

February 9th, 2021 Hopewell Ave PS School Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Daphne Dumbrille, Bryce Colenbrander, Martina Sherwood, Christopher Wereley, Claire Kerry, Allison Kelley, Matt Brown, Alex Randall, Petra Heitkamp, Deborah MacAskill, Erik van de Torre, Norah Lynn Paddock, Cecilia Gegesy, Josie Hughes, Heather Barrett, Katie Breen Fran Morrison.

Regrets: none

1. Approval of minutes 0990

Minutes moved by Allison Kelley and seconded by Bryce Colenbrander
Carried, none opposed

2. Principal's report

We were so excited to welcome your children back last week! Our team spent a lot of time to support a smooth return to in-person learning over the first few days by reviewing procedures, answering questions, helping students get to new routines (grades 1 to 3 in masks all day, for example). Mr. Wereley and I visited all the grades 1 to 8 classes and touched base with the students with some key messages – reminders of all the safety protocols we have in place and that they are surrounded by caring adults who are dedicated to keeping them safe and help them learn.

Plans are already underway for the 2021-2022 school year. The launch of the registration period took place January 18th. To date, we have received 37 Kindergarten registrations for Hopewell. (up 2 on same time last year) We expect more to come.

Friday is a PA Day and there will be no school for students. It is a Ministry PA day and it will include a half day session on Equity and a half day session on health and safety. An agenda was shared with our school community on Friday and is accessible through our website. We will report back next month with all of our key learnings.

3. Vice Principal's report

Students and staff were very excited to be back to in-person learning, Martina and Christopher toured the school visiting each class to solidify the health and safety procedures. An Ottawa Public Health Official visited the School to see the COVID-19 measures that are in place. Changes to procedures now include Grade 1-3 wearing masks (this was previously only recommended) and

students must wear masks outside at recess, the only time that they are able to remove their mask off is when eating lunch, it must be a silent lunch as to help prevent spread germs.

Recess Zones are due to be rotated, the school kept December zones in place for February. It is difficult to mark out zones in the snow, but the kids know where the zones are.

Question: A parent asked if her Grade 2 student would be rotated just between the kinder yard as they haven't been in a different location since September. Mr Werely commented that they do intend to rotate zones, as students are getting bored in some zones, although there are many factors in place, staffing and placement grades of students, so to identify who should be in which zone eg intermediate zone next to primary zone.

92 Chrome books were distributed for virtual learning within our school community, they have all since been returned and are back in classrooms, after having been Isolated for 72 hours.

Question: A parent raised concern that for those students who don't bring their own device, it was a difficult transition as they weren't able to continue project work in school that they had been working on at home. Please could teachers be made aware of some of the difficulties of this, especially if again we move to virtual and back to in person school

Bell Let's Talk for Mental Health. Jenny Meihoff presented in a virtual assembly by the Get Real Movement for the intermediate student group. Get Real is a not-for-profit organization who's programming aims to break down prejudice, promote unity, and foster compassion in our world

Virtual Workshop was held by Maude Barlow for The Blue Communities Project which encourages municipalities and Indigenous communities to support the idea of a water commons framework, recognizing that water is a shared resource for all. The workshop focused on water sanitisation, water as a human right, and a ban on bottled water at events. Hopewell Avenue P.S is designated a Blue School. It is the only Blue Community School in the world! Leslie Neilson is the environmental coordinator for the school this year..

4. Treasure report:

Paid out curriculum enrichment money to the school \$6k

Paid out Bank fees of \$8 for the month.

No other revenue or expenses.

Cheque for School Council in the office for \$500 to be used for the Parent involvement fund wasn't anticipated. This can be saved for when in-person gatherings are permitted, and not required to be spent this year.

5. **SANDBox**

Currently fundraised \$111k

Corporate donations of \$5k and \$10k have been pledged this month

Dance event has no costs so all revenue maximum of \$10k could be raised if all tickets sold.

Getting close to the \$140k fundraising goal, therefore can go to tender in early March. Natural play structures are more expensive, but now we are closer to our fundraising goal we can get more of what we had hoped for. Dan Fornier said they were open to doing some more design features. Costs for materials have increased due to COVID-19, but we have to put it to Tender and see what the costs are. Fundraising to continue to ensure we can meet the Tender price.

Next phase of the SandBox project is to plan and thank donors.

Also need to ensure that prize winners from last year's fundraiser receive their prizes, as some prizes e.g. waterpark tickets weren't able to cash them in due to COVID-19 restrictions. And plans for ribbon cutting, virtual or in-person TBC

Comment: Ribbon cutting should be done when we can do it in person, but there is a virtual back up plan!

Deborah spoke regarding the Dance Fundraising event Five Virtual Dance Parties 100 log-ins per Night at \$20 per ticket could raise a maximum of \$10k Promotion of event via Facebook, instagram, twitter, email. 24 tickets have been sold at the time of the meeting. It is open to those outside the school.

Read-a-thon - Challenges over how payment methods for fundraising can be used, due to COVID-19. This fundraiser would need a minimum of three weeks. It was discussed that School Cash online can be used for non prescribed amounts of cash. The project team is waiting to see if the corporate donations come in if they do this fundraiser will be put on hold.

Next School Council Meeting: **March 9th 2021**