

Hopewell Parent Council Minutes – January 12, 2015

Chair: Sue Topp

Attendance: Lynn Watson, Elina Hill, Karen Goodrich, Mike Waddington, Heather Barrett, Daphne Dumbrille, Jennifer Small, Deborah Gomes-Schultz, Hilary Myron

Welcome, approval of agenda and December minutes

Jennifer Thiessen spoke about Genius Hour. She is part of a networking group with teacher's from Fisher Park in order to learn more about this. Genius hour has a background in the business world (Google) and has caught on elsewhere. For teachers, it is a program where students are given 20% of their time to pursue passion projects. For google, this led to google mail and more.

Students often don't see their own passions reflected in the curriculum. With Genius hour they can learn about what they want – doesn't matter if it is related to the curriculum or school. For example, one student is making a hockey stick from scratch, some others are learning a new language. They are given 1 hour a week to research, produce and then share their project. The parameters: It has to be a genuine question or curiosity they are going to research. Students must share what they learn. The project must be teacher approved. Various Junior and intermediate teachers are getting involved – teachers decide (so far, Thiessen, Needham, Bailey, Gour-Ferris, Nicolas-Vorobej, Pantierras, Watson and Beadury). The program will run from February to mid-March and will end with a sharing fair. Parents and others will be invited.

They may be marked for learning skills – e.g., journals or process, etc.. The work must be individual, though they can collaborate (as long as there is some independent work). They can work on it at home. If there aren't enough computers, teachers may send home info on bringing devices.

She is presenting to the council as she wanted to invite any parent experts to come in and share info about their skills: e.g., sewing, coding, building, designing, etc.

Principal's Report

- The vote for changes to the EFI program will take place on February 9th.
- The Grade 6 and 8 Montreal trips will take place at the end of June. The trips will have different agendas, so that student experiences won't be replicated down the road.
- The Grade 7 trip to Quebec City will go ahead.
- People seem to be better understanding the huge importance of crosswalk safety in the no stop zone where students cross the street on Hopewell Avenue. It is so important to be mindful of this, and Lynn is glad to see things have improved.
- Regarding the \$12000 re the yard that is still owed. Mr. Menard has confirmed that the board cannot pay for this. Lynne would like to get it paid or decided upon soon, so that she can make final decisions about spending her own budget.

Treasurer's Report

- Karen went over the budget. Council agreed that as the \$12000 for the yard is already in the budget to be paid this year, we should go ahead and pay it.
- Derek Wueppleman will be the online administrator for the lunch program. Hot lunches are Hopewell's big fundraiser, bringing it at least \$25 000 in possible revenue – things seem to be progressing in that direction.
- More money than expected came in from grocery coupons (a few hundred more than initially thought).

Safe and Caring committee

- This month there will be several talks to the juniors about internet safety and the law.
- The emotion coaching workshop is full. There were some problems with the website, which have been fixed, and a waitlist. Council discussed the possibility of running it again in the spring, as it was very popular last year also. Several people suggested we wait and see what attendance is like before deciding. Also, someone suggested having a donation jar at the workshops to cover running it again (it costs about \$1000 for the 3 hour session, which several people agreed is good value). Heather will report back on this at the next meeting.

Hopewell Avenue Public School Parent Council 2015-2016 List of Positions and Volunteers

Co-Chairs – Daphne Gilbert and Sue Top
Treasurer – Karen Goodrich
Co-Treasurer: Deepali Mani
Secretary - Elina Hill
Communications: Nicola Maule
ParentSpeak writer: Elina Hill
Volunteer Coordinator: Lori Mockson
Allergy Committee - Kathleen Marsman
JK/SK Representative: Kristopher Tharris
Grade 1,2,3 Representative: Deborah Gomes-Schultz
Grade 4,5,6 Representative: Daphne Dumbrille
Grade 7,8 Representative – Caroline Coady
Pizza – Marnie Drover
OCSC Rep – Mike Stewart
Budget Committee Chair – Caroline Coady
Safe and Caring School - Heather Barrett
Yard Committee - Mike Waddington
Intermediate Enhancement Committee – Nicola Maule
Principal Profile Committee : _____
Subway - Sara Winger

Book sale: _____
Beach party: Lori Mockson
Ski sale: Carolyn Cody
Bike sale: Lori Camilucci
Teacher appreciation event: _____
Grade 6 grad: _____
Grade 8 grad: Karen Goodrich
Cross country ski: (grade 5 parent) : Elina Hill
Tennis: _____
Ottawa Fury Soccer program: Deborah Gomes-Schultz

Council Members at Large

Hilary Myron, Michelle Hagerman, Gaya Jayanaman, Tanya Trevor, Jennifer Small, Jeannine Hall
Lori Camilucci, Jennifer Meacher, Petra Heitkamp, Catherine Gucciardi Garcez

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