

Hopewell Ave PS School Council

OCTOBER 2017 MINUTES

Attendance (and Parent Council Sign-up, members at large and council members): Daphne Dumbrille; Deborah Gomes Schultz; Lynn Watson; Trish Stogran; Erik Van der Torre; Mike Waddington; Katie Breen; Colin Caird; Allison Kelley; Petra Heitkamp; Tanya Trevors; Maggie Fawcett; Caitlin McIlveen; Julie Lanca; Erica Thrift-Caird; Erika Graffunder; S. Heather Barrett; Michael Spratt; Claire Kerry; Julia Baryla, Alex Randall

Highlights of the meeting to be communicated with Parents in Parent Speak:

- ☐ Hopewell Ave Public School students Grade 3 and 6 have done really well in the EQAO 2016 (Evaluation Quality & Accountability) – showing that the ***school performance in reading, writing and math is at or above provincial level standard in all areas***. Congratulations to all work of teachers, students and parents!!!
- ☐ ***The school has 865 students and it is above capacity***. Issues of streamlining future intake numbers needs to be watched, especially with further development of Old Ottawa South and East. School council co-chairs will meet with the Superintendent, and will keep parents closely informed on developments.
- ☐ ***Traffic safety remains a concern around the school*** – crossing between the school and yards, and the pick-up and drop-off times are extremely congested times. School is in communication with City Councillor Chernoshenko's office to ensure appropriate safety measures for Hopewell Avenue, crosswalks on Aylmer/Bank (advanced stoplights at bell-times) and cross guards.
- ☐ ***School council discussed writing a letter expressing concerns about traffic increase*** and school children's safety related to the planned development project at the South Minister Church.

Calendar highlights:

26 October: Rideauwood Addiction Centre will present "Addiction and Children" for parents on 26 October from 7:00-8:30pm. From 6:30 p.m. onwards there will be coffee and snacks

Next School Council Meeting: 13 November 2017

1. Welcome

Deborah welcomes the school council to its first session in its new form, and introduces the agenda.

A round of introductions is held.

September Minutes are adopted: *Heather moved, Mike seconded.*

2. Principal's report

Lynn Watson: Traffic update after communications with Ian Grabina from City councillor Chernushenko's office related to the safety of children and congestion of traffic around the school:

- a) The one-hour parking at the Hopewell Ave school entrance has been proposed to be changed to diminish the traffic congestion in front of the school, and increase the student safety along the street;
- b) Crosswalk on Hopewell Ave has been studied by the City and has found not to cause problems for the students. The school almost lost the crossing guard (school staff) because it was too closely mimicking an official municipal cross guard. Appearances have been changed (sign and sash) and cross guard remains in place;
- c) Aylmer / Bank Street crossing will be studied to see whether it warrants a crossing guard and/or adjusted light functioning. At 'Bell times' the pedestrian stop light will have preference over other traffic lights at the various important Bank Street crossings including Aylmer, Sunnyside, Belmont.
- d) Bus-loading zone on Hopewell Ave will be kept clear during drop-off and particularly end of day pick up. School will send out communication to community to not block or drop off on those times at the Sunnyside exits.

3. VP Report

Trish Stogran: A new photographer (Edge Imaging) has been recruited for the School Picture Day. Individual pictures will be taken on Wednesday, October 18, and the retakes and class pictures will be held on November 22nd.

EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office) May 2017 test results were presented with data and graphs. The EQAO provides a snapshot on reading, writing and math of Grade 3 and Grade 6 students for provincial comparisons. The test reflects the curriculum expectations that the school and the province work with. The Hopewell Ave students (Grade 3 and 6) have performed really well. There were 85 Grade 3 students and 86 Grade 6 students who took part in the tests. The majority of students ranked at level 3 (provincial standard) or level 4 (above provincial standard) – Gr3 and 6 above 90% for reading and writing, Gr3 87% for math and Gr6 74% for math. In general, excellent results, above the Board and provincial outcomes.

Math has been the area that has required additional attention over the last years and it has seen several changes from the Board. Further improvements will be made to increase the math results within the school.

4. Treasurer's report

Allison presented the final report of the 2016-17 school year. The budget committee will now meet to craft a new budget for the 2017-18 school council. Colin brought up possible savings of PayPal fees. The chairs and treasurers will have a separate discussion on the matter.

5. Safe and Caring committee

Heather Barret provided an update on committee's work:

- a) "Improve with Improv" presenter is returning, and will present to Grades 6, 7, 8 on October 16 and 17 ;
- b) The committee has secured a CAD\$1000 grant from the province;
- c) Rideauwood Addictions and Family Services will provide a presentation to parents on 26 October from 7:00-8:30pm. From 6:30 onwards there will be coffee and snacks.
- d) Paul Davis (socialnetworkingsafety.net) talked about 'Social networking Safety' last week 5 Oct 2017. He outlined the risks around social networking sites and emphasized the need for parental supervision and engagement in the use of kids on devices.

If people are interested in joining the Safe and Caring committee, they meet Friday mornings, 9:15am, every 4-6 weeks. If you are interested, please email Heather (shnbarrett@gmail.com), or Ms. Stogran, and find out more about how you can participate. This year there will be a focus on diversity.

6. Yard Committee

Mike Waddington provided an update on the committee's work.

- a) The proposed tree care package would cost CAD\$1950 as quoted to Lynn Watson. In last year's report the Yard committee had CAD\$3000 left, but the funding for the tree care will be required before the budget committee finalizes its work. The Council voted on an amount of CAD\$2000 to be used by the Yard committee for the tree care: *Mike Spratt moved, Erika seconded. Large majority voted in favor.*
- b) OSCA Green Dreamers will be consulted for Spring, especially for the Bank street areas;

- c) Fall clean-up has not started since Fall has not yet come, but lots of weeding and leave cleaning is expected for the upcoming month. The Fall clean-up will be linked to the Ski-/Skate sale.
- d) Lines for games still need to be painted, and Mike is waiting for new stencils from the Ottawa public health. If the weather cooperates we might be able to put these in place this year, and otherwise in Spring 2018.

If people are interested in joining the yard committee, there will be a meeting in October to organize fall and spring cleanups. Interested people can email parentspeak@gmail.com and the chairs will put them in touch with Mike.

7. Council's Role

Deb outlined some of the information as part of the School council constitution:

- a) We have now 25 members as part of the School council. It is great to have a large group of interested parents involved in the school council, but attendance of meetings is crucial to ensure that we have a quorum for voting. If you miss three consecutive meetings of the School council you lose voting right following the constitution. Council will explore digital quorum and teleconferencing to make participation in the meeting and in voting more accessible.
- b) Committees and sub-committees of the Council will from now on provide clear issues for decision and/or voting to the Chairs before the meeting to be presented as part of the agenda. This will also encourage Council members to come to the meeting to vote.
- c) The role of the Grade representatives was outlined as a communication role between parents and school council, with active networking function and providing and soliciting questions and answers relevant amongst parents in the grade. Maggie Fawcett stepped up as representative for the Intermediary Grade7/8. The Grade reps will be meeting to review and coordinate their function, and outline a specific email with their role to be presented to parents.
- d) The Constitution will be updated to better reflect the needs and activities of the school community and make better use of technology, for example. Those interested in participating in this review can reach out to the co-chairs.

8. Lunch Program

No information on the lunch program has gone out yet. The first planned date is Oct. 20th beginning with pizza and alternating weeks with Subway. Mazzola (the new private hot lunch provider) will begin the same week.

9. Discussion on how the new development on Aylmer may impact traffic

Erika Graffunder outlined a potential impact of the new Development project linked to the Southminster church on Aylmer, and specifically highlighting the implications on potential traffic congestion, parking problems and safety for school children. Erik brought up that OSCA has written a letter outlining issues and wondered about the role of School council in this debate. Council voted with majority (*Heather to motion, Katie to second*) that a draft statement will be written for School Council to consider and vote on, specifically on the traffic congestion and safety for school children (Erika will draft the statement and council will comment and vote via email).

10. Vacant roles – Any interest

For anyone who is interested to be supporting School Council, there are several positions open to be taken up:

Secretary: (taking minutes; supporting chairs in communications)

- ☐ Ski sale:
- ☐ Bike sale:
- ☐ Teacher appreciation event in June:
- ☐ Ottawa Fury Soccer/67s fundraiser:

11. Other Business

Deb and Daphne will be meeting with the superintendent about the search for a new Principal for Hopewell Ave (for January when Lynn Watson will be finished). They will be discussing the principals profile, and also discuss the situation of the large number of students at Hopewell Ave school and related possible contingency plans.

NEXT MEETING: November 13th

Parent conference and School council training day (OCDSB): November 18th