

HPAS School Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 6:30 to 8:00pm

Location: Google classroom/online

Chairs: Roberta Brown, Joanne Huber

HPAS admin rep: Principal Shauna Davidson

HPAS teacher reps: Kelly Fricker, Lillian Tsim

In attendance: John Tummonds (Member), Ivanka Slywynska (Member), Julia Swaigen, Kelly Seto, Rosa Duran, Janine Naumann (Treasurer)

Absent: Mahima Madhava, Maggie Dunlop (regrets), Amy Katz

Meeting started at 6:30pm

1. **Introductions, Land acknowledgement, and acceptance of the minutes**, led by Joanne Huber.
 - Land acknowledgement was presented by Joanne Huber
2. **Admin report**, presented by Principal Shuana Davidson
 - Playground follow-up: Shauna spoke with the caretaker (Ed) about the enclosed hockey area. We can remove the nets and wood, but we would need to then discuss what to do with the space.
 - The playground does need to be revamped, but it is a big project. We would need to raise 50k (estimate) through fundraising to help.
 - 24/25 events – we will be reducing events outside school hours. There will be no X-Movement, for example.
 - Class placements are done – JK&SK, 1&2, 2&3, 3&4, 5&6, 7&8
 - i. Rosa asked how the class placements were decided. Shauna said that the teachers decide the placements taking into account gender balance, friendships & needs. When teachers have the model ready it is reviewed by Shauna, who may make adjustments.
3. **Teacher Report**, presented by Kelly Fricker and Lillian Tsim
 - The theme for the next year will be decided at the next staff meeting. This year's theme was belonging.

- Shauna indicated amount needed for each classroom to have the science presentations would be \$250 per classroom.
- Kelly asked if we should consider putting the Scientist in the School funds toward things like the Turtle Protectors. Annette has done this. We can look for local organizations to work with.
- Kelly Seto suggested having graduates or post docs from York or Mount Sinai come into the school for presentations - groups like Sci High. They are happy to do so and will cater the content for the group.
- Shauna mentioned that teachers are connecting with the Urban Indigenous Centre – coming in to talk about learning. Teachers are going to discuss which of the Calls to Action the school will focus on.
- Rosa shared her appreciation for the work that the staff has been doing, and noted that the year has been challenging. We should look for more ways to get the parents into the classroom to help/be involved.
- Shauna and teachers said parent support has been great. They are seeing lots of positive effects, and would love to see that continue in the fall. Kelly suggested an online sign up for teachers and parents – giving teachers the option to add specific requests.

4. **Budget** presented by Joanne Huber

- As of the meeting date \$9663.96 is in the School Council's bank account with Alterna. Included in this amount is \$1704.77 in already dispersed (but uncashed) cheques. An additional \$4688.33 is allocated in the budget or by votes this year to specific initiatives.
- This leaves \$3270.86 unallocated at the beginning of this meeting.
- Additionally, we have funds available in the TDSB charitable donations account (which must be accessed and spent by the school - this is where funds raised through the Envelope Fundraiser go). Marlene was not able to give a full accounting in time for the meeting, but believed that after all expenses for this year were accounted for there could still be as much as \$5000. Joanne cautioned that we take this figure as changeable since the items paid for out of this account tend to be larger expenses and finding even one more could reduce the total significantly.
- Joanne asked before the vote that the Scientist in the School money come from the envelope fundraiser money, since presentations is one of the approved categories
- With current funds we might be able to purchase new technology for the school (we approved \$2000 from the charitable account to be spent on Chromebooks and accessories that was not spent).
- Joanne asked if the website costs could be put on the school credit card, so that parents didn't have to put it on a personal card. High Park doesn't have a credit card. (The credit card that has been offered for other emergency use is Annette's, making a situation like adding it to the website profile complicated.)
- George's memorial bench, X-Movement and Prologue presentations are to be covered by envelope fundraiser money.

- VOTE: Approve a \$1050-1750 (\$150-250 per class) budget for Scientists in the School / Turtle Protectors. Ivanka motioned, John seconded. All voted yes.
- VOTE: Provide the Grad committee with an additional \$250 for decorations. Ivanka motioned, Joanne seconded. All voted yes.
- For next year we will look for some sustainable decorations.
- The Grad committee requested \$400 to cover the cost of the after grad activities for the class. Not motioned.
- \$100 for kids treat table at the volunteer event. After some discussion it was not motioned.
- VOTE: \$500 for HPAS Reads 2024 (Fall). Roberta motioned, Ivanka seconded. All voted yes.
- VOTE: \$500 for a Halloween event budget. Roberta motioned, John seconded. All voted yes.

5. Committee Reports

- Community Circle – would love to have a parent element again next year.
- High Park walk – It was a smaller group than expected, but it was a great learning experience. It is a good opportunity to meet other parents. We should consider continuing High Park walks, but changing them to be parent led.
- Play Day – It was a great day and the volunteers were vital. Ivanka is going to email the volunteer to get some feedback about the event. Lillian received lots of positive feedback from her class parents.
- Yearbook - Yearbook has come out, we had a few parents that missed the deadline, but we were able to order more. We may be able to do another order over the summer. Danielle will continue with the club next year. They did a really great job. Renee Munn will become a parent volunteer for yearbook next year.
- Summer Committees – We have a few events to plan that come early in the Fall. We are looking for volunteers to help with the planning. Email Joanne if you can help.
- Fresh from the Farm – we will go with this fundraiser again. Kelly Fricker will get us registered for next year. We will need a group of volunteers to help distribute the produce.

6. Other business

- Astronomy in Action – raised by Rosa – keep an eye to see if they move to be a full TDSB partner and we can have them come to the school. Rosa will keep watch. Maggie may be able to help. Kelly will connect Rosa and Maggie.
- Julia Swaigen raised the question of how to better support teachers in an increasingly challenging environment. Shauna acknowledged the changes in teaching environment. Parents can help by volunteering in the classroom so that teachers can have time for prep.

- Julia Swaigen offered to provide PD (she does this within the TDSB professionally already). There was talk of a lunch and learn and possible sessions spaced through the year, with some for teachers and some for parents (possibly geared specifically to age groups).
- Committee will be put together with Julia Swaigen, Roberta Brown, Rosa Duran, Joanne Huber. Kelly will chat with the teachers to see if anyone would like to join.
- Kelly suggested that a good theme for next year might be connection – to bring the community back together again. A return to basics and focus on the core values. Possibly this would connect to the Values Based Learning pillar in our philosophy.

Meeting was adjourned by Joanne Huber and Roberta Brown.