

Minutes Howard School Council

20 January 2016

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Library

1. Welcome/Introductions (MM, LT)

Thanks for all the parents who raised \$1000 cash and 3 bins of food for the Daily Bread Food Bank and 3 bins of toys to a charity centre.

Upcoming Dates: Feb 5th- Primary Concert- want to do another food drive, need volunteers.

Feb 11th- Dance-a-thon

April 15th- new PA Day

2. Approval of the agenda (MM, LT)

With addition of Catherine Hume to talk about play. Motion by MM, approved by LZ.

3. Approval of the minutes of October and November 2015

With minor changes, approved by KN and MM.

4. Principal's report – Rosanna Sardella

Painters on the third floor- using nontoxic paints, not harmful but some kids are complaining of headaches.

Important Dates: Feb 9th, report cards, interviews Feb 11th.

STEM - Mr. Wolf and Principal Sardella went to a STEM workshop – STEM is not a club or add-on, it's something that teachers are going to incorporate it into the curriculum - they are starting with the Juniors, will trickle down to the Primaries. 4 more days of modules for the teachers- they will then share their learning. Lego kits given to teachers and two parents who attended.

Lice protocol has been in the news- TDSB will be following protocol as per usual. Kids to be sent home until nits gone.

Request for additional funds from School Council for Music By the Lake bursaries. Two students need top-up money to be able to attend. Motion to use the funds from Holiday Hamper that were not used towards supplement a bursary. Motion by MM, seconded by LZ, passed.

5. Committee updates

Ward 7 Update – Aileen MacDonald, Leslie Smeaton, Alison Fletcher
There is a new Director of Education- John Malloy.

January 26th is the next Ward 7 meeting

They addressed the backlog of repairs in the TDSB- lack of Provincial Funding to blame - mention Fix Our Schools- making headway with the government

Announcement about PIAC Parents Conference. Date April 16th, 2016. Sessions on school councils, mental health, French immersion education etc. All parents welcome to register. Event free.

Arts Committee – Candice Levine

Mandate is to do three main things- 1) hands on workshop, 2) go to a performance 3) create an installation to beautify the school

The budget is fine for this year but that is because there is a surplus from last year- something is going to have to give- either cuts to the programs or raise more \$

Tech Committee – Dorothy Chen

There are a few new purchases- good teacher learning- they were able to contribute to 17 desktops that are fully functional

We would like to have a classroom set of computers for the library as well as extra chrome books.

STEM Committee – Lesley Smeaton

Meeting with teachers – now have teacher sponsors

Future - creating the initiatives. New committee, will take some time to get up and running.

Spent \$1038 so far

Discussion of role of scientists in school- not being used this year... why? Should evaluate this. Not all teachers found value in Scientist in School. Others like it and fund it through parent ask.

We got 4 Google Lego Education kits- great

Environment Committee – Elise Beauvais

Kids designed mascots last year- stamps, posters, puppets, and plaques - all things that are incorporated into the school

Future spend for the kinder yard- going to put planters in

2 new parent volunteers- one is a landscaper who has taken over the garden,

One of the plans is to plant somethings that harvest around the Fall Fete and then sell them at the Fete

Would like to see the garden space integrated into our use of the school space- idea of installing an outdoor chalk board that could be used by teachers for outside classes, or students during playtime- they could bring chalk to school, be creative- OUTDOOR CLASSROOM, google images - Friends of Howard may be able to fund this

Mental health committee – Michelle McBride

New Committee so they are getting their roots and doing their research. Have purchased \$1700 worth of accessories for the classrooms

Writing up a survey for the teachers to find out what works, what doesn't from the items we've purchased

Would like to host a lunch and learn for the teachers- get them involved

Long term- would like to purchase exercise bikes- a whole class room would be ideal also, Friendship bench is on the agenda for next year

Sports committee – Kathy Narraway

40 new shirts for the sports teams

New baseball gloves

2 new trikes

Successes- new PhysED teacher feels very supported

Challenges- very difficult to order things- takes forever

Play Update -- Catherine Hume

Catherine Hume directing the school musical Peter Pan- May 11/12 are the dates- 2 matinees and 2 evening performances. Looking for a Volunteer Coordinator - eventually will need some parent volunteers to co-ordinate schedules for viewing, set ups, etc

6. Financial Update – Tory Millar

Music Program- there is a surplus of about \$4000- questions about the budget for music and how that crosses into the Arts Council budget which pays for the props for the musical. Idea about possibly creating a collaboration between Arts and Music programs

Financial Update- spent \$4,500 less than we thought last year

We also have extra 2,200 in fundraising \$ plus holiday hamper money- we have \$9,000? possibly less if we include monies allocated to last year's budgets that were spent last year.

Teacher requests: reminder that a curriculum budget is available for books- the teachers haven't been asking Rosanna for it...

7. Fundraising Committee/Friends of Howard – Aileen MacDonald

Looking for a project to test out a future fundraising initiative via Friends of Howard - proposals are being considered by Feb 10th- send them to Aileen McDonald

8. Community Events – Socials – Date for Movie Night

Families to vote on movie to be seen. Movie night February 25th at 6:30 in gym. All kids must be accompanied by an adult.

Meeting Adjourned, next meeting: 17 February at 7 pm.