



Central Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

75 Hunter Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1P9
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PRINCIPAL: T. Hamill

www.hwdsb.on.ca/central

October 10, 2018 School Council Meeting

Present:

Mohammad Kibria (Chair), Tannis Hamill (Principal), Sara Flavelle (Teacher Representative / Secretary), Barb Stares (Community Representative), Melike Yilmaz (Parent Representative), Cynthia Boodo (Parent)

Welcome, Introductions, Approval of Agenda

- all attending wrote their name and contact information (phone number, email) on a page, Tannis to email everyone so we can easily continue to contact one another if needed

Elections / Positions

- Mohammad Kibria is the new Chair of our Parent Council
- no Vice-chair due to small group
- Barb Stares will continue to be Community Representative
- Sara Flavelle will continue to be Teacher Representative / Secretary
- Melike Yilmaz will continue to be a Parent Representative
- Tannis Hamill will continue to attend as Principal of Central School

Principal Report

- September
 - start-up has been great
 - we now have 5 Full Day Kindergarten classes (with 2 educators in each – a teacher and a DECE: Early Childhood Educator), each FDK class has 23-24 students which is the number allowed for us because we are a high priority school, many FDK classes in Hamilton have approx. 30 students
 - we also now have a third portable
 - reorganization (end of Sept.) produced no changes for us at Central (no new classes added or closed) and so classes will remain the same, the reorganization process occurs with the involvement of the Superintendent and the Principal of a school and is based on the number of students attending
- Newsletters
 - now on the school website instead of being sent home on paper, parents may request a paper copy if they wish, a synvoice message went out informing parents about this
 - suggestions: put a link onto a message for parents to lead them to the newsletter, or have parents 'subscribe' to the newsletter, however this may require a parent email list to be inputted manually (labour intensive for office staff)
 - there will always be a monthly calendar displayed on the website month usually along with a newsletter depending on what is happening



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- Volunteers

- information was given at a meeting on Meet the Teacher night (5 people attended),
- more volunteers are welcome at our school to help read to and with students and/or to assist during school trips, please encourage anyone interested to come to the office to ask for more information about volunteering and the required police check (vulnerable sector)
- note: we also encourage parents to read to their children in their first language at home as well as English

- School Annual Plan

- we have been gathering data about the students (especially in reading using the DRA – Diagnostic Reading Assessment), some students have moved up level(s) and some have regressed due to summer vacation
 - Kindergarten to Grade 3: students are assessed 3 times a year (Sept./Oct., Feb. and June), Grades 4 and 5 students are assessed Fall and Spring
 - this data guides our instruction as we work through cycles of continuous learning
 - teachers also use Comprehensive Literacy: instruction in reading and writing that is a gradual release towards independence (modelled, shared, guided, independent)
 - Kindergarten students do not receive a formal Language or Math mark but teachers look at screeners in these areas to assess how well the students are achieving

- Nutrition Break

- we eat first and then go outside, two Nutrition Breaks
- Kindergarten has a slightly different schedule that includes more time for outdoor play

- Drills

- 3 fire drills completed so far this year (1 with an evacuation chair), 3 more will be done in the Spring
- Lockdown drill scheduled for Oct. 24 (1 done each term)
- drills to be done later this year as well:
 - Shelter in Place: environmental situation, keep everyone inside the school with fans off/windows closed, normal operations inside
 - Hold and Secure: situation outside in neighbourhood, everyone stays inside with outer doors secured, most operations inside continue, movement within the school is reduced
 - Bomb Threat: evacuate building and staff watch for unusual objects (being aware of and sensitive to students who have experienced trauma due to war in home country)

- Fund Raising

- \$300 was raised last year (some from from Spirit days like beach day, pajama day etc. but mostly from the Bazaar), money was used for 3 pizza days
- currently we do not have a teacher rep. to lead the organization of Spirit days
- we haven't been running bigger fund raiser events lately
- some bigger events have not been organized as in the past, perhaps due to challenges arising from a growing population



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- we do get a small amount of money from renting out spots in our parking lot, but only 2 spots can be used for this now due to increase in school staff
- hoping to one day have work done in the Kindergarten yard, asphalt repair and improvements to the sandy area on the playground, these are things that would require larger amounts of money to accomplish
- there are funds available for special events (information night, guest speakers etc.), Tannis will look into this to see if we need to apply for these funds or if they are automatically given every year, we have not used these funds in recent years

Chair Report – no report today

Teacher Report

- Progress Reports
 - teachers are learning how to use a new program for writing report cards called Power Teacher Pro, it has been challenging at times but teachers are working hard to get started with writing Progress Reports, which go home on Oct. 30
- Fall Events
 - E.S.L. withdrawal groups have begun for all grades
 - cross country team (Grades 3, 4 and 5) went to the meet on Tues Oct. 9, lots of fun including the bus ride
 - swim team tryouts are on Mon. Oct. 15 – Grades 3, 4 and 5, students who are able to swim in the deep end
 - playground equipment is out at recess, including 3 soccer balls designated for grade groups (Gr. 1&2, Gr. 3, Gr. 4&5), student helpers bring out and return bins where the equipment is kept
 - choir practices have begun (Grades 2-5), rehearsing a song they will present at the Remembrance Day Assembly
- Raz Kids
 - Raz Kids is an app that has a wide variety of levelled books (K-Gr. 8) that students can listen to, read, record for teachers to hear and complete quizzes about, students earn stars to build a robot or a spaceship, they can use it at school or at home
 - classroom teachers will soon be receiving their own Raz Kids account (36 students per account), 2 of the ESL teachers have been using it for a few years and we have just ordered 10 new accounts for classroom teacher use (Grade 1-5), FDK teachers will be able to use the extra accounts that classroom teachers will have left over from their 36 student spots

Other Business

- Bazaar
 - done over 2 days
 - this year we would like to ask parents to contribute/donate more items to be sold
 - looking for lightly used toys, decorations, books, jewellery etc. (Dollar store type items)



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- no pointy/sharp items, toy weapons or potentially dangerous items, volunteers and Tannis or designate teacher can check over the items for sale before students come to buy
- tentative dates: December 11 and 12
- due to lack of storage space, we would ask parents to drop off items for sale the night before or the morning of the Bazaar
- volunteers can staff a table if they have a police check
- students come with their classes one class at a time to buy items
- Tannis and Barb will work on a blurb about the Bazaar to go in the November newsletter
- next meeting we can brainstorm about what we would like to do with the money brought in from the Bazaar

Tentative Future Meeting Dates

Wed. Nov. 14
Wed. Jan 16
Wed. Feb. 13
Wed. Mar. 27
Wed. Apr. 24
Wed. May 22

Next meeting: Wednesday November 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.