

HENDERSON AVENUE PUBLIC SCHOOL
School Council Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2023
7:00-9:00 P.M.

In attendance: Heather Zaitlin (Principal), Catherine Green (teacher), Katherine Moore (teacher), Mrs. Gasior (Librarian), Pnina Klotz (teacher), Grant Fawthrop (Superintendent), Azi Sanai, Sami Sanai, Parisa Rahmani, Azita Moaref, Dorna Kiani, Zahra Parhizani, Agnes Hwang, Roxana Balescu, Monireh Ataei, Shiva Petersoo

Opening meeting - Azi

- Attendees introductions
- Approving and moving minutes of last meeting - Heather mentioned there were a couple of people missed from the attendance: Charmaine Cheng (teacher) and Pnina Klotz (teacher); Jungle Sports - there was a Board Memo so their activities wouldn't be allowed in schools anymore; Heather requested some updates to the minutes: EQAO - Azi "brought" to the attendees attention... (typo); also "Heather left the meeting after trying to speak several times and being interrupted".
- Zahra moved the last meeting Minutes, and Roxana seconded her

Teacher's appreciation - Agnes

- She is waiting response from Longos on potential sponsorship

Budget - Zahra

- The School Council started the school year with a budget of \$13000 and we'll end it with approximately \$12000
- Dominos and Music expenses have not been taken out from the numbers presented at this meeting
- Heather was not aware that the Music budget hasn't been taken out from the School Council budget
- We've raised approx. \$7600 during the school year and spent approx. \$8700
- A question about Voluntary donations was asked, and Heather responded that the school can potentially add a request for voluntary donation to the Welcome package sent to parents in the fall each school year

Pro Grant - Agnes

- The School Council has hoped to join financial forces with Johnsvie, which eventually decided on a virtual presentation, supported out of their own funds, but invited Henderson community to join if interested

- It is best to start the planning for such event earlier in the school year, as now the presentations are more expensive if in person versus virtual

Principal Update - Heather

- Music concert - the school Band held it in May
- Kids Kitchen - Monday and Thursday - it generates some funds for the school; Heather suggested to bring them a third day in the week unless there is another suggestion
- Mrs Green mentioned that grade 8 students used to sell hot dogs throughout the school year to raise funds for the graduation, which were cooked/prepared at school
- Toronto Marley's game connected with the Music teacher to have the band playing in the fall
- \$1000 were taken out of the School Council funds to pay Cosmo music
- Jungle Sports refunded the money paid
- \$150 x 9 classes were paid for presentations
- Mrs. Green has been keeping track of the technology inventory, but our current Chromebooks are getting old and out of warranty; the school is requesting 20 Chromebooks in the value of \$9000 to be purchased; in the fall Heather hasn't mentioned this need as she was waiting for the school share to be confirmed, which was eventually not approved, but they were given permission to use school generated funds for this purpose
- Azi had some follow-up questions, and she was explained that the warranty cannot be extended and the oldest computers would be at least 5-year old, so they would need to be replaced
- Heather explained that they would not have permission in the fall to purchase technology from school-generated funds
- Parisa brought up the issue that the students didn't have computers in the fall, many parents had to purchase computers since the school could't provide sufficient ones
- Azi mentioned that the money the School Council would carry forward from one year to another used to be saved for the playground improvements, and we've generated way less funds than spending in the past 3 years
- Grant explained how the Board's funds are allocated within the school depending on the purpose
- Heather was not aware that the funds carried forward would be for the playground
- Heather would like to request \$4000 on Ipads for kindergarten, tiny tops/uniforms - 120 pieces for \$1300 (for times when students participate in a competition), \$200 for Beebots mats (for coding robots), for the Library space, and \$2500 for the graduation
- Azi mentioned that she is leaning towards not supporting any technology this school year, and she still has her second thoughts about the other expenses, as we would go into the reserve funds, since the School Council would only carry forward \$12600
- The School Council approved \$200 for the Beebots mats, \$500 for Grade 8 Graduation - Banquet Hall deposit, and also additional \$500 to lower the cost for parents to pay for the banquet hall and graduation

- Heather explained that she had initially reserved the date for this year's renovations with Shangri-la, but then they advised of planned renovations, so a new location needed to be reserved
- The School Council approved half of the expenses for the Cross Country uniforms - \$750
- The School Council decided to carry forward \$10000 for the next school year
- School Improvement Plan - Heather has discussed with the teachers about the key areas of need and improvements; there wouldn't be discussions about the entrance roof repair, at this time; they discussed together with the Resource teacher what students achieved a level 3+ and above in EQAO, and they compared with the marks in class on Math and English; all teachers are working on elaboration of ideas, and they share them amongst colleagues informally, but also during staff weekly memos with tips included, or links the teachers can use; staff meetings are taking place in rotating teacher's classrooms to present their walls with strategies to improve writing, for example; although the results in Math were higher, they still had initiatives to share learning and keep at least the same level or improve; they also like to recognise different students for different reasons inside school
- Heather explained that it would depend on teachers to plan, arrange and set up field trips, depending on curriculum and education interests, but curriculum have changed at the same time, and there are always a lot of events happening inside the school to keep students engaged
- Mrs. Gasior shared that in her kids school the School Council would send out a mass email, a Google form to fill out, and solicits a parent representative from each class

Grade 8 trip - Heather

- A date was randomly chosen, and some teachers expressed interest to go in a particular season
- She will be able to share next year more details, as at this time she wouldn't want to commit to a particular date
- Parisa has mentioned that the Principal had advised in the fall that they would need to start planning ahead of time, the year before, for an overnight trip
- Grade 7 trip can be considered to occur during a different season than winter

Grade 4/5 grade gifted program - Zahra

- HAPS would have one fewer gifted class, 4 instead of 5, next school year, as there would be other gifted program opened, and it's a space issue
- Grant explained that any special education placement is done centrally, so when the catchment area is growing, they might need to find space for some programs in various other locations

Updates from Superintendent

- Safety

- Unlocked doors - there is a system on doors to be locked at 9am individually
- Students drop off and pick up - working with Heather through that piece
- Lunch supervisors - Heather had ongoing discussions with them about safety issues
- Punishments
 - There is a Code of Conduct in place for students, with expectations
 - Students are being kept in the office for the recess even if they are only under 5 min late
 - There is a great opportunity for discussion and improvement, and there were discussions and work in the background taking place
 - Heather indicated that any concerns can be brought to her attention, whether related to supervision or punishments, she will have them resolved
 - Azi mentioned the concern that most of the issues raised with either Heather or Grant were not improved since the beginning of the school year
 - Grant explained that he gave a response the best he could, and we should all respect each other and appreciate the extra time that we've invested, but we shouldn't have personal conversations in such setting
 - Azi expressed her feelings that she felt attacked when she had asked if the room could raise their hand if they would consider themselves satisfied with the things done to change situations for the better
 - Multiple School Council members explained that it's not personal to discuss issues that involved the community
 - Heather explained that she would be here to help, she would want to help
 - Grant would also stand by his staff, and only intent the best for everyone

Meeting adjourned @ 9:40pm