

## SEPTEMBER 2016 MINUTES

Attendance (and Parent Council Sign-up, members at large and council members): Katie Breen, Erik Van der Torre, Erika Graffunder, Michael Spratt, Daphne Dumbrille, Rebekka Roy, Maggie Fawcett, Lindsay Lemon, Deepali Mani, Heather Barrett, Tim Henson, Elen Lemaitre-Curri, Kathleen Marsman, Nita Scherer, Vicky Christie, Joanne Barton, Deborah Gomes-Schultz, Jeannine Beauregard-Hall

Daphne Gilbert, chair, agenda and introduction of Amy Hannah, new principal.

### **Principal's report**

1<sup>st</sup> day: Amy and Trish have reflected on various thing they could do to make the first day smoother, e.g., parents knowing their children's teachers prior to school start. Things are much better now, but could have been better.

A number of new staff, some on maternity leave, etc., and she's getting to know them now. Also, new students enrolled over the summer and into September, meaning that there has been a reorganization at Hopewell PS in order to accommodate numbers and meet the bargaining agreements, etc. She understands it's a bit of a shock. The reorganization is affecting only grade 7/8. Grade 7 regular English was at 35 students, and she learned that they were no longer able to keep the class at that size, causing the need to reorg. That meant a smaller class of only 19 was broken up and integrated elsewhere. Letters went home to students affected, and people were told ahead of meet the teacher.

Also, **changes to off property**: Because of re new board policy requiring 5 day system, off property needed to be changed from 3 days a week to an every day option. 'Off property' is where grade 7/8 students can, with parents' permission, go off property; it can be revoked. Also, teachers walk up and down Bank, and businesses are aware and work with school. Change happened in August, after Amy Hannah checked with other school administrators to see how they dealt with staffing issues (i.e., duty schedules) and clarity for students and others; ultimately, it wouldn't make sense to organize on an occasional day schedule as it would have been too confusing. However, the other big change is that students can decide, day of, whether or not they want to go off property. They are able to stay at the school if they choose and use the dedicated gr. 7/8 room to eat (rm. 425). This has been carefully explained to students; one parents suggested better informing parents.

Public health is coming to do an immunization clinic next week, for grade 7/8, run by nurses in the library. Forms went home.

Photo day is next Wednesday, the 28<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully everyone received the bulletin, and there will be a little area for student council, if we want.

Cross country running is going, thank you to volunteers for grade 3-6, and soon intermediate. Also, touch football about to start.

Our chiller was replaced on our school, which facilitates the AC - they are working out the kinks, but one major problem was that it led to a flood in the North Gym, but now that gym is about to reopen; phys-ed has been happening outside.

Elia Saikaly; he's a mountain climber, and he's overcome various challenges, and filmed a Discovery Channel episode here with various kids, which will come out in a few months.

Character attributes: each month we have a focus. This month it's perseverance. Addressed at assemblies re heroes, such as Terry Fox.

Math: Renewed math strategy - an instructional coach will work with intermediate staff for fluency and to be train key point people for math; key people will get special training and time to enrich math teaching. OCSDB - every elementary school will have a special focus on math. More info to come.

School council training day, Nov 19<sup>th</sup> - A half-day conference, people go and get session training re different roles, also learn what reports are required. Keynote speaker or a theme, workshops on event planning or fundraising and how to grow your parent council. You meet people from other parent councils, and maybe ideas for partnership. It's on the board's website. Board has rules about reports etc., and how to keep records, so it's helpful.

### **Treasurer's report**

We still have \$9 or \$10 000 left from last year. Maybe some expenses will still come in, but likely not much.

Fundraising: Pizza is a big part of what we do, we really need work - one parent mentions that it's not a lot of work to help out, and it's fun - you get to meet the kids and bring them pizza, and meet with teachers. You don't have to come every second Friday, but even once a month is helpful. Anyway, we do need people.

Other fundraising we've done in the past: E-Waste collection done with Glebe - seemed to run smoothly. Beach party didn't happen last year, as Lori Mockson the volunteer who had organized this in the past passed away; this may happen again this year - big school spirit event. Grocery cards, easy and makes money, will likely happen again - buy gift cards, and we get 5%. And the people who did it last year are volunteering again to do it this year. You just have to buy the cards, groceries in advance. Parent involvement grant comes from the board, and you apply for a specific project. This year we got it, and we didn't tie anything specific to it. Book sale, we didn't do it last year, and if someone takes it up that'd be awesome! Subway spring fundraiser, they offered a day and offered a percentage of the profits for that day - manager would be happy to try it again, but we may need to market it better. Lunch lady we only make a small amount from. Ski-skate sale, again, big service to community, we keep some of the commission. Last year we did it with Glebe. Fury fundraiser, they gave us a portion of the ticket sales that we sold - we have an option to do the 67s also. We just have to market and sell the tickets. We could also do multiple games, and it would be better if it was during the school year.

Expenses: Our big expense, the yard, is done. But we need to budget for yard maintenance or future needs. But the main thing we have expenses on are curriculum enrichment - each division gets an amount, and they have to decide how to spend it. They can do it cooperatively or divide it, up to them. They do some sort of special curriculum enhancement. Safe and Caring - Heather will talk about it. Cross country ski trip for grade 5s, we normally support that trip - very well-liked by students, teachers and parents in the past. Graduation, year-end breakfast, other minor expenses. We have a separate budget committee - so in October or November, they come and suggest how to allocate the money, and all of parent council votes on it.

Please join the budget committee if you can - an important role. Meet at the start of the year, or maybe once more, often at Patty's pub or somewhere casual. Budget committee can consider a wish list from the teachers or other ideas. Also, you can learn more about what the council is allowed to buy (e.g., we're not allowed to sit on the money, we can't buy things that the board requires, etc.).

20\$ fee - goes to buying school supplies, but is definitely not obligatory. It goes to agendas, scientists, etc.. Teachers give input, but the money goes to the school as a whole, and the money is equalized. That goes into the school generated funds budget. It can only be spent on things for students. People gave positive feedback re the agenda - sturdy and good layout, with plastic sheet to slip papers into. Also, it was a good deal.

### **Safe and Caring committee**

This is a committee that has been run for a number of years, led by Heather. The focus is on developing connections and positive relationships via guest speakers, spoken word poets, workshops on guidance for responsible internet use, gender diversity, parenting, emotion coaching (very popular). Sometimes people give feedback. The group tries not to overwhelm, but they are flexible and responsive. More info to come on upcoming initiatives. Committee is a mix of students, parents, and teachers. Last year student reps rotated for a few meetings. People can contact Heather if you would like to join, and she's excited to invite more parents to join this important committee ([shnbarrett@gmail.com](mailto:shnbarrett@gmail.com)). They'll also come up with a budget.

**Take Action Group** (former Me to We) Leslie Kathnelson - not officially related to larger Me-to-We group, though some students can attend that conference, more info to come.

### **Yard Committee**

New yard is one year old; yard maintenance will be required. Some ideas for things we need: cages around trees are being ripped and pointy bits are there, and they need to be replaced. Board put in standard cages, but we need something better. Cast iron cages would be great, but they cost \$500 each; the sooner these are put in the better (pre-winter). She suggests we start with 5 or a few around trees near the door that are getting the most abuse. The trees were getting watered once a week for a year and we can pay for them to continue (3 years is best practice) - \$75 a visit. Also, wrapping conifers is important to protect them in the winter.

A 150 Canada birthday tulip planting part is a possibility. Mulch and soil will be delivered by the board; compost would be a nice bonus if it can be budgeted. Other new trees on Hopewell are taking a beating - perhaps some info could be shared with families and kids about treating the trees with care (e.g., don't attach bikes and strollers). Utility box on Hopewell and Bank can be painted, again 150<sup>th</sup> Canada birthday, perhaps gr. 7/8 class or parent volunteer, we have permission to paint it and Katie is happy to pass on the info (Amy Hannah will take info). \$1000 left to spend this year, Karen says, so Katie will go ahead and spend on some of the items needed for the tulip planting.

Karen mentioned that it might be good to coordinate tulip planting with skate/ski sale (perhaps it would be good to coordinate again with Glebe (I emailed Caroline Coady's info to Rebekka). Katie will send me a little blurb for ParentSpeak re protecting the trees etc.

### **Lunch program**

Info coming soon. First lunch lady, Oct 5, Subway, Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, pizza the next Friday. 2 order periods. Parents can adjust orders 7 days before - maybe, the committee will make a final decision and info will come out next week. PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP WITH PIZZA. Then more info will come to you. It's pretty flexible.

**Safe call back line** - add a little blurb to the newsletter to remind parents to call. 613-239-2218

**Grade 5/6 lunch monitors** - stories of behaviour that seem inappropriate (bullying?). This year the lunch monitors are got training, including who to inform if they are not happy with student behaviour. They are doing follow up with the lunch monitors, so Trish will mention specifics to particular teachers. There are some bumps, and they will be addressed.

Trish will also look into Ms. Wyawata (or whoever) **teaching musical instruments to grade 6 students**, as several parents emphasized the importance of this for grade 6 students, to help them have an advantage in grade 7 and 8, when thinking of trying out for band, etc.

Me to We or TAG, could we have a partnership with another school that has more needs than ours, e.g., one that needs a playground or whatnot? And if so, how could we create such a partnership? Teaming the kids up? Parent councils working together? Teachers/classes working together? What are some possibilities? An emphasis on relationships for experiencing being good neighbours and seeing how another school might be.

### **Elections for council**

Elina, secretary

Treasurer and co-treasurer: Karen Goodrich and Deepali Mani

Co-chairs Daphne Dumbrille and Deborah Gomes-Schultz

Lindsay Lemon, Vickie Christie, and Michael Spratt also willing to help out.

Also, there is a list of possible positions that we will need to decide upon, as there are various people willing to volunteer. Below is last year's list, which council can consider at the next meeting.

ParentSpeak and Website: Elina Hill

Gr. 8 grad:

Gr. 5 xc ski:

Intermediate Enhancement Committee:

Volunteer Coordinator:

Allergy Committee:

JK/SK Rep; Grade 1,2,3 Rep; Grade 4,5,6 Rep; Grade 7,8 Rep

Budget Committee Chair

Ski sale:

Pizza:

OCSC Rep: Mike Stewart?

Safe and Caring School: Heather Barrett

Yard Committee: Mike Waddington and Katie Breen

Principal Profile Committee:

Subway: Cindy (?)

Book sale:

Beach party:

Bike sale:

Teacher appreciation event:

Grade 6 grad:

Tennis?

Ottawa Fury Soccer/67s fundraiser:

Council Members at Large: