

**HENDERSON AVENUE PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**School Council 2023-2024**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 29, 2023 @ 6:30-8:00 PM Library**

**In attendance:** Hather Zeitlin (Principal), Catharine Green (teacher), Roxana Balescu, Agnes Hwang, Sara Alford Khajeh-Hesamedin, Lydia Schroeder, Angela Buk, Dorna Kiani, Yan Yi, Fred Pan, Farzaneh Jovanrooh, Parisa Rahmani.

**Agenda Items:**

1) Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2023

- Sara moved the last meeting Minutes, and Agnes seconded her

2) Principal Report

- The Junior Intermediate playground is now open as of November 30th, although there is still a portion that needs to be replaced; the Board covered the costs for the wood chips for both playgrounds. The playground sub-committee will meet again to decide what would be the next steps in terms of repairs, based on the options provided by the Planning office at the School Board. There might also be fundraising done for the funds needed to repair the playground.
- The School arranged a display at the school entrance for Hindu Heritage month
- Grade 3 Gifted assessments, written part, will be finished within this week, by Friday December 1
- Field trips are encouraged for all grades, connected to the Curriculum topics
- Magic show, offered by Brent and Sarah, occurred on November 28 for students from JK to grade 4
- Grade 7 students had an overnight trip to Lake St. George from Nov. 27-29
- Grade 8 students will have a 3-day trip to Ottawa in May 2024
- Grade 8 graduation will occur at Marriott Courtyard hotel on Woodbine Ave., on Thursday June 20
- Grade 8 students will do some fundraising to supplement funds for Graduation and Ottawa trip
- YRDSB was cyber hacked earlier in November 2023, so the communication through emails was impacted
- EQAO - showed lower results than expected for grade 3. A number of grade 3 children required and received in-class extra support in the previous years and it was not necessarily a surprise how they did. After further reviewing the results, it's to be noted that two thirds of the students don't have English as their first language, and 22% were not born in Canada, also 12% of students have accommodations. The tests consist of multiple choice questions that can be challenging for students. The School

Improvement Plan continues to be focused on Writing, for improvement. The Kindergarten classes will focus on Reading first, then Writing. On November 30th, 4 teachers at a time will be sitting together with a Primary literacy consultant and discuss the new Revised Language Curriculum (differences, changes, what learning will be done differently, and how, which parts depend on resources), while the school paid for substitutes teachers, so they have half Professional development day. The most important thing is to teach the students, not the Curriculum, as they might have different needs. The teachers will get together to co-plan once listening to the changes. The older grades teachers will get a day with a consultant at a higher level, later in the school year.

3) New School Council Member - Kathleene has stepped away since her child moved to a different school; Lydia Schroeder has stepped in as a new Council member.

4) Communications update

- Farzaneh reported that she received a list of parents representatives that can communicate with the other parents in their respective classes
- Edsby app to be downloaded - Farzaneh can prepare communication so the parents are encouraged to download and use the app. In reality not all teachers are receiving messages through Edsby, so the other options are a call to the school or email to the teacher directly.

5) Fundraising updates (each person responsible)

a) Pizza - Zahra/Roxana - there were suggestions from parents to organise the pizza lunch on other day of the week, since Fridays families might have their own plans eating pizza at dinner time, but the current number of volunteers is already limited, and not all of them can help on a different day; for the first term of the school year, pizza lunches have raised \$7087.32.

b) Subway - Parisa - for the first term of the school year, Sub lunches have raised \$2151.89

c) Halloween Dance - Sara - the event has raised \$1835.26

d) New items/ activities - Sara suggested fundraising for the Library, like Indigo's Adopt a School Fundraiser and Love of Reading Foundation, Wonderland will also offer subsidy for students trips if they cannot afford them; she will try to apply on behalf of the school

e) Movie night - licence available until February 8, 2024

f) Playground - Heather can ask the parents, and the community at large through GARA, to make donations specifically for the playground repairs

6) Budget Update - current balance is still to be determined, as there are outstanding expenses to be deducted (such as weekly pizza invoices)

- remaining in Council funds at this time: \$22123.33 available to be spent (this includes the amount that was carried over from last year - \$6095.92).

7) Budget requests - Heather

- \$408.64 - scoreboard in the gym repairs - the School Council members approved the expense
- \$4142.59 - Playground repairs - expense approved
- Textbooks - school cannot ask for funds to purchase textbooks, but the parents can donate voluntarily

8) New Business - nothing reported by the School Council Chair

Meeting was adjourned @ 8:20pm

Next meeting - January 24th, 2024