

Minutes of the meeting of

Howard Public School Home And School Association

Wednesday 15 April 2015 7 pm

Howard Public School Library

Attendees: Rosanna Sardella (RS) Principal
Linda Torry (LT) Co-Chair
Tory Millar (TM) Vice-Chair
Dorothy Chen (DC) Treasurer
Katherine Ball (KB) Secretary
Kathy Narraway (KN) - Sports Committee
John Doherty (JD) - Ward 7 Rep
Erin McCaughan - (EM) Fall Fete Chair
Candice Levine (CL) - Arts Committee
Gillian Novick (GN)

Regrets: Elise Beauvais
Jeffery Beardall
Stevan Petrakovic

1. Agenda - Amended to reflect the update of Tech committee to be given by DC and LT and update from Sports Committee from KN. Item 7 (Ward update) removed and Item 10 (Cycling activities) removed. Motion to approve (JD), Seconded (DC).
2. Minutes of March meeting amended to give date of April meeting as 15 April 2015. Motion to approve (JD), Seconded (DC).
3. Principal's report - RS

New roof planned for May/June, solar panel installation on landing on Marmaduke - one of the planters to be moved and the panel installation to be caged in. Area 38 is directly below a low point in the roof, the water leak worst in that area. Everyone very understanding. Parents concerned around air quality - been assessed and its fine, no asbestos nor mold. Some tiles missing still. Board and superintendent have been expediting for repairs (to be addressed by the end of the week) and then new roof later in the term.

Staffing model approved. Vacancies to be posted by 20 April 2015 so teachers to be assigned before then. Teaching roster sent out with final reports in June. Parents are communicating extenuating circumstances to home room teachers for placements. Working well.

April 23, JK info night for new parents. Children are to attend also for a classroom tour and kiddy bag.

April 17, clean the yard day. Gloves and bags etc to be provided. All teachers and children involved in cleaning the yard and the immediate neighbourhood.

Report of children removing a cover in the field that accesses some piping. Needs addressing.

4. Updates

ARTS COUNCIL - CL - Arts club took off well. First 5 sessions - great. Second sessions have started and building on last session experience. Third session too hopefully. Still in the midst of visiting artists program. Juniors saw Into the Woods. Trying to figure out next steps for next year in communication with teachers for what works best. Fall was catch up and now figuring it all out for next year. Mural on north exterior wall of the gym - all children to be involved. Week long program in May.

EARTH BUDDIES - LT - clean up - some complaints about the kit that creates garbage. Discussion to consider buying grabbers so that clean up could be an ongoing project. Query cost? Maybe buy a number of grabbers to be shared between classes.

TECH COMMITTEE - LT - discussion about google chrome books (4) that have been bought for teachers. Waiting for feedback from teachers. Tech conference attended by 2 teachers today. More teachers to attend later in the month. Awaiting feedback. There is money allocated and waiting to be spent. RS tech budget was \$3,000 and \$1,200 spent already - mainly on replacing hard drives.

DC - tech club also a possibility - JB and DC trying to pull something together. Depends on JB to pull together a list. Something like art club. Ideas all over the place - eg taking apart a PC, robotics, coding, minecraft, making videos and podcasts. Initial thoughts - kick off with a 2 month project honouring Mr Jurek before his retirement. Thursdays after school - 3.30 to 4.30.

DC has been approached by a teacher with feedback on Chrome book. We thought kids needed access to internet but in fact they need to use software that the teachers are comfortable with - eg Word or Power point, rather than Google/chrome book apps. Inability to print is a negative point - having to go somewhere else to print is a problem. Some older kids are using MovieMaker, which can't be used on the Chrome books. Internet browser is good but the teacher was not happy about the Chrome book - she would rather have a tablet or laptop. Most teachers should have a couple of PCs in the classroom. Teachers can also reserve (pre-book) and use the laptops - needs some forethought to organise and plan it.

DC's proposal - a laptop per teacher so they can use it with projectors, to prepare and free up the workstations in the classroom for the students. And it is available to the teacher as and when they need during the day.

Budget update - DC - projection, if everything else planned spend, reserve of \$13K (includes \$7K allocated but not approved). No tech purchases approved. DC would propose some money to update workstations in classrooms or purchase extra laptops.

RS - circulation hard drive needed and another hard drive for a classroom upstairs. All classrooms got a major overhaul of hard drives this year and a new printer for the 1st floor and new photocopiers. All workstations have been audited and are functional. New workstation about \$500.

DC proposes buying new workstations rather than chrome books. Experience suggests that workstations are old and out of warranty. Teachers don't have time to place calls and wait to get through. TDSB policy is that parents can't log those calls - frustrating.

Problems reported by Gillian Novick when program updates are made automatically, even if the systems don't support the updates.

Teacher response to chrome experience - survey went out today - will be asked to give feedback by next Friday.

RS and DC to go around and do a tech inventory of the workstations in the classrooms - for next meeting.

Tech committee - allocation of funds to be re-considered as between the arts council and the tech committee. Together with the arts council (not art club) and the tech committee working together.

SPORTS COMMITTEE - KN - teachers requests for DPA are coming in - parents are talking to the teachers. Bags and balls to be purchased for a specified place so that it is TDSB approved. Parents can go ahead and make the purchases. All kit to be labelled by area - KN to put out a reminder for when the orders come in that she will label it.

Pan Am play day in June (to be organised by Ms Ringler) and Ryan Epps organising Pan Am related activities.

5. Budget update - DC - \$13K in reserve. Are allocated expenditures being followed through on? There are some outstanding but a lot will be under. Arts Council? - not sure, Lara has all the numbers. Some committees will not spend all of it eg Maths club (which has mostly disbanded) - budget going to be posted to the archives.
6. Road safety - sign in place. Bollards mentioned to Gord Perks. Flashing lights - via a petition etc other option is a Community Safety Zone - doubled fines. RS spoke to police and a safety blitz was carried out. Need to highlight the crossing.
7. Fall Fete - Erin McCaughan is new chair and others are offering help.
8. Howard Yard Rejuvenation - Grounds person came out and consulted with RS and LT about new trees. One tree is dying and close to other trees - under warranty - will be replaced for free (a silver maple) and to be placed on the field where there is a gap. To happen in September.
9. Any other business
 - (i) EB looking for volunteers to assist with planting on Monday (all day) and Tuesday (morning).
 - (ii) DC logged on to academic workspace - has a calender that is put together by the teachers. Should be reflected on the parent blog. Teachers are to use academic workspace and parents can see it via the students' logins.
 - (iii) JD - governance of TDSB May 13 7-9 Parkdale public library - public meeting more info - consultation and survey is on TDSB.ca
 - (iv) Parent reaching out - MMc ideas for workshops - there is a list of events from across the city - lots of good ideas. To reach as many parents in the school as possible. Grant due in mid- May - next couple of weeks with ideas.

- (v) May 6 at 7 pm Connected Parenting (free) Jennifer Kolari (with childcare)
- (vi) Annie Malton to post docs to the blog that everyone can access
- (vii) DC - ultimate frisbee - too late for the league but maybe can organise a game/challenge against another school.
- (viii) Semiannual school report has been done by DC and will be posted (in the archives) with the budget.

Meeting adjourned to reconvene on May 20, 2015.