

October 11th 2022 Hopewell Ave PS School Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Martina Sherwood, Petra Heitkamp, Alex Randall, Aleks B, Nicola Calder, Erika Graffunder, Sandra Miller, Carlo Zambri, Sarah Matthews, Meg Fracke, Aleks Brading, Patrick Hunter, Josie Hughes, Jessica Perkins, Dara Spatz Fiedman, Hilary Myron, Rebekka Wallace Roy

Regrets: none

1. **Welcome, Approval of the Agenda, Approval of March minutes**

Alex Randall approved minutes and Nicola seconded minutes.

2. **Principal's Report – Martina Sherwood**

Our year is in full swing! We are busy, but it is a “busy” that we enjoyed pre-pandemic. We continue to review and monitor our routines and adjust as needed, with the goal of student safety and wellbeing at the heart.

Last Friday we had a full school in person PA Day. This was our first in person PA Day since 2019! It was so great to be together and learn together. We started our day exploring optimal conditions of learning and wellbeing. Taking the time to review feedback from the Right to Read report, the OCDSB Valuing Voices survey provided a springboard for discussion. Creating an environment where students feel a strong sense of belonging, providing our students with meaningful learning experiences and understanding the individual needs of all of our students are essential pieces. As a team we took the time to talk about what that looks like at our school, guided by the following points:

Students need educators to:

- Centre them as agents of change in their learning and growth.
- Celebrate and center their gifts, not simply their struggles
- Create space for students to talk about their lived realities, demonstrate genuine care and interest in them. Learn from and with them.
- Start from a place of curiosity, to seek to understand, to listen, to hear and to believe
- Acknowledge, value and validate them. This means being intentional in our words and actions.
- Balance expectations and understanding, trust and believe in the ability of ALL students.

Students need to feel:

- a strong sense of belonging, they need to feel cared for, affirmed, represented and valued.
- that their ways of knowing and ways of demonstrating their learning are encouraged and validated as they engage in learning.
- their knowledge base, the ways they construct meaning during learning experiences and demonstrate what they know in various ways that are validated.

We also had Literacy Breakout Sessions focussed on developing a greater understanding of high impact instructional practices in literacy to maximize learning outcomes for all students (K–8).

Our kindergarten team had the opportunity to become familiar with literacy resources that target alphabetic knowledge and phonological awareness, with a particular focus on the resource Teaching Sounds, Teaching Letters.

Our grades 1 to 3 educators looked at how to determine the needs of our students to improve literacy outcomes. We were introduced to screening tools, checklists and had the opportunity to work together to discuss our approach to literacy support.

Grades 3 to 8 educators examine high-impact instructional practices that enable educators in all content-areas to help develop all students' reading comprehension based on needs.

Progress Reports will be accessible to families on Thursday, November 17th. Notification of their availability and access will be messaged through our School Messenger system. Students' Ontario Education Number (OEN) will be required to access. Interviews will take place on the evening of Thursday, November 24th and the morning of Friday, November 25th. Our goal continues to be to give parents an overview of how their child is progressing in parent-friendly language. The Progress Report is not a final assessment, it is a discussion of students' progress at this point.

3. **VP Report – Sandy Miller**

iPads and Chromebooks are now all deployed to classrooms

- Purchased 16 more Chromebooks

Working on a website revamp - slowly cleaning things up

- School Council pages - will need to work with Council to refresh and update pages - any volunteers?

School portraits are scheduled for 14 October

Dental screening for Kinder and gr 2 scheduled for 20 October

Immunizations for gr 7&8 scheduled for 28 November

Milk Program started today - student leaders are in charge of distribution

Hot Lunch starts on Friday

Lunch Monitors started today in primary classes - Junior and Int student leaders

Clothing sales are coming up - we are setting up School Cash Online (more details by the end of the week)

- Prices have gone up
- Sweatpants on offer this season
- NEW this year: crew neck sweatshirts

Ski/Skate Sale times booked for Community Use of Schools for set up and event day.

4. **Teacher rep – Meg Fracke**

Many extra curricular activities happening across the divisions.

The Cross Country team led by Meghan Storey has had a large contingency of students practising at Brewer Park on Monday and Wednesday mornings, All students that attend the practices will get to go to the Track Meet at Mooney's Bay.

Other activities include both Girls and Boys Soccer teams, Dungeons and Dragons group, and a Maker space.

There is a Musical being put on.

Two planned fire drills, everyone did really well exiting the school quietly and smoothly.

Question: *Can there be an A and B Team for Hopewell, considering it is such a large school there are many students who want to make the team and could there be two teams?* It takes more resources to field two teams especially when they are needed to leave the school for a period of time for the tournaments and there is a shortage of Occasional Teachers across the Board. Ideally we would run intramurals first so kids can play against each other before moving to the inter school tournament. It just didn't work like that this term.

There was a discussion that maybe we could ask for parent volunteers - recruit for sports support in the future.

Dental screening for JK/SK and Grade 2 - if parents want kids from other grades to be seen this can be accommodated.

Question: *Where was the dental information communicated?* In the school Friday newsletter/email .

Dental screening/Photo day/Sports forms to be sent in all could be communicated via

facebook - Sarah M to action.

On the school website landing page all weekly messages are there to refer back to. Also teachers can read out the previous day's announcements to students who missed the information as they are stored on a google drive.

5. School Council Year 2022/2023 Budget - Nicola

a. Questions and endorsements

Hopewell Ave Public School - 2022/2023				
Financial report for the period ending October 11, 2022				
Opening balance	\$ 11,167.22	End of year - July 31 2022 + \$650 PRO Grant received in September (for last year)		
Revenue	Allocation	Profit	Variance	Notes
Pizza	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	\$ (20,000.00)	
Mabels labels	\$ 75.00	\$ 54.36	\$ (20.64)	
Ski/Skate Sale	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ (1,000.00)	
Bike Sale	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ (1,500.00)	
Pro Grant	\$ 650.00	\$ -	\$ (650.00)	Amount received for last year, can expect to get more this year
PINV funding	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	Each year schools/school councils receive \$500.00 to be spent at their discretion on activities that support and enhance parent involvement and communication in their school community.
REVENUE SUBTOTAL	\$ 23,225.00	\$ 54.36	\$ (23,170.64)	
Expenditures	Allocation	Actual Paid	Variance	Notes
Mulch	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	
Yard fund	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	
Future turf yard funding	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	
YARD SUBTOTAL	\$ 4,500.00	\$ -	\$ 4,500.00	
Kindergarten	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	Kindergarten, Primary, Junior and Intermediate allocation based on class allocations provided by principal in September
Primary	\$ 2,700.00	\$ -	\$ 2,700.00	
Junior	\$ 3,400.00	\$ -	\$ 3,400.00	
Intermediate	\$ 2,400.00	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00	
Phys Ed Equipment	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	
Library	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	
Say yes fund curriculum	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	
CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT SUBTOTAL	\$ 16,000.00	\$ -	\$ 16,000.00	
Wellness - Parent Involvement	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	
Cross Country Ski Trip - Grade 5	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00	
Staff Appreciation Gifts	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 200.00	
Staff Year-End Lunch	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
Grade 8 Graduation Reception	\$ 700.00	\$ -	\$ 700.00	
Bank Charges	\$ 150.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 144.00	
Admin/Supplies	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	includes potential photocopying, event supplies (e.g. gloves for pizza)
Say yes fund	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	
Philanthropy	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	+ any extra pizza donations
OTHER SUBTOTAL	\$ 13,350.00	\$ 6.00	\$ 13,344.00	
EXPENDITURE SUBTOTAL	\$33,850.00	\$6.00	\$33,844.00	
Balance	\$ 542.22	\$ 11,215.58		
		\$ 40.00	petty cash	
		\$ 11,175.58	expected bank balance, assuming all cheques cashed	
		\$ 346.99	cheques not cashed - from 2021-2022	
		\$ 11,522.57	expected bank balance	

Revenue: Looks like we are currently on track for the first term of pizza sales to reach the target of \$20k

To note that Curricular enrichment total is \$10k this is split by the % of students in each

division (Kindergarten 15% Primary 27% Junior 34% Intermediate 24%)
Extra money might be need for field trips (as field trips are more becoming expensive than previous years)

Say Yes funding - Martina has this fund to say yes to extra requests from Teachers.

Wellness expenditure is for Parent Involvement - the plan is for smaller events for parents to join budget of \$3k

Grade 5 Cross Country Ski Trip \$4, 000 - parental involvement activity at Nakkertok.
Bank Charges \$150 might be less depending on activity throughout the year.
Admin/Supplies - photocopying, event supplies etc gloves for pizza

Say yes fund - for something not yet aware of.

Philanthropy - Plan for 10% of revenue to be allocated for philanthropic expenditures. In pizza sales we did have the option for donation of money for families who might need financial assistance

Closing balance at the end of the year would be \$500.

Question: *Should Grocery cards be introduced?* It wasn't something we are planning as we want to do more community based activities rather than have a focus on fundraising, as this year we don't have a big need to raise money.

Comment recorded from Zoom Chat: The reason I suggested the grocery money is because it is not something extra that people spend - it is a donation based on what someone might spend anyways - flipgive seems to be something along the same lines - I am not pushing though - your logic about bringing back community as opposed to fundraising is sound. If there is a need, I just think this kind of thing that is not a cost for parents in some ways might be worth considering.

Question: *Is there a specific reason the grade 5 trip is funded?*

This trip can only be done by fundraised money as it is quite an expensive trip. It was initiated by Grade 5 parents one year and has become a tradition that has continued on.

Question: *Could the funding be spread across all grades? Rather than just one grade benefit?* Idea is that most kids go into Grade 5 at Hopewell so all will benefit at some point. It is unfortunate that some kids did miss out due to covid.

Question: *Could we raise the Grade 8 budget for graduation?*

This is a volunteer effort and the money was used for food in the past. We didn't spend that much last year but it might have been due to pandemic restrictions. In the past we have had some very generous grade 8 parents who paid for the photo booth and other items.

Traditionally Grade 7 parents organise the event rather than the Grade 8, so the Grade 8 Parents can enjoy it, and would hope that it returns to this. Sometimes extra

fundraising is done to increase the budget.

Question: *Could we start using “flipgive” <https://www.flipgive.com/apps/shop> as a fundraising tool? Easy way to collect funds 1% goes to fundraising to spend on items. This is something we might consider in the future.*

Question: *If there are extra funds and the desire/ability, could we consider doing a “catch up” for activities that were missed (e.g., trip to Nakkertok), understanding that these activities require more than just money we have budgeted for this year.*

We need to have some school council push for a Nakkertok parent to be involved in this trip. So trying to have a big “catch up” activity might not be possible.

Question: *Is there an opportunity for a downhill ski trip?* -There is an organisation that takes students called Snow Hawks that will hopefully start to send information shortly on the after school activity that has happened pre pandemic.

A vote among school council voting members was held 13 members voted to approve the budget. Budget successfully passed.

As we don't have all the curriculum money right now - we could give half now and the other half when revenue comes in. Council agreed that this was the right approach.

Bank reconciliation statement shown to Council.

Bank Reconciliation Statement	
	Actual
Chequing (October 11 2022)	\$ 11,525.57
Savings	
Uncashed cheques	\$ 346.99
Petty cash	\$ 40.00
Total	\$ 11,218.58
Less	
Outstanding cheques	\$ -
Total	\$ -
Balance	<u>\$ 11,218.58</u>
Check against Financial Report	
Balance from Financial Report	\$ 11,215.58

Question: *If we don't have enough money right now, what will happen next year if we don't have the residual amount that we currently have next year, so should we be generating more revenue this year?*

In the past we have always budgeted for \$500 residual money but we have always had more residual money than budgeted which helps the start of the future year.

6. **Committees and events**

a. **OCDSB Trustee Q&A - report back - Alex**

Event went well with 56 registrations and 300 views of recording. All three candidates participated. Each had the opportunity to represent themselves fairly. Kept the event quite controlled, did reach out to other school councils from the zone. We had been made aware of nasty and public comments made to one of the candidates so kept the comments closed. Emilie Taman did a great job hosting the event.

b. **Pizza day/ Lunch program - Sarah Matthews & Aleks Brading**

Ready for Friday 100 pizzas being ordered (98 paid for 2 free for the BIP Class).
8 volunteer parents coming in. Gluten/Vegan option is not that popular so far.
Grade 8 students are helping distribute Pizza, 10 students are needed. Mr Woods' class has volunteered.

Two deliveries at 10:45 and 11:15.

c. **Yard Committee: Fall clean-up - Katie**

Katie not present update next meeting

d. **Ski-sale - Rebekka**

20 posters need to go up.

Need people to make snacks, and volunteer to participate for the intake on Saturday and Sale on Sunday.

Would like to offer Ski tuning and skate sharpening but need volunteers who can do this.

Also having some tables at the event - the enviro crew and School Council so more of a community event.

We will need people with a van to take the leftover items to sell them at "play it again sport" or to Value Village.

No cards to be sent home in backpacks this year as it's not environmentally friendly and will rely on social media, so encourage parents to repost.

Teens that need volunteer hours this event can be a great way to gain them.

Yard clean up will coincide with the ski and skate sale. rebekka@rogers.com email

e. **Other events/ action?**

Music bingo was a suggestion from a parent
Movie night to be brought back?

Asking the Council if there were any other ideas. Will be getting in touch with those that have made suggestions.

7. **Representatives**

a. **Grade reps: a) How to operate b) Any reports? c) Announcement - Carlo/ Sarah/ Alex/ Daphne**

Three met to connect checked into how to organise grade reps this year issues are it can be difficult to get input from parents and how to get names out there suggested to advertise who grade reps are through the weekly messages. Also to put contact info on the website. Facebook is an option but respecting privacy. Smaller concerns should go to Grade reps but larger issues should go to school directly.

One Issue raised to a Grade rep was regarding the soccer tryouts but this was raised by another parent at the meeting earlier.

Most parents seem very happy - no issues yet.

School council messages go out weekly, anyone can have something added as long as Petra receives it before Thursday to go out in the Friday email.

Question: Will there be class photos on Photo Day? It was thought that there will be Class photos as restrictions have been lifted.

b. **OCASC - Daphne**

Not present - update next meeting

c. **Wellness - Rebekka**

Group committee to be formed of volunteer parents who are looking into wellness events for parents and students. Rebekka is a Psychotherapist - the focus will be on mental health, environment and wellness. Meet on Friday mornings. Hoping to run smaller bite size events this year. Volunteers welcome.

8. **Answer any *pre-submitted* questions**

No questions received.

9. **Varia**

a. **Website vacancy**

Not a big job to update the website - add this to the info that goes out on Facebook.

There would be some effort for someone who know what to delete. Someone could assist Sandy by telling her what needs to stay and what needs to be deleted.

It was noted that Pleasant Park? Had School Council info in many languages, something to aspire to in the future.

b. **Constitution**

Deborah and Daphne have been working on this but we will move it to the next meeting as neither are available tonight.

10. **Closing**

Next meeting Tuesday 8 Nov 2022 7pm Zoom