

HENDERSON AVENUE PUBLIC SCHOOL

School Council Minutes

October 6 2022

7:00-8:30 P.M

Attendees – Dorna K, Agnes H, Hanako T, Michael K, Hossein A, Shiva P, Samia S, Abdul L, Zahra P, Sheree K, Azi S, Azita R, Roxana B, Angela B, Barry W, Paniz A, Moniereh A, Jessica L, Somi A, Parisa R, Mme Zaitlin

PART 1- LAST YEAR’S WORK (30 min):

1- Approval of May Minutes - Moved by Sheree and seconded by Roxana

2- Approval of Treasurer’s Report - Cannot be approved given the previous treasurer has moved to a different school. Update on the report will be discussed during the next meeting. Based on the financial report, the account balance is about \$13,000 less the amount to be paid for Sub lunches.

3- Principal Report:

- Summary of last year’s achievements
 - Started sports again and ended the year without needing to be masked
 - Poetry slam and volleyball team
 - Fun fair in June 2022

4- Chairs’ Report:

- a) Fundraising events (Fresh from Farm, pizza lunch, Sunshine fair)
 - a. FFF and Bingo night ran by Sheree
- b) Other events (Halloween decoration, Bingo night, mental health workshop)
 - a. PRO grant supported the mental health workshop
 - b. Halloween decoration well received by students.
- c) Graduation
 - a. Council contributed to the cost of the graduation
 - b. Graduation organized by school
- d) Staff appreciation – gift baskets and boxed lunch organized by school council

5- Review of roles and responsibilities of the council (reference to the HAPS council constitution 2019)

- Meeting 6 times a year

- We thank Ms. Zaitlin for helping to write the minutes last year. The secretary will be in charge of writing the minutes going forward. Council minutes will be posted following approval at the school website (<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/hendersonavenue.ps/SchoolCouncil/Pages/default.aspx>)

6- Election of New Council:

Parents of younger students are encouraged to become part of the school council as many of the more seasoned council members will be leaving the council within the next few years.

- Election of 12 members – Agnes, Azita, Azi, Dorna, Hanako, Monireh, Parisa, Roxana, Sami, Sheree, Shiva, Zahra (alphabetical order)
- Election of co-chairs – Agnes and Azi
- Election of officers
 - Treasurer – Sheree
 - Secretary – Dorna and Roxana
 - Communications/volunteers – Sami

7- Last Year's Council dissolved

PART 2- NEW COUNCIL (60 min)

1 – Discuss Council's Vision and priorities

Sami – Community engagement and tradition

- Sami talked about the strong sense of community in our neighbourhood. She mentioned that in the past few years due to COVID our school council has not been very active and involved with the school, but now we're back and looking forward to a great school year. She said that she's been neighbours with most council members for 10-15 years and she foresees being their neighbour for another 40-50 years. Many of the council members are good friends outside of school. Mme Zaitlin is Sami's 3rd principal and for many she's their 5th or 6th principal at Henderson.
- Events organized by the school council are vital in bringing the community together and create a safe and friendly environment for our kids to grow up in.
- Specifically, BBQ on curriculum night used to be a good opportunity for the community to come together after the summer vacation and catch up. On the other hand, historically, this event has always been the school's main fundraiser as almost all families attend the curriculum night, and this includes our students whom are bussed to school. With the money raised from this event, the council is able to bring equity for our lower income family members. Unfortunately, this event was cancelled this year.
- The council would like to thank a valued lunch monitor for her service in our community for the last 12 years. A card was circulated to be forwarded to this member to express our

gratitude.

Agnes – Communication and transparency

- The vision is to provide more information on Council meetings to parents and getting them involved on what has been done.
- Monireh raised the question about the email on incident with regards to Grade 5/6 outside the school in the field that cops need to be called to school
 - o Mme Zaitlin shared that an individual was observed to be topless sitting down in the field outside of school zone during recess. Ms. Twitchin's class went outside after recess for physical education while this individual decided to remove his pants and exposed himself, after which, the teacher brought the students back into the school. Police were brought into the school briefly. A brief email was sent out to all the classes in September to re-assure parents as a few parents saw the police entering the school. Mme Zaitlin reassured parents during the council meetings that the individual did not talk to or was physically close to the students. Mme responded to a parent's suggestion of keeping students for indoor gym by sharing that given the man was not on school property, it does not make sense for students to stay indoor for gym given the circumstances.
- Communication about the decision process on the Grade 7 Lake St. George Trip given the potential for job action
 - o Mme Zaitlin reported that there are many elements in planning trips including though not limited to: how a trip will be connected to the curriculum, teachers' availability, staffing concerns as teachers will also have their personal commitment, forms to be completed, among others. She also noted that trips are run by teachers and not parents, and parents cannot dictate the arrangements. Mme Zaitlin has brought the trip to the teachers and trip is now in the planning process with forms being distributed.

Azi – Extracurricular activities and field trips

- Such activities for different grades have been the school highlights for many HAPS students. The community wonders the next steps with these trips/activities.
- Mme Zaitlin updated the council that since this is the 1st time that schools are finally looking normal, many activities are in the planning including a trip to the Pioneer village (Grade 3). YRDSB has banned ski trips while Mme Zaitlin will follow up with Azi regarding the many activities/trips that Henderson Students used to take before COVID (e.g. scientists in class, Medieval time, curling and tubing) to help plan these trips with the teachers.

- Mme Zaitlin shared that upcoming activities will be posted on the Henderson Web page on the YRDSB website.

Shiva – Music Band

- The school community used to have a very dedicated music teacher, Ms. Taravati with the bands winning Gold for Music Alive, performing at Wonderland, the Argo's games, and the Marlee's game. The community is interested in learning more about what kind of music activities will be happening at HAPS.
- Mme Zaitlin shared that Ms. Moore is our new permanent music teacher. Instruments will need to be tested to see if repair and replacement is needed as these wind instrument have not been in use for the last 2 & ½ years. Mme Zaitlin is not familiar with when the band will start as in addition to ensuring instruments are working, students will also need to learn how to read tenor and bass clef, become familiar with what is required to play different instruments among other considerations.
- Council asked that Ms. Moore attend the council meeting, if possible

A parent asked about the school's approaches that school takes towards bullying and mental health of our children. Mme Zaitlin shared that it starts with education of what bullying looks like and how teachers will need to support and teach students on how to resolve conflicts. She also noted that the issue has been discussed with lunch monitors and they are expected to watch for such behaviours. Concerns regarding individual students should be brought up to the classroom teachers and then the office.

**Next Council meetings: Thursday Nov.10, 2022

January 12, 2023

February 23, 2023

April 13, 2023

May 11, 2023(Azi, Our chairs BD)

2 – Urgent: Halloween dance organization (October 26,2022)

- Parisa oversees planning and has already sent out emails to parents to coordinate the different responsibilities among parent volunteers.
- Pizza (Regino's) and snack will be available for purchase via School Cash Online as pre orders though additional orders will be received on the day of the event.
- DJ will be confirmed (Mme Zaitlin said the DJ from the last Grad in June 2022 was very well received, is booked for grad 2023 and is available).

- Volunteers from grade 10 will receive volunteer hours
- Subcommittee will decide if games will be included for the night.

3 - Principal's report

- Sub/Pizza lunch and Kids Kitchen will be running Mon, Wed, Thurs and Friday
- Funding request from the principal for the school council
 - o A chess club will be organized by our grade 6 school teacher during lunch hours. Council approved funding for chess sets - $\$35 \times 7 = \260
 - o Bussing for Cross country (\$300) Council approved funding for this expense.
 - Given the group for cross country is relatively big, bussing is provided for the students attending the event. Other school sport activities usually involve a smaller number of students during which transportation is provided via carpooling.
 - Coverage of cost for bussing of larger sports events in the future may still be required.
 - o Bringing authors, presentation, etc (\$300 per class) + Jungle sport (K- grade 8) in April by turning the gym to age appropriate jungle theme
 - Mme Zaitlin reported that there is \$13000 in the school council fund and requested \$4800 ($\300×16) to cover for activities such as presentations and activities for the classes. While most of the class activities range from \$800 to over \$1000 nowadays, having some funds from the school council will help teachers gauge on how to plan for events. The grade 3 students are going to Pioneer Village while grade 4 and 6 are reportedly interested in having scientists in the class.
 - Mme Zaitlin is also waiting for the letter being sent out mid October from YRDSB for technology cost sharing.
 - The donation request at the beginning of the year that is usually sent out with the 'starter's package' may be used to cover costs mentioned above. Mme Zaitlin reported that this donation request will be sent out by the board later.
 - Council noted that \$4800 is a large lumpsum and given there may be other activities that require fundings (e.g. music instrument, technology cost sharing, graduation ceremony), the council decided to approve \$2400 for the above cause (\$150/class). Parents will be requested to pay for special class activities as needed per class curriculum while the council will determine as case by case to cover the costs for students who cannot afford to attend the above activities.

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4 –Discussions of additional activities – will continue in the next council meeting

- Bingo nights
- Graduation
- Teacher's appreciation

- End of Year BBQ/Carnival
- Additional Trips