

March 28, 2022 Hopewell Ave PS School Council Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Petra Heitkamp, Alex Randall, Martina Sherwood, Christopher Wereley, Matt Brown, Erik van der Torre, Fran Morrison, Deborah Gomes, Nicola Calder, Daphne Dumbrille, Heather Barrett, Deborah MacAskill, Aleks Brading, Zainab Moghal

Regrets: Meg Fracke teacher rep

No quorum - not enough people for voting

1. **Welcome, Approval of the Agenda, Approval of February Minutes** moved by Deborah MacAskill, seconded by Nicola Calder

2. Report on Emotion coaching workshop

139 parents and caregivers registered for the Emotion coaching workshop hosted last month by parent council. Close to 60 showed up. The presenters did a great job in a virtual format. The workshop covered the main categories of emotions and gave advice on how to help children process them.

Comment: The course was very helpful. Suggest we should offer it every few years.

2. Principal's Report

The last two years have been unprecedented and we continue to adapt and shift to new realities and directions. What has not changed is our focussed efforts to keep the well-being of our students and school community at the forefront. After March Break we had significant changes to many of our operational guidelines and we continue to work as a team to implement some new changes carefully and thoughtfully. This includes:

- o The removal of cohorting outdoors. Over the next few days we will be shifting to aligning our divisional classes on the same recess/nutrition break schedules. Note: all students must continue to remain on school property unless parents inform that they will be going directly home for lunch.
- o The ability to have more flexible groupings in our classes.
- o The return of furniture to allow for more instructional options in the classrooms (guided reading tables, small group gathering areas).
- o The phase in of intra-mural sports and extra curricular activities.
- o The possible return of hot lunch programs.
- o The re-introduction of essential volunteers into our building.
- o Re-starting day field trips within the City of Ottawa using buses.

Daily self-screening, hand hygiene and sanitizing and daily absence reporting continues. We are waiting to receive further direction about the Grade 8 School Leaving Ceremony guidelines soon.

Planning for the 2022-2023 school year is underway. We continue to receive new registrations and are awaiting details on our school organization for next year so our staffing and timetabling process can begin. Part of this process includes confirming that our current families are returning. If families know that they are moving out of our catchment area or changing schools next year, please let us know!

Our school community received communication from the Ottawa Transportation Authority confirming a bell time change effective September 2022. The school start and end time will shift 10 minutes - from 9:00am to 3:30pm to 9:10am to 3:40pm. Following a consultation process they determined that this change will allow OSTA to facilitate better routing and transport more students on vehicles. Should you have feedback or questions you are invited to complete the following online form: [Transportation Issues Form](#) .

Question - Will parents get notified about when / which curriculars are being released?

Answer: School will put in a weekly message what's going on.

Question: Grade 7/8 : will they be allowed off campus?

Answer: Not at this time unless the guidelines change.

Comment: If off-property is possible this year it would be great for the 7s and 8s, especially grade 8 for the transition to high school.

Comment: Off-property would have to be carefully considered. Might be overwhelming for some businesses to manage.

Question: Can more grade 7 and 8 parents sign their kids out for lunch?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Will the library open this school year?

Answer: The library is allowed to open. We're still looking at it. Meanwhile the librarian is visiting every class with a bin of books that would be of interest to that class.

3. VP Report

In April, Hopewell will conduct a Student school climate survey - an email went home last week about it and the school informed the grade 4-8 students during assemblies. It's a chance for students to have a voice to promote an inclusive, accepting school climate. It's a responsibility under the Education Act to do it once every 2 years. It is anonymous, voluntary and computer-based. The school is making chrome books available for every child to complete the survey. No information ties back to the student. Parents can request their child not to take part. It takes about half an hour, but children with IEPs who need more time will get it.

Purpose: to assess perceptions of safety, to make evidence-based decisions about bullying prevention plans and well-being plans. The survey asks about sense of belonging, relationships,

safety and bullying, the school learning environment, questions around race, gender and wellbeing. There are two versions designed for grade 4-6 and grade 7-12. The survey will be conducted in school between April 5 - 12, but if children are away, they'll have another chance to do it. There is a buzz in the classrooms about being asked for their opinions.

Question: Can the children fill in the survey at home?

Answer: No, has to be done at school because there's a log-in code.

4. **Teacher's update** sent in from teacher rep by email

Everybody's been excited to connect with students with the reintroduction of clubs, and with the prospect of teams and field trips. Everybody has been respectful of people's choices to mask or not. It's nice to see kids rekindle friendships as playground zones open up at recess.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

We are still following budget Plan A. The only update since last council meeting is that the Parent Involvement Committee funding came through. It is supposed to be spent to "support and enhance parent involvement". We used it for the Emotion Coaching workshop, but we haven't paid for that yet, so the only outgoings last month were bank charges.

We have \$4919.57 in the bank, which matches up with our budget.

6. Committee updates

Kinder yard

The co-chair ran into a couple of parents she didn't know who were not complimentary about the yard because they were concerned how much it cost for what we got. Both parents had not lived in Canada recently. In the countries they had been living in, it would not have cost so much.

Question: is there a warranty? There is a screw sticking out of the climbing boulder. Can we ask the company to come and fix this?

Answer: We'll get the custodian to look at it.

Question: How did the new drainage cope with the spring melt?

Answer: There were some puddles, but much better than previously. It's all drained away now.

Pizza day / Lunch program

We're able to have pizza now that volunteers are allowed back in school. We need to talk to Panago to see if they can still do it. It would be 5-6 hours a week to set it up, and 3 hours a week once it's up and running. We have one volunteer. We might be able to do it for May and June. The previous parent volunteers would be willing to train someone up. Suggest starting with just pizza for now (no Subway) maybe every second week.

Question: What's the payment method?

Answer: We can't use School Cash online. We need the reports that come from Bambora to get the list of kids and how many pizza slices each class ordered. The cost is absorbed in the price we charge parents.

Comment: there may be increased capability with School Cash Online.

Request for volunteers: 1 person volunteered (Dawn Hoffman) and Aleks Brading offered support during the meeting.

Question: what about the lunch lady program?

Answer: That's a different program, it doesn't require volunteers and we don't make any money from that.

Comment: if there is a new pandemic wave, volunteers won't be allowed in the school and it will have to be cancelled.

Co-chair: Let's plan to put a call out to get 10-15 parent volunteers, with a mid-April deadline. We need two co-leads and at least 10 volunteers to help distribute the pizza. Kids will be excited about it.

Traffic update

OSCA traffic and safety committee is still waiting to hear from Councillor Menard's office and the city about a community safety zone, which would open the door for additional traffic-calming measures including red light cameras and speeding radar. The committee is meeting with the councillor's office next week. The automated pedestrian light at Sunnyside and Riverdale stopped working. If you notice anything, feel free to share it with the OSCA committee. The city can fix it quite quickly once they know about it.

Spring Clean-up/ Fun

The yard clean-up is coming up. Weeding, mulching are needed at the start of May when slush and mud will be gone. Can we make it more than a yard clean-up, eg giving space to the Enviro Crew for some recycling, maybe a tree exchange? The Kinders could sell bean plants. We could do the Bike sale if we have volunteers.

Request for volunteers: Two people volunteered. [Zainab Moghal](#) offered to talk to Red Bird and explore the possibility of live music. The Yard committee (Katie Breen and Heather Martin) will look into first needs for the Yard clean up and be part of the planning committee.

Comment: doing the bike sale might be a heavy lift for the beginning of May. Possibly donating bikes to a non-profit that gives them to kids in need.

Comment: Bike sale might be something that could be done in June.

Comment: Bikes are a hot commodity right now. We could add a bottle drive to add onto the yard cleanup event.

Principal: Under the current guidelines, you can do daytime school council events outdoors. Mother's Day weekend is booked for this event, May 7 / 8.

Co-chair: We will follow up with the OSCA Enviro Crew. Put out communication with a call for volunteers and put a yard committee together.

7. Answer any *pre-submitted* questions

- all pre-submitted questions were answered in the Principal's report.

Question: Who has the keys to the school council website? Can we update it?
Matt Brown volunteered to be trained up.

Question: Is there any interest in discussing the school council constitution?
Deborah Gomes-Schultz volunteered to engage Erik-Jan van der Torre and Bryce Colenbrander to look at it.

Question: Do we think engagement would be higher with in-person or virtual meetings going forward?

Co-chair: Let's discuss at the next meeting.

8. Closing and set next meeting

Next meeting set for Tues April 12 via Google meet. Subsequent meetings set for, May 10 and June 14 2022.