

Hopewell Avenue Public School Council
Meeting Minutes
18 March 2008

Attendance: Sara Adam, Judy Calder, Tina Daniels, Cheryl Davidson, Alison Fines, Christine Franklin, Linda Hamelin, Barbara Johnston-lafelice, Melissa Kirkwood, Marcia McAlpin, Susan McDonald, Duncan Shaw, Michelle Sprott, Caroline Theriault.

Absences: Reem Aslan, Anne-Marie Corbett, Beth Doubt Joerg Esleben, Marta Farsang, Karen Goodric Lynne DeGrandpre, Diane Hiscox, Carole Loop ,Karen Keskinen Bettina Longino, Jennifer Loten, Nicola Maule, Vanessa McKenzie, Jackie Naida, Wendy O'Connell-Smith, Kathryn Owens, Vanessa Riddell, Marie-Claude Savioe, Susan Smith, Lori Sullivan

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

2. Introductions

3. Agenda

- Request to move item # 8 None opposed.

4. Minutes for 12 February 2008 requiring amendment:

- Marcia McAlpin (no "e")
- Item 12-strike line out "yarn donated"

Move to approve slight changes approved. None opposed.

5. Principal's Report: Barbara Johnston-lafelice/Melissa Kirkwood

- Council informed of Melissa Kirkwood's appointment as principal of York St. School—effective 31 March 2008.
- All are thrilled for her; fantastic; perfect person to go to York St.
- Sara presented her with flowers
- Melissa will be missed at Hopewell.

Q: When will you know who is coming in to replace Melissa (Kirkwood); when will we have a replacement?

A: B. Johnston-lafelici responded that the Board would let them know. They may move someone from within the school or someone on a short list. At this point, she does not know. Barbara will email Sara when she knows. Sara can then inform counsel.

Graffiti Wall—Hopewell Good News Items

- Teachers placed accomplishments and “cool things” happening at Hopewell on large banners
- They are being left up so staff team can celebrate the positive items and input from Hopewell School.
- Seeing a decrease in absenteeism as a reflection of the connections children are having with various activities/programs being offered at Hopewell.
- Seeing strong connection of children building relationships, and this is reflected with decreased absenteeism.

6. Teacher’s Report—Caroline Theriault

Discussed items reflected on the various Graffiti Walls

- Accomplishments of children putting on snowsuits independently
- Gr 6—Thom Thompson art
- Gr 7—performing own plays
- Puppet shows
- Core French—theatre in a shoe box
- Girls basketball—1st in city; will compete against other school boards
- E. Watson being supportive to new teacher John
- Teachers expressing that people are helpful at Hopewell
- Over 20,000 books signed out of the library
- Jr. Scrabble will be fun
- Intermediates have been polite
- Gr 7 & 8 won gold at the Science and Engineering Olympics
- Professional book club is starting
- Trying to build staff teams; children are coming together in various divisions

Suggestion to continue adding celebrations and accomplishments
Place the graffiti walls up for parent teacher interview night...

Playground is now moved to Item 7

7. Playground Committee Report

The committee performed a summary of their two meetings:

Discussed:

- Phase I tarmac created; mounds removed and trees planted.
- Phase II installed equipment (monkey bars; equipment boxes. The equipment boxes were vandalized within one day).
- Phase III (not completed) was creating the green space.

S. Adam has the plans if anyone is interested

Still struggling with the play value of the yard. The new committee met and established priorities. Interested in focusing on the Phase III development –greening, however there is the issue of irrigation to be addressed. As well, committee is interested in addressing how to maximize the wasted space. There are areas (i.e. the corners of the yard) where there is wasted space. They have researched small items to pull children into the periphery for imaginative play.

It was stated that they were looking into investigating yard improvement in collaboration with Evergreen (a company with experience with this type of landscape improvement, and experience working with the OCDSB.). It was identified that additional funding could be procured. After meeting with Evergreen, the strategy suggested was a proper study of the grading and irrigation. Suggestions that a landscape engineer do a proper analysis to identify catch basin difficulties. Evergreen representative suggested council pays for the engineer to analyze grading and drainage.

Q. Is there any previous analysis?

A. Yes—2003. The grading/drainage was not identified by volunteers who must have done back section and play structure. The back section of the yard and the play structure area were done correctly as there is no standing water. Work cannot be done on the surfacing until the drainage is dealt with first.

Identified various funding and grants, indicating that First Av school received \$10,000 from a Green Partnership Grant. To apply for this grant, the community will use the play yard as well (space would not be considered for the sole purpose of the school) 15 April 2008 is the deadline. We will ask for \$5000. The City of Ottawa will pledge to match funds

It is proposed to clean out rose bushes and dead trees; planting inexpensive shrubs. Evergreen has good information for what volunteers can do for the space. The goal is to provide more opportunity for areas for imaginative play. The committee is suggesting to place boulders, paths and walkways.

Discussion:

Q Immediate thought is that any shrub will be difficult??

A. It is a greening grant. It is the placement of shrubs and greenery. We have ideas on what is workable for the space.

This is an opportunity for the children to take community ownership in keeping the green space alive.

Q. As experience at Brewer Park...shrubs will collect garbage and look unsightly?

A Evergreen will design and choose plant life appropriate for the space. He has experience with what is appropriate and understands sustainability.

Realizes drainage is an issue with the yard. It is a positive incremental approach that the board is approving, and that we are seeing to show approval of a plan for incremental design.

Piecemeal focusing on the small parts and not seeing big change or more investment (narrow focus) may be taking away from the bigger picture.

Utilizing the grant and smaller amount of money will make noticeable change

The 2003 plans did incorporate a greening phase (Phase III), which was not completed. We can finally complete this phase.

(Half of the playground has no drainage issue; half is a greening issue (location from the play structure at Hopewell Av.) Drainage is a problem for the area located from the play structure to Glen Av. (this was the larger area reflected in the study)

Q. Does the City of Ottawa cover the costs? OCDSB cover? Is the responsibility shared?

A (Adam) We may have to share responsibility once we determine who owns the property.

Motion: HAPSC commit to \$5000 for matching funds for City of Ottawa Green Partnership

All in favor; none opposed—Motion passed

It may be possible to have the work done in the summer with a OCDSC contractor.

8. Treasurer's Report

Changes to the statement—changes to the bottom

Deposited outstanding \$2, 572.10

Outstanding cheques \$10, 873.02

- We continue to be balanced and relatively on track
- Pizza lunch is a little high in comparison to last year—doing well.
- Grocery coupons are soft, coming in less than projected

HAPSC Budget Update indicates that good budgeting is to have the bottom line approximately \$4000 (a tight budget will want to have \$2000 to have for next year to cover float from Ski/Skate sale in September)

If we do not get Greening grant we may have an additional \$5000 in which top purchase items from the wish list –the screen for the gym. If there are additional items from the wish list, this may need to be addressed in the May/June meeting.

- The food cupboard funding is low, we may need to look at increasing expenditure.

-

Motion: Move to accept financial statement with changes

Second:

All in favor; none opposed: Motion passed

We may need to consider additional fundraising if expenditures are high. This can be left to the next Budget Committee meeting.

9. Space Camp Update

Space Camp went without a hitch. 66 out of 67 children came; all 3 classes were integrated together. Melissa negotiated to facilitate the inclusion of mothers from other communities.

Looking forward to next year.... The Information Night needs to continue. Consider having more food for the children. The Cosmo dome had scheduled snack times correlated on child focusing. The Cosmo dome did not plan for outdoor activity

Financial statement will be provided for next meeting.

A wonderful experience; so clean and so safe for persons with allergies.

10 Enrichment

Cross country Skiing

Cross Country ski experience for the Grade 5 students

- A great program with great feedback from the teachers

Science cart update

- The meetings have been rescheduled
- No resolve by 29 March

(Therault) Suggested that items can be transferred from the discontinued Gr. 7 curriculum on the Earth's Crust. These items can be placed on the science cart. She will go through list with teachers.

Things take time, and it is hard to coordinate schedules. Council has worked hard to go through various committees. All of this hard work may come to fruition for next September.

Lunch Club

- To have as a smaller forum; paired with teachers
- Vanessa Riddell has agreed to present information about nutritional lunches during Education Week.

Eat Right Ont.—a website to access dieticians for free.

Organization of information normally goes through the Allergy Committee

Primary Creative Magazine

Updated council on status of the Megan McNeill-McKinnell initiative to have a student made publication of creative artwork.

(B. Johnston-lafelice) indicated that on 25 March the Primary Division staff will get to confirm their participation for the Primary Creative magazine. This may be piloted in a smaller capacity, whereby teachers solicit visual art, music art, poetry and publish in a PDF format and publish as a magazine.. There is no real cost attached as Lynne DeGrandpre and parent volunteers can support this program.

We will wait for input from the Primary Division teachers

Other enrichment

- Almost have enough people to open the library at lunchtime for M, W, F
- Getting Opera in May
- Need to have delegation of duties for library and tennis group. This can be requested through ParentSpeak

11. Safe and caring Schools

- Met with Barbara Johnston-lafelice and the committee
- Background was presented stating that work has been ongoing since 2004, and also the emphasis in the visioning exercise to address the top concern of: 1. safety, with secure access to the school, 2. developing inclusively; diversity and peer mentoring

From 2004 email sent to Ken Blogg (previous Hopewell principal) regarding funding provided for schools, and eligibility due to the office/administration not being able to see front doors. The front door is accessible to anyone who wants to enter the school.

We have received funding for equipment to be in place—to have a buzzer at the front entrance and surveillance camera for the office staff to observe who wants to enter the school.

- Will draft a letter to sent to parents informing them of the changes. This will be forwarded to Barb J-I to be circulated to Hopewell families. This letter may be received better if coming from parents on the council
- We may see a decrease in late arrivals
- We want to be proactive instead of reactive with facing the reality of inner city schools. This is a reasonable expectation
- A top priority for the Safe and Caring Committee
- Melissa Kirkwood found funding for purchase of equipment

There is still an issue with the garage. The cost of a swipe card system is \$5000

(B. Johnston lafelice) met with Carmen, who stated that the garage can be outfitted. The administration can have an in-service with Carmen

The security issue was raised of the side door open for 6h when day care children are in the building (before and after school). This may be a safety issue in conjunction with the garage door.

(B. Johnston lafelice) All of the above is within reason during instructional time (school hours)

- We will look at year end and financial considerations have a formal financial proposal, and will be pursued in more detail
- Playground equipment and boxes have been ordered. Busy kids engage in less hurtful behavior to others.

Mentorship

Ongoing programs at Hopewell in partnership with Big Brother's/Big Sisters—a focus is on support of positive social and emotional development through mentorship.

12. Chair Report

Read-a-thon

- Runs for 2 weeks 28 Apr-9 May

Intermediate Mini Conference (with Kelly Harrison)

- Tentative date 5 May
- Workshops on Nutrition
- Open House 1:30-2:30

- Safe & Caring Committee
- Literacy
- Workshops for intermediate students with community presenters

This is a celebration of literacy, working together—looking for volunteers

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

- 17 June
- need volunteers to set up and coordinate activity (0700h setup)
- could utilize Kerry Duffy or Kettleman's catering

Year-end BBQ

- 4 June
- BBQ is booked
- Exact same format as last year
- Introduce pizza line to offset burger line-ups

Chairperson replacement

- Need to consider replacing Chair. We need to assemble a nomination committee

Staff retirement

- Need to organize gifts for departing staff
- Place in ParentSpeak that we are looking for volunteers

Meeting adjourned 2100h

