak schedules to make them fit with the needs of their students. Our school conference is filled daily with interactions between our educators that include resource sharing, innovative ideas and working together to troubleshoot technology challenges that they are encountering.

We have also benefited from wonderful support centrally. Our Business and Learning Technologies department has offered office hours and workshops every day and continues to be available to support our educators. The Program and Learning department offers instructional support for all curricular areas – this includes video tutorials, assessment and evaluation support for virtual learning and a continued focus on supporting our students in mathematics. The Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Division has also offered ideas, most recently access to live YouTube sessions with Emily Seguin, a two-spirit Anishinaabekwe storyteller, writer, theatre creator and visual artist. Our Learning Support Services

department has recently shared resources for educators to use with their students on *Positive Motivation and Perseverance* and *Stress Management and Coping*.

2021-2022 registrations dates have been released.

Kick-off to 2021-2022 Registration	Monday, January 18 to Monday, January 25, 2021
Elementary Student Transfer Application Period	Monday, February 1 to Tuesday, February 16, 2021
Secondary Student Transfer Application Period	Monday, February 1 to Tuesday, February 16, 2021
Middle French Immersion Registration Period	Monday, February 8 to Tuesday, February 16, 2021

The information can also be found on the Board's website: www.ocdsb.ca.

At this time, term one report cards are scheduled to be available via the parent portal on Thursday, February 11th. Friday, January 22nd is a scheduled Report Card writing day and is a PA Day for students.

Kindergarten Information Night will be January 25th, 2021 at 6:30pm and will be held virtually. If anyone has a neighbour who has a young person who may be a candidate, please let them know.

Question: Do returning students have to register? Or is it for students who are new to Hopewell?

Answer: Returning students don't have to register.

Question: For kids who are struggling with remote learning will they be marked down in their report cards?

Answer: It is different from in March where there was messaging, their results would not be impacted, no message has been released regarding this as yet but assessment is happening remotely. Martina suggested that if you have concerns, reach out to that particular student's teacher.

Question: Will the report card online portal still happen post covid?

Answer: Yes. From now on parents will access report cards via the portal and they will not be printed out for students to bring home. The goal is to expand it so parents have access to EQOA results, this was an initiative pre covid, to reduce the cost associated with paper copies. It was confirmed that printed copies of report cards are kept for each student during their education time with the board.

It was additionally noted that there has been lots of sharing of ideas/apps/ ways to engage students virtually, teachers are getting very creative and the students are responding with ideas also.

3. Vice Principal

Christopher Werely has been involved with Schools Chromebook distribution. As soon as the initial messaging that school would be virtual for the first week back went out families reached out to request borrowing Chromebooks. Technology is available to familiars, who don't have enough devices. On the First Monday of term, families came to school, there was a second wave of requests when it was announced online learning would be longer. 53 chromebooks went out to families. A few more enquiries today after the announcement of Ontario being placed in lockdown again, If devices do have problems, parents are encouraged to go back to Mr Werely and the issue can be looked at.

Question: Parents are finding that printing is an issue.

Answer: Teachers are to have no expectations that parents have a printer. Writable PDFs are difficult for some students to use on certain devices. There was lots of positive feedback from parents working together as a community offering printing and playdough for families in the neighbourhood etc.

4. Budget

The only Revenue that is coming in is from Mabel's Labels, this fundraising requires no effort, it is already set up so that when a parent buys labels from Mabel's Labels and links it to Hopewell Ave P.S. the School Council receives a small percentage of sales, in the current year we have received \$50 from this.

Project SANDBox the recent Pet Calendar fundraiser raise \$3k

\$55k of Project SANDBox fundraising is currently held in the School Council account.

Question: Did the School think they would need to buy more chrome books, it was thought that it would be more likely to be spent on online resources.

Answer: Teachers are aware there are limits this year to funds. Daphne will bring Martina a \$6k cheque for the curriculum enrichment funds that have been allocated this year. Martina will report back to the School Council on how this is spent.

5. Project SANBox

Aiming for around \$140k of fundraising for the Kinderyard renovation and the project has around \$110k (made up of grants and fundraising)

Read-a-thon and virtual Dance event are two new fundraising events due to happen soon. Main issues holding back these events is the platform that the board requires for school fundraising

efforts. Chimp doesn't have the features to support the requirements of these fundraisers.

Virtual Dance event is being supported by Fred Astaire dance studio who are provided 5 dance sessions for 100 logins per session, they will be family orientated, 7pm weeknights and 2pm for evening (to be held Wed - Sun). Tickets will be \$20 per family. Each session will have a theme 1920s 1950s 1970s 1980s 2020.

Martina will be announcing the dance event in her weekly mail.

Question: Can we use the bambora platform (used for Hot Lunches) for fundraising payments?

Answer: It depends what the school board allows. Can school cash online be used? Event Brite would be really easy to use but takes a considerable cut, but the board is against using other platforms, however there are lots of limitations on how Chimp can be used. A further discussion on logistics of payment methods will be held separate to this School Council Meeting.

When information on these events is posted on Facebook/Twitter parents are encouraged to share to reach the wider community, who are also users of the kinder yard.

Next School Council Meeting: February 9th 2021