

June 8th, 2021 Hopewell Ave PS School Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Daphne Dumbrille, Bryce Colenbrander, Martina Sherwood, Christopher Werely, Claire Kerry, Adam Jacques, Petra Heitkamp, Norah-Lynn Paddock, Deborah MacAskill, Maria Bejerano, Cecilia Gegesy, Fran Morrison, Allison Kelly, Katie Breen, Patrick Hunter, Sarah Parke, Heather Barrett, Anika Brown

Regrets: none

1. Welcome, Approval of the Agenda, Approval of May 2021 minutes

Agenda moved by Claire Kerry and seconded by Petra Heitkamp. Carried, none opposed.

Minutes moved by Norah-Lynn Paddock and seconded by Daphne Dumbrille. Carried, none opposed.

2. Principal's Report

We find ourselves moving into another unprecedented end to a school year. Last week's provincial announcement was received with lots of mixed emotions. Having a decision shared was welcomed simply to allow us to plan and prepare for the coming weeks.

Our flag is currently flying at half mast in memory of the 215 children whose bodies have been discovered on the grounds of the Kamloops Indian Residential School in Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation territory. Truth and reconciliation work has been at the forefront of Hopewell's focus for a number of years now. The discovery of the mass grave in Kamloops has highlighted that our work has only just begun and it is imperative that it continue. As a school and as a district we commit to remember and ensure the sad legacy of Canada's residential schools is not forgotten. We will be counting on our school community to continue to partner with us as we move forward. Discussions about this have invariably taken place in classrooms. Educators have been provided with many resources to support these challenging conversations. The OCDSB Website also has posted links for families to access: Resources

We have had many questions about how new kindergarten students will be welcomed and how our grade 8 students will be honoured. Last week all families of new kindergarten students were contacted to share the plan. They will be contacted by educator teams during the week of June 14th, welcomed, invited to ask questions and connect with the caring adults that will be welcoming their children in September. We anticipate that the grade eight

leaving ceremony will again be virtual and are in the process of planning for another special send-off as we did last year. They will not be forgotten and we certainly will be honoured!

We are also aware that some students have items to retrieve and school materials to return. We are waiting for a central direction on this to inform a plan. Stay tuned!

Report cards and Communications of Learning will be available on June 23rd. The process for accessing report cards moving forward will be different. Families will receive a message through School Messenger with a link to access their child's report card. Families must have the child's Ontario Education Number (OEN). OENs can be found on students' previous report cards.

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 enrollment is 810. Currently, approximately 790 students are pre-registered for September.
- We have a staffing allocation of 48.93 (Teachers, Principal and Vice-Principal).
- We have an allocation of 5 Registered Early Childhood Educators and 4.5 Educational Assistants (decrease of 0.50).
- We have been allocated 37 homeroom classes. This is identical to our current allocation.

We continue to fill teaching positions for next year as a result of leaves and retirements.

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

We have had many questions about what start-up next year will look like. At this time we do not know. The Ministry of Education has shared that it will release reopening guidelines in July. This will inform our district's reopening plans in September.

This summer we are looking ahead to some projects. These include:

- C Stairwell replacement
- Garage floor replacement
- 4th floor windows replacement in some classrooms
- Kindergarten yard renovation
- Front entrance door replacement
- Landscaping our front entrance
- This year renumbering of our entire school took place and last month new room number plates that have a braille feature were installed in all of our spaces.

Over the past month members of our school team have been engaged in conversations about de-streaming. Historically students have entered into grade 9 with a choice to register for an applied or academic stream. A Ministry announcement last summer announced that streaming for grade 9 math will no longer take place. While the intent of de-streaming was to provide clear pathways to University or College, the reality is that it disproportionately impacted racialized, English Language Learners, low-income students, special education students and students with disabilities, affecting graduation rates and test scores.

(Academic Achievement) OCDSB data shows that students in academic Grade 9 courses have higher student achievement than students enrolled in applied level courses and locally developed courses. Students in applied courses have higher student achievement compared to locally developed ones.

(Graduation Rate) 4 year Graduation Rate: Here is the 4 year graduation rate (ie: speak to the data that applies based on the courses in which students are registered).

There are much higher graduation rates in academic pathways.

Course	Academic	Applied	Locally Developed
Grade 9 English	90.6%	58.8 %	28.6%
Grade 9 Math	91.6%	64.3%	32.1%
Grade 9 Science	90.9%	59%	28%

The work of de-streaming will start with math for grade 9 and many secondary schools have extended this to include other subject areas as well. At elementary we will be identifying ways that we can improve and provide all our students with equitable pathways. We started earlier this month by calling all our current grade 8 families who had chosen an applied pathway in areas other than math to discuss the implications of their choices. We saw a dramatic shift to academic as the pathway choice.

The work of de-streaming is also identified as a priority in our Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Roadmap under the Programming and Support for Students in order to decrease disproportionate representation of Indigenous, Black and minoritized students in programs and pathways.

We have some milestones to acknowledge this year as we say farewell to 4 colleagues who are moving into retirement. Louise Andoff, Damien Brennan, Lynne De Grandpre, and Mireille Gour Ferris. These team members have been part of the fabric of the Hopewell quilt for many years and will be dearly missed.

A huge thank you to our School Council for all of the support and involvement. Together we have experienced incredible challenges that have required us to shift and pivot like never before. The support and partnership of the school council is so deeply appreciated. I hope we are looking ahead to a return to what we used to call “normal” and I look forward to continuing to work with you in support of our wonderful students.

Question: How can we raise up the socio economic groups that lag behind?

Through early intervention practices early reading intervention getting students reading young and focus on literacy helps.

Question: What level is de-streaming being lead?

Ministry-led decision that is for grade 9 math

Question: Will JK students stay in the same group for SK.

Yes they will stay with the same teaching group.

Question: Will Grade 8 have an in person graduation ceremony?

Grade 8 ceremony is definitely virtual, we can't safely get the group together. But trying to figure out if there is a way to get the students to come to school in a staggered way.

The School Council wished to convey to the teachers how appreciated we parents are for all their hard work and effort during this past school year.

3. VP Report

A review has been conducted on police involvement with the school board. Each school has access to a School Resource Officers SRO. A SRO can have a family of schools that they work with.

The review indicated that those consulted had concerns that the presence of SROs did not build a safe relationship with police and made an unsafe environment; there were concerns about systemic racialization. There were feelings that students were uncomfortable with uniformed SROs in school and felt they were under constant surveillance, especially the stigma of having a SRO in school. Students felt less safe, less welcome and less engaged. Therefore, changes need to be made. Right to

education is at the core, so the school board is to proactively remove barriers to unsafe learning environments. Recommendations from review, Board to end its SRO programme and revises all contractual commitments to only necessary involvement.

Question: Was there a time frame for implementation? Seemed almost immediate but none specified by the board.

4. Budget

There has been no fundraising this year, \$500 and \$52.42 (mabels label); zero fundraising efforts is due to COVID restrictions.

All funds we had for this year were from last year's fundraising, only outgoing funds are for the bank fees.

Project sandbox money is in the account, a cheque is written that is waiting for that to clear

Need a fundraising plan for 2021/22 as we don't have any significant carry over of any funds.

There will be spending on the retiring teacher gifts.

5. End of year appreciation?

Due to Covid restrictions we can't have any event this year. Martina will pass on the message of thanks. If there is some time allocated when teachers come into school some discussion of providing time to close their classroom. Will reach out to the school council as it is understood we really want to do something to recognize our teachers.

6. SANDBox update

Mobilization on the new Kinder yard is to begin on 14th July, the winning contractor has to order equipment and it will take that long for equipment to arrive. Contractors can't work on both the yard and windows. Working on thank yous to our sponsors and volunteers. Can't do a big event but will do public thanks planning on communicating to the community.

7. Hopewell Traffic Update

Daphne attended a meeting to discuss the traffic management around Hopewell school and the Fiasco that happens each morning and afternoon. It seems that the City of Ottawa does smaller measures that tend to just get ignored by road users. Thoughts are to Put up more signs, make Hopewell one way, block off the middle part of the road Lyra Evans (Trustee) is looking into the feasibility of that. There will be a make-up meeting as Councilor Menard couldn't attend, and hopefully some useful proposals will be made.

Other thoughts were to reiterate to parents who park, maybe engage the drivers to say don't park here with a flyer.

Parents should email councilors with their concerns for traffic issues.

8. Next year planning

Allison will not be treasurer next year as she has moved out of catchment, Bryce is unable to be chair due to time constraints, so are looking for a co-chair person and a new treasurer.

Claire Kerry is happy to continue on as Secretary.

Pizza/Hot lunch coordinator will depend if needed if volunteers are allowed in school.

9. Other Business/Questions

none

Next meeting: September 7pm via Google Meet.