



Hopewell Avenue Public School Council

ParentSpeak

(Council's monthly newsletter)

www.hopewellschoolcouncil.com

E-mail: parentspeak@gmail.com

April 2011

Chair's Report:

At a recent Accommodations Review Committee (ARC) meeting, Draft Terms of Reference for the "Accommodation Study" were distributed. No content was discussed at this meeting, but we should assume that some of proposals that have been put forward previously may be introduced again. At this point, JK will move from First Avenue to Mutchmor for next year. By September/October 2011, the committee wants to have narrowed down what should be done in the district, decide on recommendations in December 2011, and be ready for implementation in September 2012. There are concerns that the process may be moving too fast.

Hopewell is entitled to have two people on this committee, plus a community association representative.

Principal's Report:

Nicole Turpin indicated that the parent survey is back on track. It was delayed by an official complaint to the municipal Freedom of Information Act. April 18 - May 20 will now be the timing for the survey. For grades K-6, questions will go home with the child, and parents can decide if want to answer them. Nicole hopes that parents will take part - the information gathered will be very useful, and is not segregated individually, rather aggregated and used statistically as a school. If parents have any questions, they are urged to discuss them with administration. Grade 7-8 students

will answer the survey in school in the computer lab.

"Building Parent Engagement" is a program developed by the Ministry (and will be put on the Hopewell website) aimed at parents, to describe how to get involved with your child's education in ways that are interesting, and addresses such topics as internet safety, reading, first time parents, etc. Nicole would like parents to feel welcome in school, and see more parental involvement.

The Intermediate Jazz Band just took part in the MusicFest competition. It is very competitive and can result in an invitation to nationals, if you win gold in your region.

Nicole is starting staffing allocation - if a parent wants to ask for a specific environment for their child, send the request directly to her at Nicole.turpin@ocdsb.ca

Nicole has been asked about collecting compostable waste in school. Hopewell has recycling now, which has been a large challenge logistically, but they hope to look at green bins for next year.

Nicole has decided to shrink the size of school planners/agendas by half for next year - one size for all, resulting in a third of the cost.

Budget Committee:

Council will cover the \$330 cost for the primary and junior creative magazines.

Council will give \$1250 to the library now and in June will review the budget to see if more can be allocated.

The winter grocery card program raised \$1029.

The recent Beach Party made approximately \$990 - a huge thank you to Kelly Harrison for planning the event.

Yard Update

The school is reviewing a preliminary plan for the grassy area from the landscape architect.

Looking for parents and students to join a committee for a Fri/Sat "Clean Sweep the Capital" clean-up project in early May. Please email parentspeak@gmail.com if you are interested.

Dates to Remember:

Council Meeting: April 12 at 7:00pm

Pizza Lunch: April 15 and 29

Subway Lunch: April 21

Easter Break: April 22- 25