

DRAFT Sept 28th, 2021, Hopewell Ave PS School Council Meeting
Minutes

Attendees: Daphne Dumbrille, Bryce Colenbrander, Martina Sherwood, Christopher Werely, Claire Kerry, Fran Morrison, Roopa Dolvane, Nicola Calder, Petra Heitkamp, Sarah Parke, Adam Jacques, Heather Barret, James B. Wei Mingyuan, Katie Breen, Neena Sidhu, Jennyfer Majerome, Alex Randall, Eric Campbell, Shiva Nejati, Matt Brown, Sarah Pooler, Kate Jaimet, Zainab Moghal, Josie Hughes

Regrets: none

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

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

Minutes moved by Fran Morrison and seconded by Daphne Dumbrille. Carried, none opposed.

2. Principal's Report

Welcome to the 2021-2022 School Year!

We are all so happy to be back together at school and are working hard to ensure that we stay as safe as possible.

With the start of the new school year we were excited to see some big projects completed. These included, replacement of fourth floor windows on the older side of our school, a new stairwell installed in the C stairwell, replacement of exterior front doors, resurfacing of our exterior front stairs and landing, resurfacing and sealing of our garage, installation of 3 additional water filling stations (currently awaiting water testing to approve for use), upgrading of our air filters, and of course, the kindergarten yard renovation.

We continue to follow all of the protocols that we had in place last year with the hope that we can move towards more normal in the near future. We are following all of the Ontario Ministry of Education COVID-19 health and safety guidelines in consultation with Ottawa Public Health guidance. We have an Ottawa Public Health Nurse who is assigned to our school and is a great resource for us.

Students continue to stay within their class cohort and eat in their classroom. To answer some of the parent questions about the lunch breaks, students wash their hands prior to

eating, stay in their seats, are facing forward and enjoy a quiet lunch during the eating time. We have had some questions about eating outdoors and this is not something that we can accommodate in addition to providing outdoor recess times. To add to this, the logistics of eating outside where hands must be cleaned, the lack of appropriate seating (wet mulch is not very appealing), unpredictable weather as well as the increase in the presence of wasps does not make this a viable option.

Ventilation is a hot topic and the best resource for answers to ventilation questions is the OCDSB website where school specific information can be found.

<https://ocdsb.ca/cms/One.aspx?portalId=55478&pageId=37087984>

Hopewell's details are as follows (keeping in mind, this information is updated regularly):

Hopewell Ave PS has a central HVAC system containing multiple air handling units designed to supply outdoor air for ventilation to all areas of the school. Initially, the units were inspected/recommissioned and verified to be operating in accordance with the design intent and the ventilation standard - ASHRAE 62.1. The HVAC system is controlled via our Building Automation System. This allowed us to modify the unit operation to increase ventilation rates and add multiple air purges daily to optimize the air quality and reduce the transmission risk of airborne contaminants.

Following summarizes the specific measures taken for the 2020-2021 school year:

1. Create purge cycles before, during and after school which exchanges the building air with outdoor air at a rate of approx. 6 complete air changes per hour.
2. Increase ventilation rates during other occupied school hours to a fixed rate, ensuring continuous exchange of outdoor and indoor air throughout the day.
3. Filter changes prior to September 2020 and increased frequency of filter changes throughout the year.
4. Thorough cleaning of HVAC equipment by the manufacturer's service technicians
5. Provided 8 portable HEPA filtration units for the Isolation Room, Admin Offices, Kindergarten and Special Program Classrooms.

Additional measures to be taken for the September 2021 school year:

1. Filters in the HVAC units are MERV-13 filters
2. Installing CO2 monitoring equipment which will be connected to our building automation system
3. Testing and inspection of all HVAC equipment by our OCDSB technicians
4. Providing 5 additional HEPA filtration units for any rooms that may be lacking in ventilation or subject to such as staff room, library and lunch rooms.

HEPA filtration units are located in all of our kindergarten classrooms, isolation room, specialized program class, and other areas that are deemed "shared spaces" - library, staff room, office, and each gym.

Our in person enrollment is currently approximately 775 students, which is approximately 50 more children than last year. Our numbers were below the projection of 810 and our grade 1 EFI classes were impacted the most with much smaller than anticipated enrolment. As a result, we have been reduced by one class allocation in grade 1 EFI. Starting tomorrow we will have 35 homeroom classes and 1 specialized intermediate behaviour intervention program class.

This year our school year started with 3 full professional activity days for our school team. Topics included:

- Mental health and well-being
- Anti-racism and anti-discrimination
- Mathematics and literacy
- Assessment and evaluation
- Anti-bullying, anti-cyber bullying and bullying prevention
- Health and safety

The messages, resources and key learnings from these days will be revisited during the school year in support of our students' success. Some of the big ideas / questions that we are working with – deepening our understanding of the instructional core – the relationship between students, teachers and content; how do we refocus our practices through an equity lens so that we are support all of our students and we do not cause harm; what are the barriers that our students/families experience when it comes to services and supports; bullying prevention and intervention and approaching this as a relationship challenge – exploring greater opportunities to teach and model empathy; equitable assessment – honour observations, conversations and products, not necessarily equally; exploring new screening tools to inform our understanding of where students are at and use this data to shape instruction/interventions and support.

Next week families will have the opportunity to participate in a virtual “Meet the Teacher / Curriculum Night”. Your child’s educators will be extending an invite to welcome you in virtually. Watch for these details in the coming days. In Friday’s communication to families we will share a chart communicating class dates and times for “Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Night” to assist with your virtual visit planning.

We are grateful to start another school year with such a supportive and wonderful school community. Thank you!

Question: Can Grade 8 students who would normally be allowed off property for lunch be allowed to go Home or go to Windsor Park? Yes they can go home - this needs to be requested by the parents by contacting teachers or office staff. They can not go to Windsor Park as there is the risk of cohort mixing. Cohorts are not grade level, they are class based.

Question: *Vaccinations mandates and implications for our teachers at Hopewell?*

Employees of the board had until September 30th to complete an attestation declaring if they have been vaccinated or reason for exemption. If they do not have a medical, religious or creed reason for not getting vaccinated then they would not be able to work past September 30th. Currently a high number of employees have completed the attestation.

Question: *Have you heard if schools are prepping for rapid testing of children?*

We don't have rapid testing at Hopewell, although some schools in areas of high incidents of positive test rates of Covid-19 are using rapid tests. If it is directed by OPH then Hopewell will support rapid testing. If you have further questions regarding rapid testing please reach out to OPH.

Before school started Martina met with Hopewell's dedicated Public Health nurse and at the time it did not seem that rapid testing would be used, but use since is growing, for example, Brewer test centre is offering take home rapid test kit option to alleviate testing on site.

3. VP Report

Safety protocols from April are still in place at the school. Part of the VP role is to organise the zones that cohorts use, this year there will be more rotating of zones, as there are perceived "good zones" which are rotating monthly. A change to last year is , kids get to use the play structures and they have Daily Physical Activity kits which are sanitized before and after recess, so it will look like they are having more fun and "More normal"

Line ups still exist in the morning. A reminder to parents that supervision only starts at 8:45am and not to drop kids before as there is no supervision.

There are directional hallways in place and no transition between classrooms for students, the teachers move between classrooms.

Technology has been returned from families that borrowed chrome books for virtual school learning last year. Each class has a handful of chrome books to use. We will be getting new updated projectors in classrooms. Bring your own device (BYOD) will be starting, some classes have asked if they have the technology can they bring it and it will be used under supervision. Some students have cellphones to use, which is helpful but teachers have to make sure they are using them in a safe way.

Vaccinations for HPV and Meningococcal were given to kids in Grade 7 and 8 at the school. Any families that missed it there will be other clinics, if a student had just received the covid-19 vaccine they couldn't have the HPV and Meningococcal vaccine within 2 weeks.

Sept 30th is Canada's first National day of Truth and Reconciliation. There are several events at school to honour this day. Hopewell is involved in the Art for Reconciliation project where the students will take part in a rock art project and there will be a rock walk display. The art will be inspired from their learning on Truth and Reconciliation, that has happened this week. A Virtual Assembly on google meet will include messages from Elders on Truth and Reconciliation.

Next week w/c 4th October there will be fire drills, these are not expected to happen in the same way in pre-covid years. But they will happen in a separated way to keep cohorts from mixing. Classes will hear the alarm, so teachers can explain the protocol, and the emergency procedures for lockdowns, sheltering in place etc.

4. Budget

Unfortunately our outgoing treasurer is unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Very little revenue was able to be generated as we were unable to gain revenue from activities such as hot lunches, ski and skate sale that we normally would do in a non-covid year.

We made a sizable donation to the KinderYard sandbox project.

We had budgeted to support some initiatives that didn't actually happen, such as the cross country ski trip.

A large amount went into the Say Yes fund to help teachers with any additional resources they needed in a Covid year.

Balance \$6335.49 not unexpected but does put us in a unique situation for the current school year.

Question: *Is there any indication if Hot lunches will be able to start up?* Still waiting for directions from the board.

5. Kinder Yard Update

Project started 3 years ago, and is almost finished.

A few last minute tweaks after an inspection from the board this week. They need to add a secret element into the sandbox. Some of these things could be done around the school hours. A two page spread of a thank you to contributors and sponsors was place in the OSCA.

Grand opening ceremony to be planned in the next couple of weeks, this will be virtual and in person. There is grant paperwork to finish off. And some fundraising to pay back the \$4k loan from the school.

Some of the features of the yard that have been completed are they added an entrance to remove the need for kinder children to enter via the stairwell that other students were using, engineered wood fibre has been used which is more accessible than sand, but there still is a sandbox, with an accessible entrance. Log bench seating. Double slide, play huts, a stage area, loose parts play, games markings and two new trees (oak and a maple).

A dry well was added (the most costly item of the project circa \$40k) for improving drainage, improved shade with playhuts and trees, and the playground is up to code for accessibility. Decentralized the play areas instead of having just two centralized areas.

Question: *When will it be open?* Might find out tomorrow when this might be.

6. Answers to pre-submitted questions

It was felt that the pre-submitted questions were covered in Principal and VP reports

Question: Will there be instrumental music for grade 8s? At this point it is not in the plan. Children do have music but it is not instrumental, they are very creative and have purchased single use music instruments eg ekula and there are electronic music making opportunities. It is not that there isn't music but they can not use traditional wind musical instruments. Direction on music instruction will come centrally Parents are encouraged to reach out to the teacher to ask what the students are doing for music in class.

Question: Kate Jaimets daughter was keen that a physical Yearbook be printed this year and wanted to be involved in this. Is there a way to facilitate this? Yes this is being led by Andrew Wood (Grade 8 teacher) Martina to check with Andrew. Offer by Kate Jaimet to help assist.

7. Executive positions for 2021-2022 School Council: Elections

Question: How much time does the role of co chair take? This is difficult to estimate and does vary from week to week, depending on activities that are happening. More time is involved during fundraising events such as ski and skate sale. During covid there has been a lot less time commitment.

Co Chairs: Alex Randall, Petra Heitkamp & Daphne (Bryce will assist if necessary)

Treasurer: Nicola Calder

Secretary: Claire Kerry

Members at Large: Bryce Colenbrander, Fran Morrison, Katie Breen, Roopa Dolvane, Josie Hughes, Zainab Moghal, Adam Jacques, Heather Barrett, Patrick Hunter

Other Business/Questions: none

Next meeting: 26th October, 2021 7pm Google Meet.

Budget committee to meet prior to 26th October.