

Minutes (Approved)

27 September 2017

Howard PS School Council

7:00pm - 9:00pm

Library

1. Welcome/Introductions -- Linda Torry and Sara Tweedie
2. Approval of the agenda (Beth MacIntosh, Candice Levine)
3. Approval of Minutes of May 2017 (deferred to October)
4. Principal's report – Rosanna Sardella

Three foci: achievement goal, well-being goal, equity goal. Achievement goal: Staff learning October 6. Math focus, less fill in the blank, inquiry based math. Work on basic skills.

Well being: mental health, anxiety focus this year. Some kids with anxiety and depression this year. Working with social worker, parent committee. Zones of regulation program used by several teachers. Special education specialist will work with teachers. Colours associated to feelings to help regulate themselves.

Equity: work on how to help kids with special needs. Look at how perceive children with learning disabilities and other issues.

Special Ed: 1 special needs assistant (behavior assistance), 1 educational assistant (learning assistance). Special education model ISSTs, identify struggling students, meet with teachers, offer suggestions to teacher to try in classroom. Past that school support team meeting, includes psychologist, speech therapist, occupational therapy, social worker etc if needs extra help.

Ms Simanic resource teacher, Ms Ruprecht resource teacher French, Mr den Ouden resource teacher. Can work with kids individually. Gifted kids potentially get extra work in classroom, no extra support.

EQAO results in. Down across TDSB, 80% at gr level in g3 (3 or 4 on test), writing 75%, math 81%. Grade 6 at level 3 or 4 at 94% reading, 92% writing and 69% in math. Math in particular worrying, will be a school focus. Howard did better on individual math questions than TDSB and Ontario but still too low.

AC unit not working properly. Library, office, room 14 hot, rest of school okay. In process of being repaired.

Fence on Marmaduke falling, meeting with city, tdsb staff 28 Sept. to try and come up with solution. Problem that city rights to property fence sitting on. May take time.

STEAM school officially now. More focus in classroom. Teachers lunch and learn on info drive, digital leads Mme Rachadi getting training. Ms Simanic already taken training. Dash and Dot workshops, google workshops. New STEAM space on second floor for classes to come and work on. Set up challenges, self-propelled car, balloons, strings, tape, straws. Tallest tower with solo cups. Cleaned up storage rooms over summer for new steam equipment.

New slide in on playground. Two bikes fixed for kindy areas.
Howard PS on twitter now, follow us @HowardJrPs

5. Financial Update – Sara Tweedie

Draft Actuals. Doing well. Reserve around 9000 (may be 7000, some spending may not be out from June). Revenue 4 big: Fall Fete, QSP, Pizza Lunch, Dance a thon. Spending mostly on committees.

6. Overview of Committees and How to get Involved

Arts Council (Candice Levine): murals in school, take kids to performances, show performances in school. Musical year so juniors will help build sets

STEAM (Liz Phillips): Last year first inaugural year. Ran STEAM night, worked with tech club and Mme Rachadi. Tech club for grades 1-6 afterschool. Rube Goldberg machine.

Tech (Dorothy Chen): gets the equipment to support other programs. Make sure enough computers, mobile carts of chrome books and ipads. Will build on that. Bought 5 dots and dash robots last year.

Environment (Leslie Smeaton, Alli McColl, Mme Maitland, Mme Durrant)
Platinum status for eco-school. Earth Buddies.

Sports (Kathy Narraway). Support in class purchases, extracurriculars/clubs. DPA materials (daily physical activity to be done every day there's no gym). Pay for busses for track meets. Bought kids yoga mats for phys ed.

Nutrition Committee (Zoe Traiforos)

Healthy snack evening, rainy day kits for gym, cookie fundraiser for new fridge and stove for common kitchen. Water bottle refill station all done last year. This year focus on lunchroom, kids not eating their lunch.

Mental Health and Well-being Committee (Alli McColl)

Did teacher survey in spring. Will work with admin on this year's plan. Want to improve mental health and well being of kids. Last year bought friendship/anti-bullying bench to be installed, provided equipment for classrooms (headphones, fidget tools, etc).

Music (Ms Jonas)

Choir for grades 3, 4-6. Performing at Marlies game. Opera tickets. Need a new Opera ticket organizer as Ines Colabrese graduating out. Tickets for dress rehearsals, 3-4 operas a year at COC. Will go out on the blog. Have volunteers for choirs but could use more. Have a director for

musical Aristocats. Need a producer or will have to scale back considerably. Will do Kiwanis festival in spring. Need a volunteer to do Marlies tickets organization.

Parent Question on lunch, can kids get longer to eat? Looking at all the options. Nutrition committee looking at new system, more volunteers for supervision etc. Details in October meeting (ZT)

Howard Happenings, need someone new. Zoe Traiforos headed the HH for past years but focusing on nutrition. School paper. Art kids do, what's going on in school, what's going on in school council, extra curriculums. Roughly 12 pages. Had arts/poetry competition in spring. Talk to ZT if interested in helping.

Charitable Donation issue, will be discuss in October meeting. Will make sure its on the blog before the October meeting. Do we want to do a donation? How should it work? Put a process in place. Kathy Narraway proposal to limit amount, have kids choose charity etc.

Parent question: Can draft minutes go out sooner, within few days of meeting. Yes.

7. School Council Executive Elections

Co-chairs (2)

Vice-chair

Treasurer

Secretary

New executive by acclamation: Sara Tweedie, Heath Feldman, Michelle McBride, Marcela Saitua, Laura Boudreau

Small Budget Committee (5): Eriskay Liskin, Alexandra Dean, Zoe Traiforos, Heath Feldman, Kathy Narraway, Carl Burton

Ward 7 Reps (2): Sina Zapfe, Marcela Saitua

We thank Linda Torry, Tory Millar, Jana Jedlovská and Zoe Traiforos for their service on the executive committee.

8. Fall Fete Update – Nancy Collett

Three co-chairs. October 14th. Looking for volunteers. Second games coordinator. Move silent auction to spring. Part of spring social. Instead of book sale will collect kids books for refugees. Maker kids will have room. Slime making table. STEAM table?

Could we sell Howard water bottles? Imprint company used by Parkdale PS.

May see fall fete money decrease with silent auction in spring, not same numbers come out.

9. Chess Club Funding Request

Gr2-3 meet in fall, 4-6 in spring

Request for 2200, pays for chess master, competition fees. Motion approved by Zoe Traiforos, seconded by Alli McColl. Passed.

10. Howard Eats program – Kathy Narraway
Pizza Friday once a month, Ms Siminic and Ms Ringler running SHAC healthy snack program once a month. Can order subs, pitas (pay ahead, once a month). Calendar schedule sent home of all these events. Want water bottle filling stations on second and third floor to make it easier for kids to stay hydrated.
11. Call for funding requests for October meeting. All funding requests due by October 4. Send requests to mcbride.mclennan@gmail.com
12. Other Business: Looking to start new Equity Committee. If interested in joining, please contact mcbride.mclennan@gmail.com for more information.

Meeting Adjourned, 8:58pm

Next meeting: October 18th at 7pm in the library.