

Hopewell Ave PS School Council

March minutes 2017

January minutes approved. Attendance: Elina Hill, Daphne Dumbrille, Karen Goodrich, Erika Graffunder, Amy Hannah, Trish Stogran, Deborah Gomes-Schultz, Vicky Christie, Mike Stewart, Jen Small, Joanne Barton, Allison Kelly, Rebekkah Roy, Dara, Heather Cotton, Heather Barnett

Principal's report

Staff updates: Joanne Sawyer is leaving (Occasional Teacher), and Vanessa Cyr is returning to this LTO (Long-Term Occasional) position. Jessica Neale is leaving to climb Everest – Amanda Valente will replace her until the end of the school year, and knows Hopewell (she's here integrating now). Letters have gone home. HR instructs administration on official changes; other staff changes are in the works and will be announced when we receive the information. April 6th is when we receive our school staffing allocation, and then Amy and Trish will begin to develop a plan for the organization of the school and the assignments for teachers (and share at subsequent meetings).

Character focus is integrity. Staff found the Improve with Improv to be outstanding, and thank you to council for funding that.

Twoonie Tuesday raised \$485 for Education. The musical was great – a big success from both teachers' and students' perspectives. Junior girls won gold for volleyballs (both teams), and junior boys made semi-finals. Basketball tournament involved lots of people coming in and out of the school, but it was a great success. Girls' basketball tournament happening on Thursday. Genius hour Sharing Fair: Friday 9:30-11am in the gym and atrium.

Hopewell was approached by the OCDSB manager for mental health regarding starting a pilot called 'Well Aware' about raising awareness on anxiety, depression and more; classes will read on these topics together. It's a Pearson Publishing program (sets of books connected to these topics, 'Well Aware').

We'll be hosting Lisgar Collegiate bands next Friday. Immunization clinic April 3rd – info went out to intermediate families. Talia Makuch organized for rowing instruction to come to our school and give sessions to Gr. 7/8 students (2 week period, starting April).

School learning plan – the assigned focus was numeracy, and teachers focused in the fall on asking effective questions. Now they are looking at how to provide feedback to help learning. 3 focus areas: feedback, questioning skills, reasoning skills (one of the desired math outcomes) – there will be workshops on these topics to foster teacher collaboration, to allow teachers to share practices and co-create teaching methods.

Council co-chair Deborah will pick up wine for teachers who are leaving – we will revive this tradition, and are sad that we missed doing something for other teachers who've left.

Treasurer's report

Karen shared the latest estimate for the hot lunches. A new fundraiser, 67s, raised \$855 – thank you to Kristy Hannah and Mario Carlucci . A Fury fundraiser might happen too later in June, or in the fall. Dance-a-thon will also be a bonus amount, as we had not budgeted for it. The Grade 5 XC ski trip cost a bit more than expected, but not much – Karen will pay the invoice. Improve with Improv is paid for, and so is gym equipment that was promised. The curriculum enrichment categories will each include technology, and Trish is hoping orders will be in by end of March. Perhaps also some colour printers. Tree gates: design is complete, all forms are filled out, they just can't be actioned quite yet because of the weather.

Safe and Caring

Safe and Caring hasn't had any new activity; they're happy for the feedback re Improve with Improv. Instructor also really enjoyed working with students and staff. \$1200 remains budgeted for September.

Here is info from an email re Improve with Improv (some to be shared via ParentSpeak): *Thank you for having me work with your students and staff. It was an incredibly positive experience. The students were very welcoming, engaged, respectful and positive and the staff made me feel at home. It is inspiring to work with a school who focusses on character building and bullying prevention, so it was a joy to continue that process on your behalf with the students this week... A wonderful resource for improv activities broken up into such categories as Listening, Accepting, and Trust is <http://improvencyclopedia.org/categories/index.html>. Below is a pdf copy of the Review sheet with the key ideas and concepts and a pdf of the key ideas translated into French (Ms. Stogran has relevant documents). I hope this will be helpful.*

About the Improve with Improv workshops the foundation of all her workshops. Through interactive improv activities **Improve with Improv** demonstrates how to create a positive, safe environment free from fear, by building trust, by Making Our Partners Look /Feel Good, through listening and acceptance. The students and staff develop a common language, strengthen their skills, and can envision their role in eliminating bullying from their schools, one person, one kind act at a time. **Improve with Improv** is action learning at its best, creating a direct route for developing portable life skills.

Fundraising committee report

Dance-a-thon: teachers are informed and onboard. Volunteers are working to help things go smoothly and raise funds. There was some concern that the Dance-a-thon may have been forgotten, so a communication should go out by the end of the week to remind parents and kids of prizes (and what the money will go toward). Erika has been trying to reach DJ about whether he can do 2 gyms or just one – she's waiting to hear from him. Decorations are in progress (Petra and others are coming to create decorations). Some confusion re the dates about money collection, but last day is March 29th. 6 or 7 people are volunteering on the day of the Dance-a-thon – everyone is on track. In the future, we will be better prepared to give tax receipts; for this year, only for 'exceptional amounts.'

Chromebook \$335 – the tub fits 6 Chromebooks \$265, and has a charger, and locks. They try to have a tub as soon as they have enough Chromebooks to fill it. Mr. King cares for them, which is a big job. But Amy would like each class to learn how to care for technology. This has already been something Hopewell has been improving at. In future we should communicate w/ families more about how technology is used in the classroom (e.g., a video interviewing Amy about different tools, a video of kids using the technology to learn, perhaps showing links with learning at high school, etc.).

Heather Cotton – teacher update

7 teachers volunteered to run clubs (0 parents). Knitting club: Elizabeth Vorobej will run the club and they will donate everything they make. Sports clubs, Magic club, TAG, bands are also happening. Renee Labrosse is coaching Jr Basketball, Jamie Vance is running drop-in badminton for intermediates, and Meghan Abbey is coaching jr. girls' basketball. Sports and leadership club, led by Caitlin and Renee, has now finished, and anti-bullying will begin soon. Thank you very much to those taking on these initiatives.

Our new Facebook page will be: Hopewell Ave PS School Council (Note: the page was initially 'Hopewell Ave PS Parent Council' – but has been changed to 'school council' to reflect our official name, for consistency.)

Pizza Pizza has been making errors for a great number of weeks: wrong number of pizzas, bad slicing, late arrival, etc.. Our pizza day coordinator will look into different options for next year, and may need to choose a slightly more expensive company. Several people noted that it would be best to let the year finish with Pizza Pizza; parents whose kids have allergies will not like to see things change midway. But it's important to note that kids got cold pizza, teachers and volunteers had their schedules disrupted. They will finish the year with Pizza Pizza, as things are pretty well organized with the parent volunteers – but the pizza situation can't continue as is. Lindsey's handling things wonderfully, and thanks to volunteers who've been great.

Grade 6 notice went out re not having a grad ceremony per se; more info to come. Grade 7 volunteer – Kathleen Marsman, Ramiane Shaw and Jen Small will help to run the grade 8 grad so that families can enjoy the grad reception. Volunteers are still needed – a note will go out, and we'll include it in Parentspeak. Mr. Pantierros is ready to meet with organizers and move forward.

Babysitting: We've offered it for 3 meetings, and no one has signed up. We don't want to have our babysitter on-call each week, only to have it cancelled, so we'll not offer it anymore. Perhaps we'll try again in the future if parents express an interest.

Bike Sale – April 30th: anything on wheels, OSCAR ad. We'll partner with Glebe again to run the sale. Same format as ski sale, with some 'pro' cyclist volunteers helping out and Glebe kids doing maintenance for bikes. Strollers, scooters, bikes, skateboards, safety gear. Anything that doesn't sell we'll try to sell via Play it Again sports. They will vet the bikes so we'll have nice bikes to sell. Poster – we can add it to the Parentspeak. This will also coincide with yard cleanup too, just like for ski sale.

We will apply for the parent involvement grant.