

19th March 2019 Hopewell Avenue PS Council Minutes

Attendance: Daphne Dumbrille, Debbie Gomes Schultz, Claire Kerry, Martina Sherwood, Jenny Dewan, Fran Morrison, Mike Waddington, Mike Stewart, Kirsty Hannah, Roopa Dolvane, Petra Heitkamp, Katie Breen, Steve Duncan, Dara Spatz Friedman, Saira David, Rebekka Wallace Roy

Regrets: Jeannine Beauregard, Marni Kagan, Heather Barnett, Tanya Trevors, Allison Kelley and Colin Caird.

1. **Welcome, Approval of the Agenda, Approval of January 2019 minutes** (please note: School Council did not meet in February)

January Minutes approved by Fran Morrison and seconded by Petra Heitkamp.

2. **Principal's report - Martina Sherwood**

- Plans for 2019-2020 are underway! Our enrolment is projected to be 832. Our current enrolment is 853. We currently have 822 pre-registered for the coming year. Of this number, 49 are new kindergarten registrations. We have been projected to have 66 new kindergarten registrations. If you have a neighbour who has not yet registered, please encourage them to do so! Early in April we will be receiving our staffing allocation for teachers and will begin the process of building our school organization.

Discussion: It was also noted that currently only two students are registered in the English programme for Grade 1 for September 2019. Question raised on what would the impact be of such low enrolment? Answer: Combining grades with the potential of a Grade 1,2,3 class.

- Our School Learning Plan work continues. We had a wonderful day of learning on February PA Day on Friday, February 15th, 2019. Our focus on looking at student work through the lens of a Learning Continuum to understand where students are in their learning and how we can support them moving forward. Much of our discussion was anchored in Alex Lawson's book, *What to Look For* and Hattie, Fisher and Frey's book, *Visible Learning for Mathematics* (2017):

"To equip students for higher-level mathematics learning, we have to be clear about where students are, where they need to go, and what it looks like when they get there...."

As with previous School Learning Plans, it is expressed as a Theory of Action. Our current plan is:

If educators intentionally plan visible learning tasks, then they will be able to use the Lawson continuum for multiplication and division to place student learning on the continuum and identify next steps.

We have also developed a detailed Well Being Plan. As part of this process we have drawn on information shared by Hopewell educators through a survey conducted by Caitlin McIlveen, data collected through our Get Real Presentation last year, and OurSchool Survey data. We also held a half day planning session attended by our Safe and Accepting Schools Team – thank you to Heather Barrett for attending on behalf of Council. Teachers and students were also a part of this discussion. As with our School Learning Plan, we developed a theory of action:

If our school team intentionally uses language and actions that foster a sense of belonging and promote the development of positive healthy relationships through culturally responsive pedagogy and awareness of what students' voice are messaging their caring adults, then our students will actively engage in all aspects of school life, be able to identify at least one caring adult in their school world and express their belief that the school team at Hopewell cares about them as unique individuals and learners.

Discussion: *It was noted that the school aspires to having at least one teacher for students to turn to in times of need. Some felt that this sets the bar too low, stemming from concern with over burdening*

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teachers if students often go to the same teacher. The point was noted. It was expressed that when referring to one teacher it was meant for the person they can trust for big issues and that all students should feel that they can approach any teacher if needed. It was also brought to Council's attention that there are two teachers working with at risk students at the Intermediate level. The School also has a social worker that is at school on Mondays who any students can access with parental approval.

Today at our March Staff Meeting we continued our Well-being work and shared Student Voice feedback, educator feedback and engaged in some planning forward.

- Thank you for the ongoing support. Our wish list orders continue to arrive. Payment does not occur until the items or experiences have arrived/occurred so therefore there are some budget lines that read as unspent, but commitments have been made. Junior and Intermediate students will soon be experiencing Luv2Groove. The Say Yes budget line supported a wonderful hot chocolate experience for some primary classes as part of a "Plan B" winter activity after their much anticipated Skating adventure was cancelled. Say Yes will also be funding a mural project in our First Floor "Nook" ... practice for the big mural in our front atrium!

3. Vice Principal Teacher Report - Jenny Dewan

Lots of activities happening throughout the school including Race car building (Gr. 4/5 engineering project), multi level city project (World Peace Game), ski club, volleyball, basketball and Shakespeare plays in the class room.

Communication:

We provide updates to parents in a variety of ways;

- Weekly School Newsletter through School Messenger
- School website, <https://hopewellaveps.ocdsb.ca/>
- Teacher messages/websites (staff dependent)
- By phone/email where appropriate
- School Messenger
- Board information may be found on the board website, <https://ocdsb.ca/>

Health and Safety:

Is always our foremost concern. Updates include:

- Acknowledging the challenges district-wide this winter supporting outside safety by: performing daily walkabouts to look for safety concerns, put up pylons and signs in areas where safety concerns exist, grit icy areas, monitor weather conditions, communicate with staff and students regularly regarding changes in weather conditions, monitor/supervise outdoor play closely
- Hold routine fire and lockdown drills. As per policy and procedure guidelines we will have three fire drills in the spring as well as one lock down drill
- We continue to review and monitor appropriate stairway, hallway and transition movement throughout the school day

4. Yard committee report - Mike Waddington

Trees: a city grant has been awarded to Hopewell School.

Bike Sale: to be scheduled for weekend of May 4/5th. It usually coincides with the yard clean up, however there might be a call to do this slightly later to ensure better weather.

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Kinder yard update - Daphne Dumbrille to meet with Kinder yard committee to brief them on the process for conducting a yard refresh. The next Kinder yard meeting is on 20th March.

A spokesperson from kinder yard committee plans to attend the next school council meeting to update Council on their proposed plans.

It was also raised that the Kinder yard might like to gain engagement from Grade 7/8s on this project if an aspect of it fits with their education.

5. Treasurer's Report

Safe: A new safe has been purchased to ensure that any fundraising event monies are dropped into the safe, as money is not to be taken home by members of the school council.

Grade 5 Cross country skiing trip: invoice paid this past month.

Movie night: raised \$600

6. Fundraising:

a) issues surrounding Council organizing a fundraiser to go towards a specific external charity

Diversity team proposed an idea to dedicate money raised at Movie night to a charity that fits with the diversity goals, this being an Old Ottawa South community group of families supporting a refugee family. Council was made aware that School councils can only fundraise for school based items, there are criteria for fundraising and it has to be for the benefit of students or initiated by students. Fundraising cannot support an external charity as it doesn't meet criteria. We want to avoid School council to be seen as a method for fundraising. School does do humanitarian fundraising, for example the Blizzard Bizarre as part of an extra curricula activity and students research chosen charity.

Discussion was held on having a partnership school to donate a portion of Council's funds - given to budget committee to look into this, the school would need to be a logical match. Several schools were suggested by members of the council.

b) Fury and RedBlacks games

Contact has been made with Ottawa Sports and Entertainment Group (OSEG) - they are open to a RedBlacks game fundraiser for School Council. They would charge the school approx \$32 per ticket (actual price depends on number of tickets sold) and we can charge a mark up to raise funds for School Council. Tickets must be purchased three weeks in advance of the game. Discussion was held on appropriate price and how communication to parents would happen. The usual backpack drop will be organised, asking interest in purchasing Redblacks tickets to give organisers a number with which to negotiate with OSEG.

Council plans both a Fury and RedBlacks Fundraiser.

7. Safe & Accepting School Team committee report

· next Movie Night (April 11, 2019)

Sing is the movie to be shown same format as previous selling Popcorn, Cookies and encouraging own Water bottles bought in.

There was a discussion on whether there could be a second movie shown for some of the older students who want to be included. Also the Idea of Games night at the same time for students who are older grades 7/8, discussion around where it could be held, Suggestion was to use the teacher's lounge, this was used well during the Blizzard Bizarre, this would be more appropriate room for a games night. Decision was made to have a Movie night and Games night for grades 7/8.

· Welcome Mural update

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Natalie Johnson teacher who was head of visual arts at Canterbury lead teacher on welcome mural, and Stuart Menard to donating money towards project. Currently at initiation stage of project and working on a practice mural and deciding on how to mount mural to the challenging curved wall and tiled area.

8. Division Rep Report

Lice - Parents of Kinder students are wondering if 3 warnings is an unusual amount and was there any framework from the board regarding lice? This didn't seem an unusual amount as lice is common. When a previous info session was held on the subject only one parent attended. Division rep was to find out information from Mutchmoor school on what they do regarding Lice.

Genius Hour (Market fair project that students work on presenting a topic that is of interest to them) - Junior level parents have expressed disappointment in the cancellation of Genius hour. Parents felt it was cancelled because teachers thought that it was too much work for the parents. It hasn't been run this year due to fatigue of the idea and there have been other challenges such a World game and race cars that have been incorporated into the school year. The school is open to having Genius Hour again, perhaps have it every second year.

9. Three motions regarding reinstatement of the 2015 Health and Physical Education curriculum – update

OCASC had three motions they were going to take to the School Board that they required passing by School Councils. Our school council passed all three motions, but only the first two motions were passed at the OCASC. General feeling from School councils was that no one is in support of reverting back to the old Health and Physical Education curriculum.

10. Virtual School Council meetings

There have been a few requests to make virtual meetings possible the School board is not keen on this as School Council meeting are meant to be a place to physically meet other parents and teaching staff. There was a plan to look at some platforms that could be used to facilitate virtual meetings. Zoom was one that was thought that could be used the free version is only 40 minutes long which is too short for a meeting, if a yearly subscription is paid then it would be unlimited length. School council will need to trial this to see if it something that can be accommodated and if there is take up for it. It would require a volunteer to help facilitate it during the meetings.

11. Other Business

There was a call out for more volunteers for Hot Lunches Subway and Pizza, are in need of much more help to ensure the continuation of weekly hot lunches.

Petra is to coordinate a Help Wanted memo to be sent in the weekly communication.

Upcoming dates:

Next Meeting April 9th 2019

Movie and Intermediate Games Night April 11th 2019.