

HARRY BOWES SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday November 18th, 2020
Meeting 6:30pm – GoToMeeting Platform

Attendance: Tim McFadden, Susan Palmer, Athena Acciaccferri, Alison Meechan, Lesley Elliot, Melissa Willis, Dina Beckberger, Kellie Hatzimihail, Janet Esau, Julia Carlier, Jane Alden, Michelle Leblond, Lindsay, Pamela McLaughlin, Ramona Lawrance, Roslyn McQuinn, Sarah Besharah, Sonia LaCivita, Stephanie Al-Joundi, Suga, Yaqi Xiong, Andrew Skilling, Theepa Dwaraka

Regrets: None

CALL TO ORDER at 6:32 – Ms. McLaughlin

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve agenda by Ms. McQuinn, seconded by Ms. LaCivita.

ACCEPTANCE OF LAST MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes by Ms. Alden, seconded by Ms. Leblond.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME TO ALL – Ms. McLaughlin

FINANCIAL UPDATE – Ms. Alden

- c\$19,000 available
- This surplus is largely due to events not happening Spring 2020 so funds put aside are back in to spend
- Recognised the absence of profits of pizza this year (c\$600/wk) and likely limited fundraising
- Big Box of Cards contributed \$2,012 which includes \$175 that normally would have been spent on pizza party/prizes
- Allocation of \$1500 for Grade 8 Grad (class of 2020) – to confirm what was the actual expenses incurred

ELECTION OF NEW COUNCIL* - Ms. McLaughlin

- Mr. McFadden and Ms. Palmer oversaw election results and tallied votes
- Lots of new nominations this year which is great
- All are encouraged to pursue next year if unsuccessful this time
- Chair: Ms. McLaughlin, Vice Chair: Ms. Besharah, Secretary: Ms. Carlier, Community Relations Officer: Ms. Esau, Treasurer: Ms. Alden transitioning to Ms. LaCivita by the end of this year

OLD BUSINESS

Big Box of Cards:

- Big box of cards: 187 boxes sold (83 in Spring and 104 in Fall). School earns \$11/box plus \$175 bonus
- The \$175 normally used for prizes/class pizza party but due to Covid restrictions, it is added to earnings
- Big thank you to all who bought/sold cards. Special shout out to Ms. McQuinn, Ms. Acciaccferri and Ms. Besharah
- Discussion around use of funds raised: Soccer nets or given Covid restrictions at recess, pavement painting?
- All agreed that both would be fantastic additions for the school
- Sufficient funds to consider both with Mr. McFadden offering to split costs
- Soccer nets with anchors estimated c\$7000
- Pavement painting (mazes, games, etc.) – to obtain quotes

Spirit Wear:

- Currently available on School Cash Online through Nov 29th
- 2 types of t-shirts and 2 types of hoodies
- No guarantee given for delivery before the holidays but are hoping that they arrive before the holiday break
- Post meeting update:
 - Over 100 items sold
 - Ms. Meechan to coordinate distribution to F2F students
 - Ms. Meechan to coordinate pick up times for EVS families

Pavement Painting:

- Oscar Peterson had a Board-approved list of vendors which was shared with Mr. McFadden
- Aim to get quote before Spring with completion targeted for before end of school year
- Post meeting, Mr. Mc Fadden learned which vendor was used and that the cost was c\$3000
- Ms. Leblond offered that Wendat got theirs done for c\$5,000
- Many vendor options available including a DIY (buy stencils, paint, rent equipment)
- All vendors promote themselves as being able to cater to each grade/age groups with different focuses- eg. chess, basketball courts, conflict resolution circles, obstacle courses, track, etc.
- Ms. Palmer added that HBPS used a vendor to do Kindergarten pens, kiss and ride- could see what else they offer?
- Sub committee formed; Ms. McLaughlin, Ms. Besharah, Ms. Esau and Ms. Carlier

New Business:

ADMINISTRATION UPDATE - Mr. McFadden / Ms. Palmer

News:

- School has settled into a routine and things are going well despite bad news around us
- Things are obviously different when walking around the school and popping into classes, but more similarities to pre-Covid than differences.
- The classrooms are like a little oasis and the kids are so happy to come to be in school
- There are 400 pupils in F2F and 180 in EVS
- If interested in switching, a board intake form needs to be completed. Some pupils have returned to F2F since the Oct reorganisation, but no requests to switch from F2F to EVS
- Next switch would be the end of January with the survey going out before the end of 2020
- The switch will likely involve a reallocation of staff either to or from the EVS, which would likely also lead to a school reorganization
- The school has not received any information about a possible extension of the holiday break despite what some of the media outlets are reporting. Post meeting update: some other boards have announced a longer break from F2F learning and instead do some online learning in January
- The school admin team will do their best to share with the community all communications that are received
- Positive Covid case at Harry Bowes in October - parents, staff and children were all incredibly supportive
- Still waiting on Public Health for "an all clear report" which is a standard part of the process
- Admin calls public health ("PH") as soon as receive confirmation of a positive case. PH first deals with the actual positive case and then they begin their investigation into contact exposure. It takes some time and each case is different. Class/cohorts are not always sent home immediately
- The PH guidance is followed throughout the entire process. As PH provides information to send out, the school then circulates as soon as possible thereafter
- On the YRDSB website, you can check to see which schools in York Region have positive confirmed cases of COVID-19 by looking under the COVID-19 Advisory Notices (which is updated by 5 pm daily)
- The school continues to receive updates from Public Health on a weekly basis, which includes no longer recommending that students have a COVID-19 test in all situations (unless there has been exposure); with some symptoms it is recommend that students see a physician and follow the direction of the physician
- The 14 day isolation period remains
- Questions asked as to why EVS families were not informed of the case via email. Mr. McFadden explained that they followed the exact instructions of PH which specifically directed F2F families only, but if it happens again, Mr. McFadden will ask about this

Technology:

- Cost Sharing Technology purchasing program has been suspended this year due to other technology allocation initiatives
- HBPS has 10 new laptops that have been imaged and set up and are awaiting the delivery of 54 new Chromebooks to replace to some of the devices that were lent out in the Spring- expect they arrive by January
- F2F families whose children received Chromebooks in the spring have been contacted to return Chromebooks
- EVS students do not need to return the Chromebooks at this time
- Ms. Meechan confirmed that about 1/3 of the 110 Chromebooks were being used by EVS and about 45 have been returned by F2F students
- The school has applied for the Desjardins tech grant and expect to hear back before the end of the year if successful

Front Entrance:

- The front entrance is still being used by daycare in the morning (they are using the door on the left as you enter, due to COVID protocols they cannot use their entrances off the parking lot)
- Admin are looking at alternatives, including having daycare use the entrance off the field but there are lighting and snow removal challenges to using that door
- The school received an estimate of \$4000 for widening the pathway allowing it to be plowed (via Board contract). This cost would come out of the school's budget

Drills:

- Throughout the fall the school has been conducting Emergency Preparedness Drills (two Fire Drills and one Lockdown drill so far) with accommodations to comply with COVID-19 protocols

Other:

- Virtual Curriculum Night / Meet the Teacher presentations took place virtually during the week of **October 22**
- Halloween celebrations took place at school on **October 30**
- Parent conferences took place on **November 12 and 13** (or earlier in the week at teacher's discretion) and Report Cards will be distributed electronically on **November 19 and 20**
- The 2019-2020 Grade 8 Graduation video was posted for families on a *York Region 2020 Elementary School Graduations - North Schools* website on **November 16**
- Minimal absences at the school this year
- Gifted Testing: School has been preparing for grade 3 testing: 20 EVS pupils will be coming to the school to take the test. These students will be kept separate and write the test in the Library according to Covid Protocols. Instead of writing the 3 parts of the test over 3 days they will be writing back to back with 15 min breaks in between. They have access to one bathroom and they leave at 11am. The following week the F2F kids will be given the in-class test by their own teacher

Teacher Report: School Success and Funding Requests- Ms. Willis

- Thank you for being supportive of all the reorganisations in the Fall
- Thank you for continuing to fundraise for us
- Teachers creating ways to offer other learning experiences such as virtual field trips to Ontario Science Centre
- Virtual Student Council- coming soon- probably just grade 8s for now
- Virtual Remembrance Day ceremonies took place in classrooms: Almost 100 families contributed online to the Remembrance Day collection as teachers were not allowed to accept donations from families directly

Beyond the Front Doors:

- Shared pictures/slides of displays and pupils' work displayed around the school
- Looks so bright and beautiful: Remembrance Day, Art and Science displays
- To make some of the photos available on the school Facebook page for all families to see

Funding Request

- Renewal of the FI subscription requested: Je Lis Je Lis (\$800 plus tax) and Lecture Enfant (\$300+ tax)
- Funding request for a teacher petty cash fund to supplement and/or reimburse for classroom supplies
- Teachers are spending more personally due to requirement of personal manipulatives
- Request is for \$100/teacher (34 teachers) totalling \$3,400
- Request for renewal of the RAZ Kids subscription (expires in February 2021). FI and English streams currently have it in primary grades. Possibility that this may be covered by the Board (in discussion). To revisit in January
- Post fundraising discussion below: it was voted in favour to fund (motion raised by Ms. Al-Joundi, seconded by Ms. Carlier, all in favour with no dissenting votes); Lecture Enfant + Je Lis Je Lis (totaling \$1250) and to fund a \$50/teacher petty cash fund (totaling \$1700). Will revisit increase of fund in the New Year

EVENTS/FUNDRAISING – Ms. McLaughlin/All

- Read-a-Thon – supported by Mr. McFadden – allows both F2F students and EVS students to participate
- Recipes in a Jar- meal to a local foodbank for each one bought- \$10
- Spirit Wear- On School Cash Online now through Nov. 29th – less a fundraiser, more a community building initiative
- Crock-a-doodle craft kits
- Booster juice gift cards
- Local Business – Redefined Finds Craft Kits? Other local merchants?

- Update from the Board: No food fundraisers at all. No sales of PPE (including school branded masks). We can now either have the school coordinate the distribution of products to the students or can use vendors who would ship directly to the families (as long as families permitted the sharing of home address info for delivery purposes)
- No volunteers from outside of the school can help with internal distribution
- School Cash online or direct to vendor payments only
- Agreed that distribution direct from vendor to families the easiest, but may not always be an option
- Sub Fundraising Committee: Ms. Beckberger, Ms. Besharah, Ms. McLaughlin, Ms. Acciaccaferri, Ms. McQuinn, Ms. Al-Joundi, Ms. Elliott and Mrs. Carlier – if anyone else interested to please reach out to council
- For January's meeting: to report back on a list of suggested fundraisers. Aim for committee to set up a small one before the school breaks for the holidays
- Without the weekly c\$600 being earned from pizza, entering a new territory with more emphasis required on budget, need and availability of funding

Adjournment at 8:18pm:

- Motion to adjourn by Ms. LaCivita; seconded by Ms. Acciaccaferri

NEXT MEETING – January 13th at 6:30pm

Future Meetings: February, April, May at 6:30pm – Exact dates TBD