



Hopewell Avenue Public School Council

ParentSpeak

(Council's monthly newsletter)

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January 2011

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 8th, in the Library of Hopewell School, from 7:00pm to 9:00 pm.

Chair's Report:

An extensive discussion took place at the December Council meeting on the upcoming Accommodations Review. Council Chair Neal Hill updated members on a number of the proposals documented by Board staff to alleviate the population issues in schools within our area.

A new Draft Staff report has recently been created and distributed. It can be accessed at <http://www.ocdsb.ca/sch/as/Pages/CentretownGlebeOldOttawaSouth.aspx>, scrolling down to "Interim Accommodation Measures," and clicking that link.

While most of the measures presented will not affect Hopewell directly in September 2011, there are certainly some options that could impact the school down the road.

At the meeting, Council Chair Neal Hill emphasized the importance of our community getting involved in this discussion so that decisions are not made without our opinions being heard.

Council is still seeking an interested volunteer to chair the Educational Issues and Policies committee and lead Hopewell's position on this issue. If interested please contact Neal Hill at nhill55@gmail.com.

Principal and Teachers' Report:

- Solio Blizzard Bazaar and Songs for Solio: This wildly successful event raised over \$10,000 for Solio!! Thanks to all for their kind and generous support. The kids had a great time and it was a very festive evening.
- Postings for all the high school information nights are available on the website at <http://hopewellaveps.ocdsb.ca/parent-information/HighSchoolInfoNights20112012.pdf>.
- Cross Country Ski event: Over the past few years, **Grade 5** students have participated in a cross-country ski program at Mooney's Bay. The program exposes kids to cross-country skate skiing and the vendor supplies all the required equipment. However, a parent volunteer is required to run the event. **If you are interested, please contact Kim MacDonald at kim.macdonald@ocdsb.ca as soon as possible as this needs to be booked right away.**
- Diversity survey: A diversity survey was expected to be sent home in December. However, there was a privacy challenge by one parent and the Ministry of Education has agreed to withdraw the survey until the concern was investigated. The survey will likely be circulated early in the New Year.

External Environment Committee Report:

- “Clean Sweep the Capital” took place over 2 weekends on November 6 and 13. Thanks to all those who participated. These efforts will continue in the future, and the City will continue to provide information on upcoming events.
- In the Fall, a significant drainage issue in the grass yard forced the school to shut down the yard for a period of time due to safety hazards. The School Board has now taken notice of the problem and sent a consultant to survey the land in November, noting many deficiencies (drainage, water flow, lack of division of space for different types of play, limited shade, no railing on steps to Glen Ave, monkey bars with big drop to ground, etc.). The consultant will come up with an overall plan for the yard which will then be costed out and executed as feasible.
- ***John Loop has done a fantastic job of taking this initiative forward. But he needs help. Volunteers to assist with writing grant proposals and assist with the execution of yard enhancements are desperately needed. Please contact Rob Coplan at robert.coplan@carleton.ca if you can spare some of your expertise!***

Budget Committee:

- Robotics Competition: The Budget Committee received a request to fund a Robotics Kit which would allow another team of 5 kids to participate in an upcoming Robotics competition. Council approved the request.
- Grade 5 cross-country skiing program: If a parent volunteer can be found to run this program (see above under Principals and Teachers Report), Council has advance approved the amount required to pay for the program.

- Ski & Skate sale: this year’s sale was more successful than ever! A total of \$797.25 was raised as Council’s portion of the proceeds, which will be combined with Bike Sale proceeds in the Spring and set aside for a charity school, as in past years. A big thank you to Jenny Tipper for organizing the event once again this year!

Bullying:

A parent in attendance at the December meeting raised a serious concern over bullying issues, particularly during recess. While the school is working hard on education related to bullying, there are still cases of bullying in the less supervised area of the school yard. Exclusionary behaviours such as clubs were chief among the concerns raised.

Council Chair recommended the re-formation of the Safe and Caring Schools Committee as a forum for discussion and coming up with solutions. Potential initiatives were discussed such as:

- organized activities in the yard for students who wished to participate
- bringing in a speaker to coach parents on dealing with bullying issues
- intermediate students leading yard activities during recess time

A committee was struck, and will be led by Vanessa Coplan. More information to come about how you can get involved.

Dates to Remember:

Council Meeting: Feb. 8 at 7:00pm

Pizza Lunch: Jan. 28

Subway Lunch: Jan 21