

HPS School Council March 22, 2023 6 p.m.

Attending- Anna, Veenu, Amy Leonard, Julia De Rose, Sam, Mr. Kellman, Linnet Richmond, Eric, Marianna

-we cannot vote on minutes from last meeting as we do not have quorum

Principals Report

-a few presentations coming, Amaya James Friday

-next Tuesday from Aurora Cultural centre – Little Pear Garden performance is free from this community partner and will highlight the Chinese cultural dance traditions

-suggestion from Administrators to provide a family survey asking parents to share what events they may like to see in the coming school year and what they may also be able to support or how they may be able to volunteer. If done in September this would give Council an idea about what they could consider that the community would support. -ideas for the survey and what do you want to do for the new year and give Mr. K ideas and we can put them in

-Anna- in the past it can be difficult to get responses, can we tack on a survey to the forms in September-response- we can send a survey out and we can explore this later June is still beneficial and we could do it again in September which would capture new families too and ask for expansion on that

-that should be separate and a stand alone survey so it stands out

-Anna- it takes a while for councils to get ramped up and it is October/November before we have our first meeting

-Linnet- we dissolve in June and then elections happen around October and there can be tables at curriculum events and tables at welcome back event and folks walking about with t-shirts or duty vests saying ask me about council

-Anna- It would be really nice to offer families a much earlier start can we have ESM launched in September

-Sam- I want to bring up that we are 70 per cent complete in the school year and if we did a report card and we have had 2 events and we have only raised less that 400\$ and that might be on the high side and we only have 30 per cent of the year left, colleague is a past council chair for a Markham school and she raised 50g we didn't have a goal and we should have set a goal and we are a very reactive or passive council and I didn't find us proactive and in terms of what we could have raised and we did have

-Mr. Kellman- some items are for experience and some are for council

-movie nights show promise- Veenu

-good feedback was received of movie night and games night

-Sam- ultimately the amount is what is raised for the school and one teacher could exhaust that money and we have 30-40 teachers here

-whatever we raised is a bonus and we were going to charge

Linnet-I hear your frustration and we have to acknowledge this our first post Covid school year and we are a different demographic than Markham and hearing that gives us promise and a goal and the initial impetus of the events was bringing families into the building

Linnet-the conversation around our 2 events and we have been asked for more movie nights, we could pre order pizza and popcorn, there is potential for more smaller events and the lessons we have learned from the ESM process need to be applied and one thing that works is a sub- committee and they do the work and they communicate with admin before so we do not find out day of

Linnet-if you want to try a few more things we can but there has to be support from Council

Sam- I want to see benefit for the school for this year

Linnet- we were very fortunate with the budget and I have carried over a significant amount of the money and we are funding trips, Scientists in the School and food and the students are not lacking in that way and we are fortunate that we are

Anna- I want to share my own observations and learning and I try to live by not comparing yourself if you are better today than yesterday and not to take away the importance, what are they doing and if you could find out this would be good so we don't have to reinvent the wheel and I know I reached out over the holidays and Evan and others said this has been done previous and it didn't work, we have also stumbled upon a few blockers and certain processes and limitations and budgetary considerations and I think I am better equipped for the future and there is more efficiency moving forward and I agree when we had sub committees we were effective and thank you to Sam for the prizes and

Sam- the trouble is the council is small and we need to recruit and

Linnet- small councils meet informally and plan and that is successful, staff know is this voluntary and appreciate it and they would be happy to donate their time as prizes and they would get on board

Anna-I have had a chance to chat with parents and one of the consistent conversations I have had as I promote the council is I have attended a council meeting before and it was a waste of time and this was before your time and some parents are hesitant as they felt they presented ideas and they were met with brick walls

-we have to reach out and feel welcome and we could offer babysitting and hybrid, some schools rotate between virtual and in person

Anna- my question is for June is how do we set up an event for the fall like in September

-Principal Update

-school wide wellness day focusing on physical and mental health where teachers will run workshops that can be a variety of things students can rotate through and so kids can connect and we are hoping our intermediate stud would help run the primary workshops and events and that is scheduled for May 26

-staffing- Ms. Miller is off for the extent of the year, Ms. Atkinson and is off for the year and for Ms. Petejan is in for Ms. Miller and Mr. Blix is in for Ms. Atkinson, Mme Romanino is on a leave for the year and Mme. Crespi was able to pick up her assignment and do French and Kindergarten Prep

Parent question-for lower grade kids had learning buddies do they have that?

Linnet- some classes do this and now our JR students are partnering with FDK; we don't have intermediate partners and our gr 7s and 4s working together in science with common curriculum areas like habitats

Parent- my kids talked to me about that program was good

Marianne arrives

Linnet- McMichael art gallery is being explored, Zoo To You is coming for our grade 2 classes and we are offsetting the cost for families who cannot afford it and it still can be costly so I don't know if council wants to offer a chunk of money to spread around

Anna-my preference would be to know exactly who we are allocating to as some missed trips and some have nothing planned

Linnet- if money is available they can access the funds and if they don't the money stays in the school council funds and can be carried over to the next year

-discussion around giving \$100 to each homeroom

-vote about \$100 for each class now

-question about what if a class needs additional funds, discussion about giving everyone the same

-\$1000 goes to grad

-We have \$3953.93 and if we do this we would be left with – deduct for grad

-100 per class= 453.93 in the budget which will grow a bit with ESM

-Motion- Anna Veenu, Sam, Marc vote yes

-motion carried

Re-Cap- Chair- Anna

-Lessons learned- voting online was a challenge, vote in person,

For hot lunch: confirm on pricing whether taxes are included and the price list was not noted, hopefully tomorrow goes well and I provided a summary to ESM and they have agreed to label every meal and package for classrooms and there were a number of questions from ordering and what kind of veggies and salad dressing and this was discussed with Gigi, it is orange or apple and it will rotate every week, each meal is packaged individually and it is labeled with classroom room and lunch assistants will need to count out the cutlery and a box of the juices and this needs to be counted out

Linnet – school has paid four lunch supervisors to come in for an extra hour and grade 8s are also volunteering to come at 12:20 to help – Anna, about a dozen kids will come and they go out and play and the lunches will be in the room and there will be student helpers to help hand out with the younger kids

Mark- if kids are sick- Linnet there was a suggestion to pick up the meal during the day and parents can call and pick it up later and it will be kept in a fridge for them

New Business

- Dance a thon would raise 8-10 g – it has done so in the past

- some people donated leaf tickets, wonderland passes, raptors tickets but only if they could advertise and we had to decline as this is against Board protocols

- discussion around previous dance a thon

- 5\$ raised=1 ticket

- \$25 raised- 1 ticket for the biggest prize like leaf tickets

- we still have the bins and can do this in October and plan now

- we can also have one this year

- what about a talent show – separate plan

- toonies are good for raffle tickets

- sub committee Julia- to create a dance a thon subcommittee- will do a call out to the committee- have a couple of dates in mind

Anna-we did pay for a license for a movie night so another event

we can sell dinner and a movie and not charge admission is an idea

- folks wanted different drinks, Kernels gave pricing and pre ordering pizza and it would be nice to have more options, less choices and could look at parents menu could have a coffee station

Linnet –if you are focusing on parent and community connection you could do a morning coffee station or a PM coffee station and they are low organization demand and can have big return for community engagement which will build more involvement

- could label it Hartman Hug or promote the council via a label

- put it out to the group- subcommittee- May 4 potential

- meeting adjourn meeting- motion by Julia seconded by Anna