

**High Park Alternative School
Parent Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 19, 2021
6:35pm to 8:25pm**

Opening: Meeting called to order by Parent Council Chair (6:35 PM)

Attendees: Amanda Bradley, Ashley and Teppei Kamei, Caley, Maria (Vice Principal), Kelly (Teacher), Chuck Carr, Daniel Rodrigues (Teacher), Eva Gelberger-Brown (Teacher), Julia Hightower, Joanne Huber, Julia Swaigen Kate and Carlos Fagan-Garcia, Kelly Seto (Teacher), Chris Roadhouse, Lisbeth Berbary, Mahima Madhava, Natalie Rogansky, Noel Greaves (Teacher), Ivanka Slywynska, Sean Robertson (Treasurer), Rosa Duran (co-Chair), Elizabeth White (co-Chair), Heather Chapple (Secretary)

Introductions: The new Parent Council Exec introduced themselves: Liz (coChair), Rosa (coChair), Sean (Treasurer), Heather Chapple (Secretary) and shared that they hope to work as a collective and that they hope parents will get involved in what they are passionate about and reach out with ideas to any of the members of the executive. A big thank you to the outgoing members of the parent council and the administration for their support during the transition.

New Business

Admin Report (Maria): School year has been off to a busy start with division meetings, training with staff, and getting teachers set up for the year.

Funding proposal (Maria): The overall ask from the teachers to the parent council this year is 4690. Those funds will be used to cover key items (*see attached presentation for details) including:

- Tech (Chromebooks + tubs)
- Teacher/class specific asks (library books, bikes, picnic tables, gym banner, musical instruments, etc).

The current available budget from the parent council will not cover all of these requests, so the Parent Council will need the teacher's help to prioritize these while we strategize on fundraising.

ACTION ITEMS: Teachers (through Daniel), to come back to the Parent Council with a list of priorities that fall within the current available budget (\$1500)

Philosophy, Policy & Program (PPP) Committee Update (Eva): The first PPP meeting was held on September 23rd at High Park to discuss the philosophy of "An INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY of staff, caregivers and students who collaborate to promote VALUES BASED EDUCATION, STUDENT CENTERED LEARNING and ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP. At HPAS everyone learns and grows together. Everyone is known and valued for their participation in our collective education." The minutes of that meeting can be found [here](#). The next meeting will be held ([Virtual Google Meet](#)) on November 30th, 6:00 - 7:00 on "Value-Based Education" Pillar

ACTION ITEMS: If you were not able to attend, click [here](#) to add your feedback. Caley + Julia would like to be added to the PPP committee.

Snack Program (Daniel): Last year \$500 dollars was approved for a snack program for students who have forgotten or are unable to bring snacks. This still needs to be set up.

ACTION ITEMS: The teachers (with Daniel and Maria) will come up with a list of requested and approved snacks from Costco. Mahima will order the snacks for delivery to the school.

Survey (Rosa): The parent survey was sent out earlier this month and has 24 respondents thus far. It's the best way to have your voice heard and for all of us to understand what parents want and how we should spend our efforts. Some early emerging themes include: desire to build community, greater focus on diversity, outdoor education.

ACTION ITEMS:

Parents - fill it out ([Survey](#))

Teachers - please circulate to your class lists ([Survey](#))

Previous Year's Update

YouthSPEAK (Joanne): The presentation we had requested is currently not approved by the TDSB, so we need to determine which one we would like and when. The money has already been allocated via a grant and it needs to be spent.

ACTION ITEMS: Joanne to find out more about the content of the available presentations and whether the content includes anti-racism and intersectionality framework training as this is the desired focus. Lisbeth is available to help as well. Update will be provided at the next council meeting.

Open discussion

Fundraising: We need to raise more funds if we are going to be able to support the teachers' requests. Ideas included: holiday seasonal boxes, fall boxes, things that can be delivered to people's houses, an online auction, selling student art, the Big Chill, Read-a-Thon, cookie dough sales, community event to "give what you can". Previous years did class theme baskets (led by classrooms) that were auctioned, the pizza lunches (on hold due to covid).

ACTION ITEM: Lots of great ideas. People need to get involved to help lead these. Mahima has offered to co-chair the fundraising committee.

Outdoor education: What's stopping us from getting outside? 1 - a lack of supplies (need for "outdoor kits" + outdoor gear (boots, ponchos), 2 - can't go past Ravina without a parent volunteer due to supervision ratio, so there's a need for more volunteer support, 3 - the kindergarten play area is limited due to sharing with 5 other classes and the daycare.

ACTION ITEMS:

Parent council to discuss fundraising (or a general call for supplies) for outdoor kits. The tools in these kits might include: binoculars, magnifying glasses, measuring tape, rubbermaid buckets, etc. Consider fundraising (or a general call for supplies) for extra ponchos and rubber boots for students who may not have them.

Teachers to add a list as part of the revised prioritized budget list, along with any supports they need from parents/caregivers so the PC can prioritize our efforts accordingly.

Closing: Meeting adjourned by Parent Council Chair (8:25 PM)