

Minutes  
**23 November 2016**  
Howard Public School Council  
7:00pm - 9:00pm  
Library

**1. Welcome – Linda Torry and Sara Tweedie**

Heath Feldman absent.

**2. Approval of the agenda**

**3. Approval of the minutes of October 2016**

Deferred to January 2016

**4. Principal's report – Rosanna Sardella**

Progress reports went out, teachers conference last week

School Improvement Plan ongoing. Meeting with teachers on 24 November.

Achievement goals: EQAO data showed grade 3s need help applying knowledge, know it, can't apply it. Math scores low, especially with special education students. Use 3 part math lesson to help. Math low across board in Ontario. Could be better.

Q – Megan Smith – do all kids write in grade 3 even if below grade level in subject.  
Answer yes. All grade 3s write it. Data benchmark.

LZ – how did grade 6s do? Language 100 percent at grade level or above, reading also high. 2/3rds at standard. Others don't explain enough, more detail.

RS – how to use wellness training program. Youth network coming in. Building leadership with kids, 10 girls and 10 boys. Mindfulness program. Want to reduce anxiety in kids. Build capacity in student body, kids brainstorming how to get message out, maybe message board, positive messages about others.

Equity goal. How to meet needs of all the kids at the levels they are at. Differentiated learning KN: can we push that both ends of spectrum, can't leave out kids doing well.

Nutrition committee good news. Survey done. Majority want kids to all eat together. Need to buy tables. Want to have divided gym, primary on one side, older kids on other side. Tables cost \$8-900 each. Have to buy 5 new tables. Custodian issue that will have to set up considerably more tables, clean whole gym. May take a bit more time from immediate class after lunch. Ask for parent volunteers to help at lunchtimes.

Earth buddies to push litter less lunch at assembly on 24 November. Request to get kids to clean up more.

KN: more teachers doing DPA, great to see. Nice thank you note from Mme Durrant for DPA, classroom money.

Howard PS now on twitter. Updates on what's going on in the classes.

### **5. Food presentation – Rose Reisman**

ZT: kids dropping out of RFRK lunch program. Kids not liking the food biggest reason. Rose Reisman Catering, 12 years, corporate clients. Kid friendly food but healthier. Kitchen Don Mills and Eglington. Nut and seed free. 1000 children a day. Beef meatballs on whole wheat pasta, all day breakfast with cheese omelet and turkey sausage, ceasar salad with chicken, lasagna rollups, mini burgers on whole wheat bun, chicken parmesan fingers, chicken souvlaki with pita, quinoa salad with chicken. Mango smoothies. Dairy free options. Gluten free options. Multiple options daily so can choose. \$4.50-6 per meal. Send server to school, more based on numbers signed up. Food in hot boxes, assembled before kids come down. Organized by class or grade. Need 35 kids signed up. Can choose 1 day a week or more.

Question: is meat hormone or antibiotic free? No, not at this point. Everything made from scratch on premises. Locally sourced as much as possible. Fish low in metals? Salmon has mercury so not metal free. Vegetarian options. LP; Can you get organic produce? At this point, would raise price too much.

Packaging recyclable. Nothing yet that can be warmed and served individually.

### **6. Finance Update and Budget -- Tory Millar**

Fall fete higher than expected, \$33,500. Music higher than expected, net 1300, up from anticipated 300. Teacher requests also lower than expected. Roughly 13,000 (3000 reserve) to spend. Some areas might come in lower but we generally underspend.

### **7. Charitable Donation Discussion**

Frank Oke Proposal Kailea Lorenson. 13<sup>th</sup> neediest school in TDSB according to learning index. Secondary school. Students with learning needs, some with intellectual disabilities. 100 students. Families in financial need. Bussed in, catchment west of Yonge in Toronto. Money for smart board for autism class, laptop cart for academic program. Funding an alumni night, opportunity for graduates to network with current students. Students can't see what's possible with them, face challenges on daily basis. Graduates can give them ideas on what doing, struggles, possibilities for work etc. Proposal to donate dance-a-thon money to couple of TDSB programs.

How can we get students involved? Use Howard Happenings? Have kids come here/there go there?

Motion: Motion to donate dance-a-thon funds to Frank Oke. MM, LZ, Passed.

### **8. Piano Repairs – Linda Torry**

Heinzman grand piano needs major repairs. Estimate 15,000. TDSB will pay 5000. Do have a backup upright piano. KN: concern that WS retiring. Will new teacher still want to focus on choir/piano. RS: vocal program needs piano, will be needed. LT: potential to do fundraiser. Couple parents discussing doing fundraiser. Kyra Millan volunteered to do evening show, also musical talent from parent community, getting sponsors from outside groups possible. One time repair.

Marlies ticket sales 2800. Can we allocate that towards the piano? TM: no, music makes 1300-1400 per year after expenses.

Motion: LZ: support idea of fixing piano. Seconded JJ. 12 yes, rest absentions. Motion passed.

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion: Proposal from LZ and LP to put 6000 towards new piano. Get fundraising for other 4000 with reassessment in February in case need more money. Kyra Millan to help with fundraising initiative. Seconded Dorothy Chen, motion passes with one no vote.

#### **9. Lunchroom Discussion – Zoe Traiforos**

Parent survey, student survey. Questions about hot lunch, split lunch between juniors and primary, concerns with lunch. RS agreed to go back to unified lunch which was big take away from survey. Want to try Rose Reisman on opposite days for Rose Reisman (Tuesday and Friday). Katrin Lepik concern that did not start well at other TDSB school. KN reports first sub day similar. Are concerns still there or just start up issues? RS will check with principal at Allenby to see what happened. Concerns over recycling, want less waste.

Kids reporting not enough time to eat. Too distracted, want to play.

Kids reporting handwashing not always done. Maybe add hand sanitizers for extra support? Question of added problems from sanitizers? How to get more kids to wash their hands? Get teachers on board.

Pam Smith to take on creating a volunteer roster for lunch time assistance.

#### **10. Other Business**

**Next Meeting: January 18 at 7 pm.**