

**Howard Junior P.S.
Parent Council Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2020
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

1) Approval of November 2019 and January 2020 meeting minutes

Both approved.

2) Approval of February 2020 meeting agenda

School bus safety belts (Lise Anne Gougeon) added to agenda. Revised agenda approved.

3) Principal update (Suzy Papadopoulos)

Save the Date for Howard Time Capsule Event (May 29, 2020)

A Howard alumnus brought to our attention that there is a time capsule from 50 years ago inside the concrete wall of our school building. TDSB Archives have confirmed this and approved removal of the time capsule. There will be a celebration that day.

Remembering Eddie Ing

Social Workers are still available to staff and students to help process the news.

Short-term plans for honouring Eddie: Condolences book and art created by children will be combined with basket and delivered to Eddie's wife, Jill.

Long-term plans: Long-term plans have not been confirmed however there are a number of ideas being considered. We are pausing organization for now to give Eddie's family and teachers some time to process. Following March Break, a committee will be struck to develop long-term plans. Parents and teachers to be notified once plans are confirmed. There will be a June 2020 celebration of Eddie that will go ahead even if ETFO labour action is ongoing. The Schoolyard Steering Committee is engaged in these conversations as well.

Samantha Hodder: There was a donation surplus from the hot lunch that she organized for teachers. This has been passed along to Samantha Rupert (school council treasurer) to preserve for future use in commemorating Eddie.

4) Update on Schoolyard Revitalization Project (Samantha Rupert)

Fundraising plan in place:

- Early March: outreach to businesses in partnership with Social Committee.

- End of March: kick off at school to reach parents for fundraising.
- March to June: Direct Ask Campaign
- There will also be one day when students do their own fundraising (date TBD).

Full conceptual plan for schoolyard in development.

Donations via School Cash Online preferred and cheques accepted. Please choose 'Howard Jr PS Schoolyard Project' from drop-down menu when making donation to ensure that money goes directly to this project.

5) **Committee updates (committee heads)**

Arts Committee (Candice)

One project on the go for front hallway of school. TBD which classes will participate.

Mental Health Committee (Michelle)

Calming space to be created on either second or third floor of the school. Finalizing which rooms to use.

Equity Committee (Alice)

TDSB Parent Involvement Advisory Council meeting yesterday. Only those activities that are organized solely by parents (and not teachers) can continue during strike. Black History Heritage Month activities at Howard are slated to move forward pending meetings with school administration. Dance-a-thon *may* go ahead also since it is parent-organized. UPDATE: Tuesday 3 March has been confirmed as the new date for the Dance-a-Thon.

Action: Suzy to let parent council and event organizers know if Black History Heritage Month activities and Dance-a-thon can go ahead during labour action.

Ward 7 Representative (Alice)

There is a Ward 7 and Ward 9 combined Parent Engagement Policy Committee Meeting at Ursula Franklin Academy on Feb 25th at 7 pm. All parent council members are encouraged to attend.

Grade 6 Graduation Committee

Candice was co-chair last year and can pass information binder on to whoever is going to chair graduation this year. Committee of 8-10 people will need to be formed and the work needs to start soon!

Action: Candice and Erin to reach out to grade 6 parents re: need for committee chair(s) and members.

Updates from remaining committee heads deferred.

Action: Committee heads to contact Taralyn Fodor, Committee Liaison on Parent Council, with contact email as she does not have a complete list.

6) Treasurer update (Samantha Rupert)

Sam has been making structural and procedural changes regarding school finances.

We have changed bank accounts and our bank fees are now almost zero.

Q: Are Healthy Hunger cheques getting deposited? Yes, likely by Kathy Narraway. Any surplus should go towards grade 6 graduation because grade 6 students have been volunteering with the lunch.

7) Proposed budget framework (Lise Anne Gougeon)

Lise Anne proposing a framework for categorizing Howard committees and expenses in order to facilitate budget decisions. Each year, parents can decide which committees exist and where in the framework they fit in order to help with prioritizing spending. Michelle: In the past, parent council has identified 'priority fund areas.' Sam H.: Suggestion to incorporate emergency pocket of money for extenuating circumstances.

Action: Lise Anne and Sam Rupert to draft budget framework.

Action: Michelle to forward priority fund information to Lise Anne.

8) Safety belts on school buses (Lise Anne Gougeon)

Lise Anne has been part of a team working to change laws both provincially and federally to mandate the use of 3-point safety belts on school buses as their use is associated with significantly reduced risks of fatality. Currently, none of the school bus companies with whom TDSB has contracts have large school buses with safety belts; only their smaller school buses have safety belts.

Lise Anne proposing:

- 1) Until the law changes, earmarking money for smaller buses with safety belts when students are on field trips that require highway driving.
- 2) Using school-wide communication to ask parents to email key people so that when school boards are negotiating new busing contracts, only companies using large buses with 3-point safety belts are allowed to be considered.

Action: Lise Anne to draft message that can be distributed using school-wide communication. To be posted on Howard blog. She will also find out how many Howard field trips would require earmarking funds and what cost would be involved.

Action: Suzy to confirm whether phone messenger network can be used to spread this message.

Parking Lot:

1) Grade 6 graduation – need to strike a committee, identify chair(s).

2) Fall Fete - need to recruit new co-chairs!

3) Proposed budget framework - Lise Anne and Samantha to present draft of budget framework.

Next Meeting:

March 25th at 7 pm in the library (please note that this is one week later than usual in order to accommodate March Break).