

Minutes

26 September 2018

Howard PS School Council

1. Welcome/Introductions -- Sara Tweedie
2. Land Acknowledgement – Michelle Stafford
3. Approval of the agenda, Approval of Minutes of May 2018
Revise agenda to add land acknowledgement to start of every monthly agenda, direct ask after Financial Update. Erin McCaughan and Annie Prokopowich. Minutes approved Mandy Moore and Kathy Narraway.
4. Meet our new Principal – Esme McKenzie
Great kids. Working hard to meet everyone, learn names. Smaller school in Etobicoke, 158 children. George R Gaul. Fourth school as principal, started at Sir Adam Beck (also French immersion, k-5), specializes in special education. Impressed with dynamic nature of school, school council.

Keeping it positive, think positive, be positive with kids. School wide idea on goal setting. Using grade 5s and 6s to help with leadership. Asked kids to think about own personal goal. Goal for classrooms. Positive school climate, character development. Expectations. Conversations about respect. Value of saying sorry. Conflict resolution. Want process to be fair, kids to feel listened too. Ask kids to come back and let people know if things still in conflict. Do check-ins.

Three main rules: keep hands to self, keep feet on ground, use kind words. Being proactive. Giving kids skills and learning to do well. Learning what to do better next time if problem.

Howard problem solving sheet in each classroom. Standardize tool for communicating with parents/guardians if an issue. What happened, what will do now and later. Ask parents to sign it and return it to school. Idea to work through problems, learning will come if kids feel safe and listened to.

Parent Question: what happens to forms when returned? Will be shown to classroom teacher and then kept in binder in office to track them. Shredded in June. Be used to track if ongoing issues, may need outside involvement with some kids.

Parent Comment: like giving ownership to kids to explain what happened on sheet, gives kids ownership. Is there a way to link to goal setting?

EQAO results in. Grade 3 results; reading and writing only done by English students. French immersion only write math. In grade 6 all kids write math and english tests. Write in May, grade 3, 6, and 9. Grade 3: not enough students to give reporting, individual students got results but no published results for reading and writing. In math 82 Per cent at grade level or above. Grade 6 90 percent at grade level or above for reading, 88 per cent in writing, 64 per cent in math. Down in math but trend across province, higher than province (49 percent) and board. Learning coach looked at math for grade 3 and 6 and problem solving and math 3-part lesson have gone up.

Parent question: Why no homework (problem throughout English stream)? Why not been giving homework that is relevant. Math sheet. Review and practice. Given meaningless projects. Need basics. Math review. Practice. Esme McKenzie, will look in to it.

Parent question: do EQAO results have impact on schools? Only if reach a certain level. All TDSB started working with math coaches a few years ago based on results. Changes made within school, learning processes, see areas that need improvement.

Parent question

Have teachers indicated what extra-curriculars they are interested in. Is someone doing chess. Anyone interested in stem? Who is doing what? Mr P will look in to that.

Do new teachers have everything they need? Levelled readers etc? Esme McKenzie will check.

Facilities progress: Marmaduke fence stalled out waiting for cement blocks. Now on site being put in place. To be done October 12th week. Roof project: redone few years ago, coming back to finish sections in November. No asphalt kettles. Done with welding. May be fumes from welding. Will be staging area. Esme asking for communication ahead of time to let students and parents know. Facilities happy to meet parents and staff to discuss scope of project, provide mds sheets (chemicals, processes involved in project). Tentatively booked weds oct 24th, 5pm. Can possibly move to Oct 17 before parent meeting at 6pm.

Water bottle filling station, not sure where it is in process. Looking in to it. Already purchased but no date for installation.

Communication: very important to keep people in loop. Likes blog. School messenger system giving voice mail and or email messages. Will use sparingly. Can be used grade specific for information. Will also send out monthly newsletter by email. Going to update tdsb website on school, staff lists, school council info etc. Email blasts.

Health and physical education (Sex Ed) Curriculum: curriculum from 2015 (3 years ago) removed. Reissued 2010 curriculum with a few changes as per ministry directive. Ongoing dialogue about how to provide information, many staff want to provide information if asked. Can't do direct lessons if not in curriculum but will answer questions. Getting direction from board. Can see parent guide to new curriculum on tdsb website. GET INFO FROM ESME
Parent question: can we opt children out as not thought that curriculum accurate or thought to be dangerous to children? Esme will check, not sure current stance, not sure if parents told ahead of time when going to be taught. Will check with TDSB.

Parent question: how to know what not being taught now. Old curriculum still around.

5. Parent introductions

6. Financial Update – Sara Tweedie

Many thanks to Heath for being treasurer, Heath moved to Winnipeg. Sitting in good financial state. Account balance 23,407 to start year. Musical made 4800 in profit last year, add in Marlies over \$7000 in musical. Food and spirit ware made over 10,000. Spring social profit 13,000.

Seven areas of focus in past. Arts, Music, STEM, Tech, MHWB, Sports, and Environment. Want to discuss adding equity as eighth priority. Sources of funds have been fall fete (20,000-30,000), qsp magazine drive (10000), food (pizza and spirit ware, 11000), dance a thon (4000), spring social (13000), musical (7600 but no musical this year, every other year). Raised 66,000 last year, ask 60000, underspent, roughly 53000 spent. Classroom enhancements, clubs, committees, forest of library. Grade 6 graduation, holiday hampers, outreach programs. In October meeting, vote on where fundraising money goes.

Question on if will consider donation to outside school? Need to table it until new executive elected in few minutes.

7. Direct Ask – Shelia Gibb

Idea that QSP could be replaced by direct ask campaign. Some not in favour of children selling magazines, trinkets involved in rewarding sells, environmental issues with magazine drive. Direct ask idea that families asked to directly donate to school via school cash online. \$50 per child amount suggested but any amount welcomed. Letter sent home already, may put more attention to it after fall fete. This year running with qsp but if successful on direct ask, will get rid of qsp. Get a tax receipt if over \$20. This year getting word out.

8. Overview of Committees and How to get Involved

Arts (Candice Levine): send kids out to performances (YPT or Bathurst st theatre for instance) or put on performances at school (primary kids), have artists come in to each class room, mural or installation done most years, school wide process.

STEM (Liz Philips): have done tech club after school, hosted STEM evening with parents, host a table at fall fete in past years. Parent and kid stem night in gym, hands on activities. Invested in lego we do kits, can sign out from office to use at home. Block coding. Basic robotics. Content based.

Tech (Dorothy Chen). Getting technology in to school. Bought 3 carts of chrome books for juniors, ipads for primary, desktop lab in library, projectors and document cameras for classrooms. Help school plan out what equipment they need.

Sports (Kathy Narraway). Buy dpa equipment for teachers, kindergarten supplies like trikes, shovels. Support extra-curriculars like track and field buses, uniforms etc. Also help out gym teachers make sure have enough supplies for an entire class.

Fundraising/direct ask (Shelia Gibb)

Equity (Haley Gaber-Kast and Midori Miyamoto). New committee. Took a read on equity at school. Did parent survey. Will be coming forward with ideas, asking

Lunch Room/Healthy living (Zoe Traiforos)

Music – Dorothy Chen. Need someone to assist Ms Jonas (music teacher). Choir used to be before school, some lunches. This year plan is to move choir to school hours for grades 3-6, no before school practices. Ms Jonas still interested in Marlies fundraiser, will need someone to collect money, permission forms etc.

Environment Committee/Eco-Schools (Elizabeth for Lesley Smeaton)
Eco-schools program, fall cleanup program. Will need help fixing learning garden after fence finished. Planting etc.

Mental Health and Well-being Committees (Michelle McBride)

Also opportunities to volunteer in some classrooms. Need police check, see Elizabeth in office.

Motion to add equity to 7 areas of priority. Motion passed.

9. School Council Executive Elections

Co-chairs – Erin McCaughan and Sara Tweedie

Vice-chair – Laura Bourdreau

Treasurer – Valerie Milburn

Secretary – Michelle McBride

Member at large – Michelle Stafford and Katherine Getler, and Sophia Harwell

Small Budget Committee (5) – moved to October meeting

Ward 7 Reps – Mandy Moore and Adrienne Rahemtulla

We thank Heath Feldman and Marcela Saitua for their service on the executive council last year and wish them all the best in their new schools.

10. Fall Fete Update (Nancy and Olivia)

Sign up genius for volunteers to go out this week. Lost some long term volunteers, others need to train new people to take over. Training year. Focus on jk/sk and grade one families. Few key positions still need to be filled, chez Howard for next year. First Sat after thanksgiving, October 13th. Needs about 200 volunteers to run fete. Some new tables, have a spirit day in lead up to fall fete. Silent auction in spring again this year. Watch blog and backpacks for more details.

11. Howard Eats program – Kathy Narraway

Calendar of dates for pizza Friday, pita and sub days etc. Samantha Hodder to run the pita/sub lunch program. Grade 6 to help set up subs in exchange for some of profits towards grad. Tara Singh will take over spirit ware program in fall and spring. Pizza lunch now one cookie, one apple for each kid. Raised \$409 in donations to make sure all kids get pizza who wants it.

12. Turf Update

Update from Richard Christie on process

Parents need to set up an exploratory committee to see if interest high

In general, need a landscape plan. Need to look at how much use the grass field has. Turf projects have been awarded based on how intensely field is used. Need to gauge community interest. If interest high, TDSB will look at putting in turf. Ten projects currently approved including Fern. Fern's project contingent on school raising funding for large part. If turf put in, TDSB will permit field for usage. If TDSB approves the project, looking at 5 years undertaking. Overall cost for turf between 400,000 and 600,000. Runnymede PS raised 270,000 for their project, other schools raised around 100,000. Fern fundraising currently for theirs. Combination of majority of council budget going towards playground rejuvenation and special events like pub

nights. Can look in to corporate sponsorships etc but some TDSB rules around that. Parkdale also looking at turf project.

First step, exploratory parent group.

Second step, community agreement

Third step, designs drawn up

Forth step, raise money

Fifth step, approval from tdsb

13. Call for funding requests for October meeting from all clubs, committees and interested parties.
All funding requests due by October 5.

14. Motion to allocate \$2200 to Forest of Reading for the library, Dorothy Chen, seconded by KN, all in favour. Approved.

Next meeting: October 17th at 7pm in the library.