

HPAS School Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024, 6:30 to 8:00pm

Location: Google Classroom/online

Chairs: Roberta Brown, Joanne Huber

HPAS Admin Rep: Principal Shauna Davidson

HPAS Teacher Reps: Lillian Tsim, Eva Gelberger-Brown

Treasurer: Janine Naumann

Secretary: Mahima Madhava

Caregiver Members: Ivanka Slywynska (Family Engagement Officer),

In Attendance: Kelly Seto, Andrea Sellinger report for Rosa, Negin Dahya, Natalie Rogansky, Diana Holec (Play Day Lead)

Absent: Amy Katz, John Tummonds, Maggie Dunlop

Meeting Started at 6:30 p.m

1. Introductions, Land Acknowledgement, and Acceptance of Minutes, led by Joanne Huber

The Land Acknowledgment was presented by Joanne Huber.

2. Admin Report, presented by Principal Shauna Davidson

- Arts Night will be on May 2nd, 5:30-7:30pm. Teachers will add more details in their report.
- Honouring George event will be Wednesday, May 8th after school.
- Kindie Welcome will be on May 23rd from 5-6pm.

2024/25 Staffing model is:

- JK/SK - 8/7
- JK/SK - 12/15
- 1/2 - 16/6

- 2/3 - 14/8
- 3/4 - 7/16
- 5/6 - 11/14
- 7/8 - 14/13

Shauna explained that we get permission each year to have a 3/4 split (permission is needed because 3s are Primary and 4s are Intermediate - usually the TDSB tries to avoid classes that mix divisions, but in Alternative Elementaries it is common). When we get permission for the 3/4 class the other classes are built from that as a starting point.

In the model, both of our Primary classes next year are expected to be slightly over (22) the Provincial maximum (20) for Primary, but the Province allows for 6% of classes to exceed the max.

Staff assignments have been made but are not firm, and will not be announced until late August.

3. Teacher Report, presented by Lillian T and Eva

- Arts Night -
 - First hour for Kindergarten and Primary, second for Intermediate and Senior. Similar set up to STEM Nights with displays and activities in rooms.
 - Gym - dance and sing-a-long
 - Gallery space through school and make-and-takes
 - Boomwhackers interactive with Betty
 - Lunchroom crafting station would need parent volunteers
 - Theme for the night is Joy
 - There will be a concert at the end
- Betty Lynn is organizing a Jazz in the Classroom event for Grades 2-6 with Ori Dagan.
- Cashew the Therapy Dog will also be visiting Grade 2-6 classes
- Grades 5/6 and 7/8 are working on poetry for George's memorial
- Yearbook cover contest was extended, a cover will be chosen on Friday
- Joanne asked if more support or purchases needed to be made for the Extra hungry Tummies program, teachers were unsure

4. HPAS Budget Report, presented by Joanne Huber and Janine Naumann

- *Status of Account*
 - Current bank balance ~\$12621.47
 - \$5038.88 of that amount is unallocated.
- Shauna was asked to provide a report on spending of the Envelope Fundraisers funds for Lillian P to present at the May meeting (these are held in a TDSB bank

- account that only the school can draw from to insure that funds are used for the purpose for which they were raised).
- VOTE: Motion to Allocate \$750 for snacks and memorial bench for the Honouring George event. Motioned by , seconded by Roberta. Motion passed.

5. Committee Reports, presented by Joanne, Andrea Sellinger on behalf of Rosa Duran, Diana Holec

- *Volunteer Thursdays*
 - School Council has beginning a weekly practice of bringing 1-3 parent or family member volunteers to help support teachers
 - Volunteer Thursday will start April 18th, with some clean up/organizing in Rooms 113 and 107
 - People will need to complete Vulnerable Sector Checks to volunteer. School Council had hoped to be able to financially support anyone who wanted to volunteer but found the fee a hardship. The barrier to this was that the application is now done online and paid by credit card. Shauna suggested that VP Lillian holds a school credit card and parents could fill out the form in her office, so that she could complete the transaction using the card, and then School Council would re-pay the school.
- *Community Circle*
 - Parents will lead part of the upcoming Community Circle on May 29th
- *Surveys*
 - Part 2 of the Have Your Say Survey results have been completed and shared with School Council members.
 - Overall there was support for a similar number of events. We need to see how we can merge some things to reduce the load on admin and staff.
- *Turtle Protectors*
 - We are doing a walk, an in-school presentation and also promoting the Turtles on the Move parade.
 - June 15/16 weekend, initially suggested for the High Park walk does not work for walk leader Carolynne
 - Shauna suggested May dates for the in-school presentation
 - Alicia's class have been working on turtle puppets. Rosa is offering to support anyone who wants to make puppets.
 - Eva requested information for her class about High Park's turtles.
- *Garden Club*
 - Some of the Garden Club's raspberry bushes did not make it through the winter and they would like to replace them. They would also like to look into some reusable signage to indicate where bulbs have been planted to prevent them being trampled. They have asked HPAS School Council for \$200.
 - VOTE: Motion to allocate \$200 to Garden Club (overseen by Annette teacher Karen Goodfellow) made by , seconded by . Motion passed.

- *HPAS Reads*
 - Grade 5-8 author visits have been confirmed. Librarian Kelly Iggers helped us arrange to have visits from Rochelle Strauss, an environmental education consultant who writes children's books about biodiversity and water systems, and Wanda Taylor, a journalist, filmmaker and college professor who writes both fiction and non-fiction and whose latest book is about Black Loyalist settlements in Nova Scotia.
- *Play Day*
 - We discussed transportation forms, and making sure that forms are, and communication is, clear. This is a recurring issue with school day events. Diana and Shauna will work on it together.
 - School Council may be asked to pay for the bus. This is around \$600.
 - Lillian Tsim will be teacher liaison, with recognition that Danielle will also be involved, but the end of the school year is very heavy for the Grade 7/8 teacher with yearbook and graduation events.
 - Shauna suggested that if School Council has a surplus of funds this may be a good year to evaluate equipment and replace things that are getting old/damaged.
 - Roberta suggested a game her family had played at an outdoor event: Toss the Boot (with an old firefighter's boot)
 - Incorporating some new games was a popular idea
 - Diana suggested sending a philosophy piece in the newsletter - setting up expectations, especially around teams and the reality that some kids will be sick and we can't re-do all the teams at the last minute
 - Asking if people will need the bus on the way back on the form (as was done with the Big Chill this year), and potentially expanding bus eligibility was discussed. Everyone agreed that it was silly last year to send a mostly empty bus back to the school passing tired Grade 1s walking back - but to use the bus kids must have permission.

6. Other Business

- *Playground Safety*
 - Mahima raised concerns about the safety of the ball hockey court. Kids trip on the concrete edging and sometimes fall into the metal goal frame.
 - Shauna suggested that padding could be looked into for the goal posts
- *Clover for muddy areas*
 - JK parent Allie has donated some white clover seed to potentially use on some of the muddy areas near the kindergarten doors.
 - Shauna suggested that this could be a Garden Club project, as making it a work task would require more permissions. Re-sodding projects at schools usually take 3-5 years and during much of that time the outdoor area is not usable.

Meeting was adjourned by Joanne Huber and Roberta Brown at 7:40 p.m.