

Minutes of April 8, 2008

In attendance

Marta Farsang, Nicola Maule, Christine Franklin, Susan Barbatbun, Jackie Naida, Michele Sprott, Tina Daniels, Sara Adam, Anne-Marie Corbett, Judy Calder, Marie Claude Savoie, Kathryn Owens, Alison Fines, Duncan Shaw, Susan McDonald, Karen Goodrich, Susan Smith, Minon Morley, Barbara Johnston-lafelice.

Absent :

Cheryl Davidson, Alison Fines, Linda Hamelin, Marcia McAlpin, Caroline Theriault, Reem Aslan, Joerg Esleben, Lynne DeGrandpre, Diane Hiscox, Carole Loop ,Karen Keskinen, Bettina Longino, Jennifer Loten, Vanessa McKenzie, Wendy O'Connell-Smith, Vanessa Riddell, Lori Sullivan.

1. Welcome & Call to Order by HAPSC Chair, Sara Adam. The Chair started the meeting at 7:00 PM

2. Introductions and welcome Minou Morley, acting Vice-Principal

3. Agenda

Switch teacher's report and Principal's report to accommodate the late arrival of the Principal who was tied up in the Kindergarten information night meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes of March 18

With some spelling correction, minutes were approved by Sara Adam, seconded by Karen Goodrich.

5. Teacher's report (Susan Smith)

- The balanced literacy project involves 4 school districts; it is a research study for Gr 7 by the publishing company Nelson. 20 schools around Ontario participate in the project, 5 classrooms within the Board. Students have been tested to see whether their literacy improves at a higher rate. The "Canadian test of basic skills" shows scores 14.3 -2.8. (which is between post-high-school level to under average score). Differentiated instruction is what is needed and the Ministry is promoting this as well.
- The approach of the project is to gather data at this point to measure the effects of having in addition to a teacher in the classroom, coaching, and adopting a strategy of balanced learning. (Susan now has 5 yrs of balanced learning experience) The challenge for balanced learning has been to develop necessary materials; the goal is to teach what good readers do implicitly; the approach is first "modelling" (the teacher reads); the students read in a "guided manner", then follows guided practice and finally, independent reading.
- Nelson sells the program for 5000 dollars currently; Hopewell bought the kit for this year; training and coaching for teachers is also included, as is modelling (visualizing, asking questions) by overhead projectors and colourful materials (e.g. title Literacy "step up, speak out,").
- The curriculum is laid out for the whole year. "Resisting Hitler", "Welcome to the global village", are stories the kids liked. Magazines are also included for students with actual themes. Junior materials are also available, as is a separate kit for English and French immersion. The material follows the curriculum of social studies

and science. Junior levels integrate all different subjects. No classical literature or red maple books are required to be read or be included in the package.

6. Principal's report (Barbara Johnston-lafelice)

- Kindergarten Information night : parents happy about the fact that Hopewell School offers Early French immersion, Middle French Immersion and English programs which all have equal value.
- All junior and intermediate teachers will be trained in CASEY, a measuring tool for literacy;
- Time allocation model for intermediate teachers – curriculum services to train staff tomorrow: the new focus of the Board is for students to have max 5 different contacts per week, 4 contacts a day to increase performance. Teachers currently teach different segments, the plan is to reorganize to follow the recommendation.
- There is a School improvement plan (3 areas: literacy, numeracy, X
- Nine literacy immersion and English leads have been identified who will work on improving the curriculum; they will be meeting tomorrow, April 9, 2008.
- School has been fundraising for a Galloway family where a 2 year old died;
- 2 supply teachers for another school that lost a teacher through death are paid by Hopewell;
- New toys in the yard; primary and junior teachers to teach the kids how to properly use them;
- Buzzer system – doors are shut 9 - 3:30; CBC featured Hopewell on TV. Caring Committee drafted a letter for them; door etiquette to follow;
- Garage door is the next item to tackle but it's still in the early stages.

7. OCASC (Beth Doubt)

- Survey: budget time is coming and the board member who goes to the Budget Committee needs info on where improvements are needed or where money could be saved.
- Increased staffing: the issue was raised at a previous meeting but response/feedback was that the same problem (need for more VP etc.) had been mentioned and nothing happened. It would be useful to get together with those other schools and create a motion to OCASC; perhaps it was mentioned to the HR committee, we have to wait for the minutes to come out to see what discussions took place.
- List of 10 priority areas where the Board feels that increase attention/money is necessary:
 - Pupil teacher ratios
 - VP staffing
 - Curriculum support materials
 - Classroom teacher train special education
 - LST staffing levels for EFI/MFI
 - Supervision staffing levels
 - Extra teachers for special subjects
 - Library
 - Teacher librarian
 - Guidance counsellor at all levels

- Possible Reductions:
 - Transportations: cost-effectiveness is the goal
 - Superintendent positions
 - Non-educational services (Meal, daycare) – other Ministry to pay for it
 - Central administration

8. Fundraising discussion (Duncan Shaw)

- How should the money be allocated from the fundraisers?
- Council is dedicating \$2500 to the library as per last meeting.
- It is expected that the Read-a-thon results in about a 5K income.
- Ken Blogg advocated Council show philanthropy and give to the Education Foundation, an NGO which works through teachers etc. supports students in crises etc.
- Council voted in favour of funding in-school activities this year and not to donate any money from the fundraiser to an outside organization (11 to 5)

9. Read-a-thon update (Judy Calder)

April 28-May 9

- Branded as Hopewell Reading Riot (with a Punk worm)
- Prizes for primary and junior grades (pencils, bookmarks, etc.)
- Opera Lyra – community readers for primary grades
- Mayfair “The Waterhorse” – junior grades
- Mini-conference for intermediate grades on May 5.
- Hey Dad by Brian Doyle – book club at lunch
- Magic sticks – book excerpts
- Any primary and junior class where all students read and bring minimum pledge will receive a pizza lunch.
- Primary Creative Magazine for Grade 3 also to launch during this period.
- April 9 – meeting of the Committee at Starbucks.

10. Tech Committee (Susan Barbatbun)

Motion to strike a new committee to assist students and teachers to use technology; proposed by Susan, seconded by Sara Adam, no objections. This year, the TC would start to gather info on need and schedule seminars accordingly. Also mention in ParentSpeak.

11. Science Cart update (Katherine Owens)

In Room 310, a shelving unit will be put with bins and hanging folders. All equipment would be put in individual bins. Teachers can just take the bin they need for their science class. A donation science train will be put up in the hallway.

12. Safe and Caring Committee update (Tina Daniels)

Anti-bullying Workshop on May 2.

If staff feels they need to participate, Council could pay for participation (\$50/person) Catholic School Board has invited one of the Workshop speakers, Dr. Wendy Craig to train teachers.

13. Grass Yard

Carol Brillinger met with the design consultant – an application for a grant will be submitted shortly; more details to come;
Grass yard owned by the School Board; soil contains large layer of clay which could be part of the irrigation problem.

14. Parent Library

Council received \$1000 to purchase books. Kim Ferguson, Susan Barbatbun and Tina Daniels will look into items.

15. BBQ

June 4, 2008 – volunteers needed to ensure that the event is better organized and run than last year but the set-up of the event remains close to last year's parameters.

16. Healthy School Recognition

Vanessa Riddell will initiate the process of having Hopewell recognized and a healthy school in terms of nutrition, awareness etc.

17. Yard toys (Anne-Marie Corbett)

New toys (balls, skipping ropes, pogo sticks) purchased by Anne-Marie have had great appreciation. Teachers to educate kids on proper use.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.