

April 20th, 2021 Hopewell Ave PS School Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Daphne Dumbrille, Bryce Colenbrander, Martina Sherwood, Claire Kerry, Matt Brown, Tarah Hunter, Petra Heitkamp, Norah Lynn Paddock, Sarah Parke, Cecilia Fritz-Gegesy, Madeleine Pennington, Fran Morrison, Erik van der Torre, Allison Kelley, Rebekka Wallace Roy, Heather Barrett, Adam Jacques, Alex Randall, Jamie Bisson, Steven Roy, Deborah MacAskill.

Regrets: Christopher Werely,

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

Minutes moved by Alex Randall and seconded by Bryce Colenbrander. Carried, none opposed.

2. Principal's Report

Today we completed our first official day of Remote Learning. This marks our third shift to remote and we continue to work on improving our practices. Our whole educator team is working together to ensure the best possible programming is in place for students. This includes our educational assistants, library technician and learning support teachers. We also have seen significant enhancements to Google Classroom features that have allowed us to do more things virtually than we could before (the ability to create breakout groups, the use of Jamboard for brainstorming activities, and greater security with GoogleMeet codes.

Educators will continue to reach out to families and welcome feedback. We recognize the challenges families are facing in this latest pivot to remote and we will do our best to support.

In the middle of our latest pivot to remote, plans for the 2021/2022 school year continue! Our current enrollment is 725. Next year we are projected to be 810. We currently have 803 students pre registered for September. If you know of any families who have not yet registered, please encourage them to reach out! Our staffing process will take place in the coming months.

We have been grateful for the funding this year. At this time all of the phys-ed and library allocations have been spent. For phys-ed, equipment that can be used outdoors for phys-ed and recess was purchased. For the library, many wonderful books were added to the collection – many to add to our equity and diversity resources! Say Yes has also been appreciated. We have purchased some on-line resources to support our learners, butterfly

larvae and some gardening supplies that we hope to use in classes before the end of the year. Thank you!

Finally, as shared in the most recent school message, our beautiful new mural has been installed at our front entrance! The vision for this mural started in 2019. Our school team, students and school council came together with a goal to create a mural celebrating inclusiveness, diversity, global awareness and all things awesome about our school community. Students submitted ideas, designs, and artwork. Components of all these contributions came together and students set to work on the final product with paint brushes and determination. The end result is incredible! The day before the break many students had a chance to see this latest addition to our school. Many students could point to their personal contribution to the mural, which makes it even more special! A huge thank you is extended to Natalie Johnston for her coordination and leadership of this initiative.

Question: Are there any plans for mental health initiatives for the students as part of their curriculum, now we are back to virtual learning? **Response:** We monitor students closely, connect with families if we have concerns and also families connect with us.

We do have social work support. We continue to reshare mental health resources for families that are noted on OCDSB website. This page is devoted to mental health.

[Mental Health during COVID-19](#)

Question: Are those currently enrolled in Virtual School this year do they need to re-enroll at Hopewell. **Response:** We believe have captured all families returning from virtual, if they want to be certain, email us and we will confirm.

3. Treasurer's Report (Allison Kelley)

Report as of March 31st.

Current revenue stream comes from Mable's labels (an ongoing fundraiser which requires no input from volunteers), and a Pro Grant from the Board, (which was not anticipated)

Expenses pledged \$10k to the Kinder yard which is the same amount as last year. \$6k curriculum enrichment has been given to the school.

Not spent any money apart from monthly bank fees

Gave an additional \$10k to SANDBox from the “say yes” fund

Project SANDBox finances, cheque issued to the School for \$71k kept back a \$1k amount for the launch banners and launch items, when ready to launch.

Balance of \$6797.74 for Council initiatives for the rest of the school year, for items budgeted such as Teacher appreciation lunch.

4. SANDBox Update

Project SANDBox started in 2018 with two parents Virginia and Stephanie approaching the school council suggesting that they would like to fundraise to improve the Kindergarten yard. Fran, Tarah and Deborah joined the team. Daphne on behalf of the School Council wanted to thank and let them know how very appreciative of all the hard work that the team had put into the Fundraising, bringing in the community and Corporate donors.

Update on project from Fran

The focus this week has been getting the fundraising money to the right place.

Breakdown of finances (rounded figures):

Grants:

\$10k from TD Friends of the Environment

\$7.5 City of Ottawa Minor Capital (pending tender)

Contributions:

\$25k OCDSB

Fundraising/Savings

\$60k School Council fundraising activities

\$37.5 School Council Savings

Project ready to go to tender as soon as possible.

School council was shown a plan of the old kinder yard with two pods with shade structure which was removed in 2020 (due to its end of life), and a large play structure which is near the end of its life.

The second plan shown was for the new yard. Two major pods, and a smaller second pod, some of the features described were, a stage with seating, play structure with a slide, mirror panel, engineered wood fibre, with play huts, boulder to climb as a more natural climbing opportunity, log walls and transfer platform for accessibility and a

Sandbox, with an option is a dinosaur dig panel, ships bow with steering wheel, adding in two trees for shade. Unfortunately a shade sail is too far out of budget. Entrance is being moved from the stairs to the corner of the yard where it is safer, preventing the congestion when students arrive from the buses and are trying to enter the Primary yard. Other elements are Loose parts play (cut up logs), extra play panels which are oppositional. Pavement markings of a scrambled alphabet to encourage learning in the yard. A crosswalk marking from the yard to the school for those that might have to leave the yard and return to school building independently, this will give them a guide of where to walk. The board is paying for fence replacement due to this asset being at the end of its life.

Question: Which trees are to be planted? **Response:** They planned for native trees to Ottawa, 1 red maple and 1 red oak. A third tree (another red oak) has been included as an optional item.

Question: How much shade at the beginning will the trees give? **Response:** not much, as the size of the tree we can afford is small. If we get the grant from Tree Canada we might be able to ask for larger trees. There will be shade under the slide and along with the play huts. It was also noted that all the trees in the Primary Yard were planted in the summer of 2015, to give a sense of what shade might look like within a few years.

The shade sale is \$25k so this might be a future additional fundraiser if there is appetite.

Question: Has drainage been considered? **Response:** A dry well is being built, all areas will drain into the dry well, this asset costs a lot but they are doing everything that they can be done in the space.

Next steps, waiting for the School Board to release a tender for bid, the SANDBox committee will be able to have input in what can be chosen, depending if costs skyrocket, there is a chance that some of the plans might need to be scaled back.

5. Varia

Encouraging council members to consider positions for next year school council, Including co-chair positions.

Question: to see if sand box toys could be purchased, Martina confirmed that this had been dealt with, and toys were being purchased for the sandbox.

Next meeting: Tuesday May 11th 2021 7pm Zoom.