

Hopewell Avenue Public School Council
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2008

Attendance: Reem Aslam, Sara Adam, Susan Barbatbun, Judy Calder, Anne-Marie Corbett, Tina Daniels, Cheryl Davidson, Lynne De Granpré, Beth Doubt, Alison Fines, Karen Gooderich, Diane Hiscox, Barbara Johnston-Iafelice, Melissa Kirkwood, Jennifer Loten, Nicola Maule, Marcia McAlpin, Susan McDonald, Jackie Naida, Vanessa Riddell, Marie-Claude Savoie, Duncan Shaw, Susan Smith, Michele Sprott, Esther Watson.

Absences: Marta Farsang, Linda Hamilin, Christine Franklin, Karen Keskinen, Vanessa McKenzie, Wendy O'Connell-Smith, Kathryn Owens, Jenni Tipper.

Welcome and Call to Order by HAPSC Chair. The Chair began the meeting at 7:00 pm with introductions. Following introductions the Chair requested that we review the names on the slate and strike those that had not attended Council meetings for some time or those that had resigned.

1. **Agenda** for February 12, 2008 meeting approved. *None opposed.*
2. **Minutes** for December 11, 2007 meeting approved with changes. *None opposed.*
3. **Minutes** for January 15, 2008 meeting approved with changes. *None opposed.*

4. Principal's Report

B. Johnston-Iafelice shared the School Effectiveness Framework with the Council, which begins with the Hopewell Avenue School Improvement Plan Outline for 2008/2009. The plan was handed out to Council and formed the basis for discussion. The school board has provided funding to allow time to develop the Framework and every staff member will be involved in developing this curriculum. This is an exciting initiative for the school.

B. Johnston-Iafelice thanked the Council for arranging the cross country ski activities for the Grade 5 students. She feels these types of activities help to enrich character education – the students also loved the activity.

B. Johnston-Iafelice talked about the types of support that Council is able to give the school. She knows that she is able to ask for support if necessary and that the Council is committed to supporting the curriculum as well as providing enrichment activities. The Council is able to provide support for activities that are fun but still support the curriculum.

5. Teacher's Report

E. Watson gave an overview of Balanced Literacy to the Council and discussed how teachers are working to achieve consistency in their approach to teaching students

how to read. The schema approach teaches the students to make connections when they are learning how to read. This preparation begins in Senior Kindergarten/Grade 1 and supports the Grade Three testing.

E. Watson has met with other teachers in the Board to view and observe best practices in Balanced Literacy. She has access to both English and French Immersion literacy coaches and she brings her learnings back to Hopewell by providing workshops and mentoring for other teachers. Council's response to Balanced Literacy was very good and Ms. Watson volunteered to hold a workshop to introduce parents to the model.

The principal has also been collaborating with another principal on parent literacy tools.

Susan Smith will share the new resources that she is piloting at the next Council meeting.

6. Premiers Teaching Award Nomination

This award is presented annually by the Ontario Ministry of Education to an elementary or secondary teacher who has been nominated for teaching excellence. Di. Hiscox submitted a nomination for Donna Walsh, a grade 7/8 science teacher at Hopewell and the nomination has been accepted. Award recipients will be announced in the spring.

7. Budget Committee

See attachment from the Budget Committee. The following items were discussed:

Science Cart

K. Owens has continued consultation with the primary and junior teachers. The teachers have requested primarily consumable items and will not need microscopes on the cart, as originally anticipated. Therefore, only about \$2,000 will be required to establish the science cart.

Motion: To reduce the science cart allocation from up to \$4,000 to \$2,000 and allocate the extra \$2,000 elsewhere in the budget.

None opposed. Motion passed.

Grass Yard Funding

Funding allocated at the Council meeting in December to upgrade and resurface the grass yard was discussed. The chair requested that a committee be struck to determine the future direction and plan for the grass yard. The committee would be required to develop various options and present them to Council at a future meeting, as Council members do not have all of the information required to have further discussion at this time. It is believed that the grass yard upgrade is a project that may have a multi-year focus and that consultation with students, staff and other parents may be necessary.

In the interim, a council member has consulted with some of the primary and junior teachers and has been provided with a list of items they would like for use in the grass yard.

Motion: To allocate up to \$2,000 to purchase items for use by students during outdoor play.

Motion passed.

QSP Fundraising

The money raised by the QSP fundraiser currently goes into the Council bank account and then is given to the Principal in the form of a discretionary disbursement. As such, the Principal is limited to what she can use the funds for. Council has very little involvement in this fundraiser and proposes that it be given to the school to manage and receive all profits. This would allow the Principal greater flexibility in purchases and less reliance on Council to purchase items that the school needs.

Motion: To give the management of the QSP fundraiser back to the school and allow them to receive all profits. To remove the \$10,000 discretionary funding from the annual Council budget.

Motion passed.

Annual Review of Fundraising/Dedicated Fundraising

These subjects are to be discussed at a future Council meeting.

Read-a-thon

The Budget Committee has recommended that the funds raised from the read-a-thon be directed (in an even allocation) to the school library and to the Education Foundation. No motion was put forward on this issue and it will be discussed at a future meeting.

Other Issues

- A volunteer is needed to run the annual grocery coupon fundraiser in 2008-2009.
- The Budget Committee will investigate food fund raising ideas for discussion at a future Council meeting.

8. Healthy Foods Healthy Schools

This initiative is being spearheaded by the enrichment committee as a result of Bill 8 which aims to introduce healthy foods in schools and reduce foods that contain too much sodium and trans fats. A council member presented some very preliminary ideas that Hopewell could try for modeling good nutrition at school. Although the

ideas are just in the preliminary stages, there was a reminder that all suggestions or ideas would need to go through consultation with Hopewell staff and administration. As well, the allergy committee requested to be included in any communication or planning involving food in the school.

9. Communications Committee

The communications committee has met twice and is working with two volunteers to develop a Hopewell School Council website. One of the volunteers has offered to host the website. The domain name has been registered as www.hopewellschoolcouncil.com. There was discussion about whether the Council slate (names only, not email addresses) should be posted on the website as there may be concerns with privacy issues. It was suggested that the minutes from Council meetings may be posted on the website with any references to specific Council members removed. There was also some discussion regarding the content for the Council website versus the content on the school website.

Motion: Allow the Council website to post Council members names, but remove any reference to Council members from the meeting minutes.

Motion passed.

10. OCASC Report

The OCASC website has posted the minutes from the last meeting. The next OCASC meeting will take place at Fisher Park School on February 21, 2008 and will discuss healthy schools, healthy kids.

Other schools have brought forward the following initiatives:

- School supplies initiative
- Fundraising initiative

The Rockcliffe Park motion to revisit hard caps and allow for principal discretion was voted on at the last OCASC meeting. Two schools (including Hopewell) voted against the motion, 11 schools abstained and the motion was passed with 19 votes for the motion.

11. Enrichment Committee

- Library at Lunch – looking for volunteers to staff the library at lunchtimes on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Twelve volunteers are needed and there are currently four.
- Knitting Club – begins February 27th. There was great interest in the junior division with 44 students interested in 27 spots. Yarn will be donated by the Humane Society provided the students knit blankets for puppies.

Motion: request \$60.00 to purchase the knitting needles

Motion passed.

- Cross Country Skiing – This was a huge success and the enrichment committee would like to continue this initiative.
- Creative Magazine – The enrichment committee is interested in beginning a creative magazine where the students in primary grades would submit artwork through their teachers. There would be no cost associated with this initiative and the magazine would be put together by the Grade 3's during lunchtime.

12. Other Business

Two new Committees were formed:

- School Supplies Working Group – to help work with the administration to develop a list of supplies and requests for the next school year. The committee is meeting on February 25th at 1:00pm.
- Playground Committee – A council member will help the Playground Committee establish a meeting time. She will pass any information that for the first meeting. Committee members include:

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Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.