

## **October 2023 Hopewell Ave PS School Council Meeting Minutes**

### **Attendees:**

Martina Sherwood, Sandy Miller, Meg Frack, Petra Heitkamp, Claire Kerry, Alex Randall, Meghan Lewis, Aleks Brading, Ariel-Ann Lyons, Jessica Allen, Rebekka Wallace Roy, Venus Nikeresht, Frank Asante, (online), Allen LeBlanc, Maria Hinostroza, Jessica Neil (online), Carlo Zambri

Regrets : Josie Hughes, Sarah Matthews, Nicola Calder

### **1. Welcome, Approval of the Agenda, Approval of September minutes**

Council adopted the agenda

Allen LeBlanc moved the minutes from September 2023 and Rebekka Wallace-Roy seconded.

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

Our year is fully underway. We experienced a re-organization as a result of lower than projected numbers in our junior English program. This re-org required that we merge a grade 6 class and a grade 4/5 class together. In doing so, the numbers were still within district averages. Our school team worked together to support this change and all of the schedules affected by this reduction have also been updated. We acknowledge that this was difficult news for many of our families to receive. As a district there the enrolment projections that were expected were not met, which accounts for the reductions of classes across the OCDSB.

On Friday our school team engaged in a very full day of learning. The PA Day focused on Ministry priorities that included Literacy and Mathematics, and Student Mental Health and Well-Being. A new Language Curriculum was launched this year and we continue to unpack the curriculum and work on an implementation plan in our classrooms. The curriculum structure has changed from 4 strands to 5 strands that all connect. This change very much resembles the change to how we report on Mathematics. Taking time to explore the curriculum context components through a walking activity on chart paper using guiding questions – What stands out? What questions do you have? What is the key information to plan for instruction and Assessment?

Our French educators had time to explore the FSL curriculum and new resources that arrived to us from our Program and Learning Department. There was a lot of excitement in the air about this! High Impact Strategies were reviewed for our Mathematics session. The strategies were not new (Learning Goals, success criteria, descriptive feedback, direct instruction, problem-solving tasks and experiences, teaching about problem solving, tools and

representations, math conversations, small-group instruction, deliberate practice and flexible groupings) but colleagues really took the time to drill these down in the context of math instruction.

Educator teams continued to review resources and plan how to best support student mental health and well-being. Ways to ensure we were reaching every student were discussed. We also assessed the effectiveness of our “First Ten Days” plan. For much of this work we leaned on a document developed by our Mental Health Leads in our district. This document is a great resource for us and one that we will continue to refer to as we move forward in the year. We have another PA Day focused on Ministry Priorities scheduled for Friday, November 3rd.

These days Progress Reports will be accessible to families on Thursday, November 16 th . 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 23 rd and the morning of Friday, November 24 th . 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 – Sandra Miller**

#### **FSL Resources - October PD Day**

- See Principal’s report for more details; French colleagues explored resources (online and physical resources - see samples on table) and had time to work together to plan collectively.

#### **Student Leadership**

- Daily Announcements
  - Students have taken the initiative to add weather reports and weekly additions to the daily announcements
  - Motivational Monday - a quote or prose
  - Would You Rather Wednesday - vote for your answer
  - Fun Fact Friday - something new each week!
  - Student leaders train each other to do the announcements and students have signed up to do one week at a time for the entire school year
- Lunch Monitors
  - We have lunch monitors in our gr 1 & 2 classes for both nutrition breaks
  - Gr 6, 7 & 8 students have volunteered their time to support the younger classes. Teachers supervising
- Milk & Subway underway
  - Mr Wood’s gr 8 students have been busy delivering milk and subs with pizza next on the roster

- Some people contacted the school a bit late about milk orders, but once the final order was placed, it was not possible to add new orders. That said, there will be another order. Deadlines will be final. It must be School Cash Online.

## **Tech**

- iPads have been distributed to all Kinder, gr 1 & gr 2 classes
- All Tech has been deployed to classes at this time
- Tech sunsets and isn't necessarily replaced. Enough for kinders, 1 and 2 to have 5 for each class. They're used for "centres."
- Board vets all applications for educational value and checks against collection of personal data, etc.
- Screen time is at teachers' discretion, but not high.

## **4. Teacher rep – Meg Fracke**

Ms. Jennifer Thiessen is starting a textile club for junior students who are interested in knitting, sewing, crocheting, cross stitch, embroidery, etc. Supplies are not provided but students are encouraged to bring in their own projects from home and Ms. Thiessen is there to provide guidance and know-how! This club runs Thursday at second break.

Mme Maylena Limpright's grade 7 and 8 classes had representatives from Virtual Ventures in today doing a workshop on coding. Coding is found in the science and mathematics curriculum.

Ms. Jenna Neerhof shared that 12 students are heading to the International Day of the Girl Conferences tomorrow at the Science and Technology Museum. Focus is women in STEM. This is funded through OYAP (Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program). Ms. Mia Kakebeeke is taking them.

Jenna also shared a photo of intermediate students working on some morphology. Typically, we think of morphology as a skill for our primary and junior students to work on, but it is applicable for all age groups. The intermediates were focusing on Latin roots of words.

Ms. Compagnon shared that several intermediate classes are going to Baxter Conservation in the coming weeks for some outdoor, hands-on learning.

Ms. Woywada continues to be busy with band and musical rehearsals for our intermediate students.

Learning buddies at teachers' request. Children are making friends outside of their grades.

Finally, the Junior Girls and Boys Soccer teams had their tournament today. Both teams played very well in the rain and wind. The girls team made it to the semi final, so top 4/10 teams, but did not advance to the final. Their final game played was the best they played all day so even

with it not being the result we were hoping for, we still went out strong. The boys team did make it to the final and came second. It was a tight game and they too played very well. Both teams should be very proud of themselves. Coaches Cale Northey and Meg Fracke had a blast coaching and are very thankful to our grade seven coaches who helped out: Jacob, Fin, Ria, Phobe, Robyn and “one boy whose name I can not remember.”

There’s definitely more happening in the walls of Hopewell and more to come!

Question about having a coding club. Meg will put the question out to teachers to see if anyone would like to take that on.

## 5. School Council Year 2023/2024 (15min)

### Finances and Budget - Allen LeBlanc

- Finance Committee to convene and additional details to follow at the next meeting. A summary of finances was presented, as follows:
  - Bank balance of \$19,548.48 as of October 6.
  - At the last Council meeting, Council agreed to set aside \$15k as a capital reserve, which could be earmarked for a new turf yard (or something), which leaves us with over \$5k.
  - Projecting over \$13k from pizza. On Subway, we project approximately \$1,300. Some funding from Mabel’s Labels and modest income from Mazzola.
  - On expenses, recurring items include grade-level amounts, and the following placeholders (e.g. jerseys), “say yes” fund, grade 8 graduation, admin and banking charges, philanthropy
- Fundraising ideas were suggested, as follows:
  - Rebekka suggested another parents’ wellness event, such as the one that we hosted at Firehall. Could consider doing this as a fundraiser /combine with an art show. One or two events? **To check with OSCA for dates.**
  - Venus: Chess tournament with a bake sale.
  - Allen: to spearhead movie night. Frank also willing to help.
  - Meghan: knowledge-a-thon. Kids get sponsors to participate. Teachers could tie it into the curriculum.
  - Petra mentioned that Katie Hession previously suggested musical bingo. Petra to follow-up with Katie.
- **Note:** Events would normally be the night before a PA day.
- For year-end, Aleks proposed a year-end bbq, along with a road closure.

## 6. Ongoing Plans / Upcoming Events

### Pizza Day / Lunch Program

Mazzola only sold 11 meals. Anything less than 100 (some members thought the number to be closer to 40) meals, and the school has to arrange for meals to be distributed to classrooms. Should we further promote Mazzola, given that it’s a “service” and not a fundraiser? Council to

send out a message, as it's a last-minute option for parents who may not have a lunch ready on any given day.

## **Yard Committee**

No Committee update, but Martina provided an update on her latest conversation about trees with Kirk Berger, Physical Facilities Design & Construction. He says, we have a standing agreement with Ottawa Valley Trees. Martina asked him to come assess all the trees. He also suggested rubber surfacing as a turf replacement. He will provide more information. Martina to follow up with him.

## **Ski/Skate sale - Rebekka Roy**

October 21st - Drop off items at school garage 2 to 5pm

October 22nd - Sale starts at 9am (runs 9-12)

Volunteers get 15 minutes prior or after drop off to put aside anything they wish to purchase

Great way to declutter all your ski and winter equipment 30% goes to the school council and sellers receive 70% or all proceeds can be donated to the school council.

Posters were divided up among volunteers. The event will have competition the same day from the Nakkertok ski sale and a similar event at the EY Centre, so parents are asked to promote the event.

Happy Goat to donate coffee. Consider selling it as a fundraiser.

Martina and Sandy confirmed that custodial staff were aware of the event and the facility is booked.

It was suggested that a bake sale to coincide with the event would be great if a teacher were willing. Parents will bring baking, regardless.

## **7. Reports from Representatives**

### **Grade Reps (Maria)**

Grade reps met in order to discuss their role and a shared approach. Following are the key points:

- Agreed to talk to 3-4 parents every month before the meeting.
- Suggested that reps do introductory email for teachers to send
- Suggested a follow-up survey in a few months to see what parents want raised at Council or any other issues

Venus received the following questions from parents

- Is there a buddy bench?.
- Are there chess and reading clubs

Martina raised the importance of directing parents to the school, which is best-placed to answer most questions.

### **Traffic (Ariel-Ann)**

A trend in Ottawa is “school streets”. Enviro Centre is working on a guide for this approach. Some discussion ensued about how it would work. Martina raised the point that it’s always the same drivers; could consider having parents out there speaking with drivers.

On signage, Martina mentioned that the parking signs need to be updated to reflect the new bell times. Ariel-Ann to follow-up with the City.

Petra reminded us that Shawn has offered to come to us in response to our letter. Could we have that align with a visit from the school streets coordinator?

Rebekka: What about a walking school bus? This could align with volunteerism. What else could we do on advocacy and volunteerism?

Petra suggests that we do a clean-up alongside the ski/skate sale. Ariel-Ann suggests letting the kids identify an initiative.

### **8. Hopewell Parents (Fridays)**

A good opportunity for parent reps to meet with parents.

### **Halloween Dance**

- 8pm October 28, at OSCA (19 plus)
- \$35 before the 15th

### **10. Answer any pre-submitted questions**

None submitted

### **11. Varia**

A message from Sarah Matthews: trying to post to FB on time, but please interact with the posts so they get more traction

### **12. Closing and set next meeting November 14 2023**

Hybrid. In-person in the School Library.