

Hopewell Avenue Public School Council  
Meeting Minutes  
May 19, 2009

**Attendance:** Adam, Brommersma, Calder, Daniels, Fines, Goodrich, Johnstone-Hobbs, Maule, McDonald, Owens, Hill, Turpin, McDonald, Theriautt.

**Absences:** Assal, Barbatbun, Bartley, Byrne, Calvert, Charland, Corbett, Davidson, , Franklin, Geduld, Gee, Gemmell, Inglis, Johnston-Hobb, Jonasch, Jull, McAlpin, McAtee, McQueen, Nafar, Naida, Noble, Page, Ramsay, Richardson, Root, Savioe, Shaw, Sprott, Tusk, Turnbull, Derksen, Huang, Santor, Malloy, Weber, Robin, Gleason, Morris, Reem, Casey, Hill, De Grandpre.

**1. Welcome and Call to Order** The Chair began the meeting at 7:00.

1. Information session and Discussion of changes for next year was held from 7:00-9:00
  - i. Balanced Day
  - ii. Lunch options for Intermediates
  - iii. Homeroom Model
    1. Caroline Theriautt & another classroom teacher presented the teachers' perspective
  - iv. Q & A

Issues that parents raised at this meeting included:

1. Needed a 50 minute break in the afternoon to allow students to go home for lunch if they wish
2. Implications of balanced day for intramurals & other noon hour activities such as Art Studio and Choir
3. Concerns that activities would be provided at lunch saw this as essential to success of new format.
4. Some expressed concerns about the loss of off school property for lunch and others wanted to know how lunch options would be administered.
5. Parents expressed a desire for specialist teachers and a concern that teachers were so upset by the proposed changes that accompanied the Home Room Model. They queried how this would impact on the children. Others noted that the teacher's presentation was alarming and concerning. It was also noted that there was great quality of education and good teaching this year and questioned why the format was changing. It was noted that teachers felt a lot of pressure that could be transferred to the students.

Final Plans for next year that came out of the meeting are:

1. Two 50 minute nutrition/exercise breaks for all students
2. Off property lunches for intermediates 2 days a week
3. Assurances by Nicole Turpin that there will be activities during the breaks including intramurals, art studio and choir.
4. Homeroom model put on hold for this year.

2. There was a motion to extend the meeting until 9:30
  - a. Sara Adams
  - b. Seconded Tina Daniels
  - c. Passed
3. Business Meeting began at 9:00
4. The Agenda and March & April minutes were approved
5. Primary Magazine Update
  - a. The primary magazine will be posted to the Council website. It will be ensured that no last names or ages are included and that all pictures have parent permission.
6. Karen Johnstone-Hobbs discussed the classroom website she has built for Jill Berry's grade 2/3 class. Unfortunately as there was no Internet in the library so she was unable to demo it. Discussion ensued about the possibility of having a website in every classroom next year. Some ideas suggested were to offer a web-building course for kids using parent expertise in the community and having the grade 7 & 8 students support the websites. It was noted that increased communication would help to improve school atmosphere. It was also noted that teachers did not access the Technology Committee this year.
7. Space Camp Update –
  - a. Space camp has been shortened to two days but only one night (down from two) due to concerns expressed by the Administration as to demands on teachers to be away for two nights and concerns from the Board about sleep away trips in general. The Cosmodome has modified the curriculum to accommodate the time available. Students will leave early morning and return the late afternoon of the second day. The dates were still to be confirmed (they have since been confirmed for March 5 & 6, 2010).
8. Committee Updates:
  - a. Greening Grant Update
    - i. The greening grant is moving forward and volunteers are needed to contribute our portion of the in-kind contribution to the costs. Parent volunteers will be preparing the front half of grass yard, digging and mulching, for the planting of two new trees. We will also be receiving 7 seating boulders (arranged in two clusters) and a raised garden planter. A watering committee for new trees will need to be established for the summer.
  - b. Adhoc Traffic Committee
    - i. It was noted that the Shoppers Drug mart Proposed for the bank and Sunnyside corner has been placed on hold indefinitely due to the current economic climate.
    - ii. We are encouraged to start a conversation with OSWATCH
9. Budget Committee
  - a. An allocation for Literacy materials was discussed but it was felt we needed to be sure of the budget commitments to the end of the year before this can be determined.

- b. \$300 was requested for printing of the Primary magazine
    - i. Proposed by Tina, seconded by Sara, Passed.
- 10. Teacher Appreciation breakfast organized by Sara Adams and Michele Sprott was to be held on Tues. June 16<sup>th</sup>. Gifts were organized for the four staff that were leaving.
- 11. A motion was proposed by Neal Hill:
  - Be it resolved that: The HAPS Council expresses its support in principle for the transition to the Balanced School day model beginning with the 2009/2010 school year.
  - Provided that: Further discussion and debate may be required in order to achieve the optimum day plan for the balanced day, particularly as it related to the grade 7 & 8 curriculum and nutrition/exercise breaks.
  - Seconded by Sara.
  - Motion was unanimously passed.
- 12. It was noted that volunteers are desperately needed for Pizza Lunch.
- 13. June meeting date was determined to be Thurs. June 18, 2009
- 14. A reminder was given that June 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 is to be Grade 8 Graduation
- 15. The meeting adjourned at 9:45