

Minutes: Howard School Council
21 October 2015
Minutes by Zoe Traiforos (ZT)

- 1. Welcome and Introductions (MM and LT)**
- 2. Approval of Agenda- motioned MM, 2nd- Laura Zeidler (LZ)**
- 3. Approval of Minutes – September 2015, deferred.**
- 4. Principal's Report – Rosanna Sardella (RS)**

- We now qualify as a Platinum school
- Prefer to see a cut in photocopying as a cost and for use of paper
- Would like to see more \$ towards technology and teacher money, now has \$500 toward consumables for each teacher, topped up by School Council
- The budget as it stands, works according to RS

Question about handles for the doors in the girls' bathrooms? - KN is concerned about privacy, not all doors close properly.

5. Committee updates

a. Fall Fete – Erin Mccaughan (EM)

Total revenue for the fete was \$28,000- up from last year- SUCCESS. Couldn't have happened without all the volunteers.

b. Magazine drive

sales are down significantly- raised \$9,000 from \$13,000 last year- Julie French absent

c. Ward 7 Update – Aileen MacDonald (AM)

- 2 presentations at the meeting, no major strike updates
- the boundaries of gifted programs are changing- based on district- schools will be changing
- standardized 'gifted' testing in grade 3 rather than being chosen by the teacher

d. Friends of Howard Trust -- Elise Beauvais (EB)

e. Arts Council – Candice Levine (CL)

Everything is booked for the year

Velveteen Rabbit for the kids

Play year for juniors with the visiting artists

Blank canvas for the primaries- half day workshop in French

Creative movement for the English primary classes

Hopefully a mural as well as a whole school project

f. Sports Committee – Kathy Narraway (KN)

Plans for this year- two new bikes for Kindergarten

Brand new set of baseball gloves

a bus for track

a budget for Daily Physical Activity available to the teachers

Soccer stuff for the kids

One 'whole school' physical activity - other than Jump for Heart

Mention of tent- why are we the only school that doesn't have a tent for track? Mr. P says that they were discouraged by Mr. Jurek last year, says they are really difficult to put up and take down

g. Tech Committee – Jeff Beardall and Dorothy Chen

-reviewed last year objectives- wanted to have a set of chrome books that can accommodate a classroom- we have 16

-also bought lady bugs (document cameras)

-also we have a library lab- 14 lap tops that are still functional

-future objectives: more laptops or Chrome books

h. Environment Committee – Elise Beauvais

Last year they didn't spend the entire budget as they saved \$ to put toward a fence- but the fence wasn't a great idea as last year it was destroyed \$700 was set aside for that. Request to keep that extra \$ in order to protect the shrubs if they need it

Seed to Harvest Festival

6) Finance Update and Summary of Draft Budget – Tory Millar (TM)

1. September 2015 Financial Update – Tory Millar

2. Confirmation of 2015 - 2016 Budget Allocation

3. Review of Home and School Spending Guidelines

4. Review of proposals presented to date, including reserve

5. Voting on the allocation for the Budget for 2015-2016

-review of 5 guidelines for school council. Priorities.

a) Tech Committee, request 10,000

b) Sports Committee:

c) Environment Committee: ask is \$2000

Purchase some new shrubs - we have a new landscape designer in the school\

Request to create GREEN space in the Kinder yard- propose using some barrels

Earth Buddy Field Trip- cost to be determined

Supplies- earth day parade murals, chalk, \$200

Request a 'picker upper' instead of using gloves

Teachers are going through a lot of paper towels in Kindergarten- suggest cloth towels -\$

Friendship bench- where kids have painted their hands on it, and if you don't have any friends to play with, you can sit on that bench- maybe partner with mental health committee?

d) Mental Health and Well Being- MM request \$2500

Extras for kids that have special needs: sensory, anxiety, bereaved kids, post traumatic stress kids, ADHD, etc

Sets of head phones

Anxiety balls

Heavy belts- for kids with sensory

Study corals

Equipment based today

Mind up program

Suggestion to work with our special ed teachers

e) Arts Council – CL request \$10,000

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Motions:

1)TM moves to change the spend limits to the confines of the school year- not passed, we will revisit this subject in March

2)TM moves to regulate updates from committees to a quarterly pattern: Oct, Jan, Mar, May- in efforts to improve transparency, awareness and share successes/ challenges. Motion passed (ST, LZ)

Discussions of how to ensure that items purchased for classrooms by Home and School, stay in that class rooms:

-Suggestions include increasing efforts to mark and stamp items.

-Rosanna mentions that there is a 'fixed asset list' which has not been completed by teachers in years passed.

-Suggestion that volunteers may be needed to itemize and track purchases by order of class for future reference- Stacey Kushnir said she would help

3) Discussion of priorities, TM proposed budget (see budget attachment). Vote on proposed budget. Approved.

7. Other business:

Kinder Pizza lunch scheduled for December 4th

Mention of Coaching cards for those interested in getting involved in team sports- Kathy Narraway

8. Volunteers Wanted

Arts and Crafts Fair- volunteers needed- Stacey Kushnir is open to the idea- possibly in the spring

Introduction of the idea of a 'Spirit Committee' - parent volunteers needed to connect with interested parents, create community building events and awareness.

Next meeting Nov 18th, 7 pm in library.

Meeting Adjourned, 9:15pm

In Attendance:

Rosanna Sardella (principal)
Kris Wessenger-MacDonald (vice-principal)
Stevan Petrakovic (teacher rep)
Michelle McBride (co-chair)
Linda Torry (co-chair)
Sara Tweedie (vice chair)
Tory Millar (treasurer)
Dorothy Chen (tech committee)
Aileen MacDonald (Friends of Howard, ward 7)
Laura Zeidler
Kathy Narraway (Sports Council)
Elise Beauvais (Environment Council)
Erin McCaughan
Candice Levine
Nancy Carr
Stacey Kushnir
Jeffrey Beardall - absent and has dropped out of tech committee
Megan Smith
Zoe Traiforos
Liz Philips- lizannephillips@gmail.com -
Erika Barrientos- erika.a.barrientos@gmail.com
Joel Freeman- Joel@JoelFreeman.com - Tech
Lara Pocock- larajanelle@yahoo.ca- Arts

