

**Howard School Council Minutes
16 September 2015**

Welcome and Introductions (Michelle McBride and Linda Torry)

Overview to the group about the School Council

- discussion of typical schedule and length of meetings
- structure of the committee, parental and school side of it
- meeting agenda
- construction of the executive/ how/ who

Approval of Agenda (Michelle McBride, seconded by Laura Zeidler)

Approval of May 2015 Minutes (MM, seconded by Kathy Narraway)

Election of Executive and Committee Members

Chair/Co chair, no names were put forward prior to the meeting, no new names put forward at meeting, Michelle McBride and Linda Torry agreed to stay on as co-chairs.

Vice Chair

Sara Tweedie nominated. Acclaimed.

Treasurer

Tory Millar nominated. Acclaimed.

Secretary

Zoe Traiforos nominated. Acclaimed.

Ward 7 Reps

Aileen MacDonald, Leslie Smeaton, Alison Fletcher and Megan Smith nominated. Acclaimed.

Small Budget Committee

Laura Zeidler, Dorothy Chen, Jeff Beardall nominated. Acclaimed.

Principal Update (Rosanna Sardella)

- Greg Draeus- new caretaker
- new flat roof finished construction over summer
- working on solar panels
- teacher work to rule- phase 2- no collections of paper work
- also work to rule with QP staff- phase 1- only working during work hours- no extras
- new clerical worker in the office as Helen off on leave.

- police checks are necessary if you are volunteering regularly- who will pay for them- has been the school council
- Curriculum night Sept 30
- Photo Day Sept 29th
- French Immersion Application Nov 2nd- Dec 3rd
- Nov 26th - French Immersion Info night
- Grade 1/2 split class in French- we cannot do straight grades because of the grades- 90/10 ministry rule- no flexibility at all
- Welcome to our new teachers, 2 new grade 6 teachers (Mr Wolfe and Madame Rachadi) and Ms. Brown is a new afternoon music teacher
- DPA on the day the kids don't have gym

Financial Update (Dorothy Chen)

Raised \$55,000 last year
Had \$15,000 from previous years- total \$70,000
Spent 66,000 so far- leaving \$4,000 surplus
New technology was purchased: monitors, projectors, ladybugs, etc

Call for Budget Requests, Budget meeting October

Review of Budget Process:

Four principles that guide the use of money:

- a) support and enhance the curriculum for each class room
- b) targeted certain areas of focus: arts, music, science physical, etc-
- c) request to add mental health as a priority, looking to approve that- motion. Motion by MM, seconded by Megan Smith.
- d) recognize contributions to the staff
- e) the budget is spent equitably and evenly through the school and staff

Committee Updates

1) Lunch Room Improvement (Zoe Traiforos)

Discussion on state of lunch room (kids grade 1-6 all eat in the gym) Lunch room overcrowded, noisy, question of if there's enough supervision. Kids eating in coats etc. Kids not eating enough as distracted, too much going on. Call for parent discussion on issue, set up lunch room committee, will work with RS and KWM to try and find solutions. Anyone interested please see ZT.

2) Fall Fete (Erin McCaughan)

Need for volunteers, wine raffle and silent auction are in need of help - date set at October 17th

3) QSP Magazine Drive (Julie French)

Encourage purchasing online, especially in light of work to rule; discussion of changing the process, perhaps different prizing structure. Some parents question magazine drive on

environment grounds, others on the selling/consumerism aspect. Agree to go ahead this year and discuss in Spring.

4) Arts Council (Candice Levine)

Big plans for the year. Taking kids to see plays Jacob Two Two, The Velveteen Rabbit and ?. Other in house art workshops TBA, mural development. This year is a play year, will be involved in set design etc depending on work to rule.

5) Sports Council (Kathy Narraway)

Has some reserves for new uniforms, new trikes for JK/SK, new soccer stuff, bringing in a visiting sports activity (skipping possibly), coaching training- calling the parents to get apply for a card so they can participate in school sports.

6) Tech Committee (Dorothy Chen and Jeff Beardall)

20'ish working laptops, 16 chrome books. 3 chrome books and projectors being used at present. There is a need for more teacher training so they can be properly used. Not enough AV carts in school- Dorothy requests that we get 3 or 4 more, looking to get approval for the spend, need \$750. RS to check if we can repurpose ones in school.

7) Environment Committee (Elise Beauvais)

Earth Buddies is coming along. Need a new co-pilot. Stone soup? Yes, it will happen, a little earlier this year. Concern raised about including boys- girl heavy attendance.

8) Chess Club motion to approve funding of 2000 to cover hiring of chess master plus incidentals (new boards). Motion by MM, seconded by LZ. Approved.

Requests for Volunteers

Website volunteer, involves checking email account and posting notices

Fall Fete volunteers.

Dewson Public School request for refugee sponsorship. \$30,000 cost to bring in one family. Looking for volunteers to take this on, or figure out how Howard can contribute. Elise mentions that Google will match contributions one to one.

Friends of Howard Trust requires new voices to become active again. See Aileen MacDonald.

Other Business

Revising/updating the instruction sheet on how to get rid of lice handed out by the school. Should mention the best comb.

Meeting adjourned. Next meetings: October 21, November 18, January 20th.

In Attendance:

Rosanna Sardella (Principal)
Kris Wessenger-MacDonald (Vice-Principal)
Natalie Bryan (teacher representative)
Stevan Petrakovic (teacher representative)
Michelle McBride
Linda Torry
Sara Tweedie
Tory Millar
Dorothy Chen
Madeline Bentley
Samantha Schiemann
Aileen MacDonald
Laura Zeidler
Kathy Narraway
Elise Beauvais
Catherine Drillis
Lara Pocock
Erin McCaughan
Candice Levine
Donna Gall
Kathleen Mahaffy
Jodi Greenwood
Nancy Carr
Julie French
Stacey Kushnir
Treva Thompson
Annie Malton
Jeffrey Beardall
Megan Smith
Alison Fletcher
Liz Pounsett
Dimitry Anastaks
Sophie Kiernlf
Marlene Rivett
Jeromen Deonarien
Kailea Lorenson
Lesley Graham
Zoe Traiforos