



Central Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

75 Hunter Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1P9
Phone: 905.522.9690
Fax: 905.522.9801

EMAIL: central@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: T. Hamill

www.hwdsb.on.ca/central

October 9, 2019 School Council Meeting

Present:

Mohammad Kibria (Chair)	Melike Yilmaz (Parent Representative)
Tannis Hamill (Principal)	Cynthia Boodo (Parent)
Sara Flavelle (Teacher Representative/Secretary)	Matt Calvano (Parent)
Barb Stares (Community Representative)	Christine Sandor (Parent)
Darlene Scott (Public Health Nurse)	Erin Jaggard (Parent)
	Darren Barlow (Parent)

Welcome and Introductions

School Council Positions

- Clarification and Information
 - **guidelines for Parent Council** have been created, to be released on Oct. 16 from the Board office
 - if you want to be a regular and voting member of Parent Council you need to submit a **form (from office) to be nominated as a Parent Representative**
 - **Parent Representatives vote** on decisions such as fund raisers and help to run those events, also to contribute a parent voice to issues that affect the school
 - even if you are not a Parent Representative you may attend all meetings and contribute ideas
- Central's School Council Positions for this year
 - Melike Yilmaz will continue as a Parent Representative
 - Parents who wish to become Parent Representatives: Christine Sandor, Cynthia Boodo, Matt Calvano (nomination forms to be filled out and returned), others are also considering the role
 - Sara Flavelle will continue as Teacher Representative and Secretary, unless any parent wishes to take on the Secretary role
 - Kibria will continue as Chair

Agenda

- please **let Kibria know** via email if there are any items you wish to see on the agenda



Central Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

75 Hunter Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1P9
Phone: 905.522.9690
Fax: 905.522.9801

EMAIL: central@hwdsb.on.ca

PRINCIPAL: T. Hamill

www.hwdsb.on.ca/central

Chair Report

- **Parent Engagement Committee**, let Kibria know if there are any issues you want him to bring forward
- **Parents Reaching Out (P.R.O.) Grant**
 - we did not use it last year (too late to apply and put a plan into action)
 - grant of **\$1500** to be used in some way to **support and engage parents** of students at our school in order to **help students improve academically and improve their well being**
 - grant application needs to be in by **February 2020**
 - no roll over into the next year
 - see Kibria's **grant application draft page** (to be attached to emails)
 - possible ideas include **communication with newcomer parents, mental health, cyber/online safety, healthy living**
 - could involve creating something in **print form** for parents (translated into various languages using a company not Settlement workers) and/or having a **guest speaker come in to hold a workshop** for parents
 - Darlene can share some **translated resources she has from Public Health**
 - consider how to reach and communicate with **broader community as well**, not just newcomers
 - please **be ready to discuss, share** ideas, and offer feedback next meeting
 - please note Kibria's Board email address to come

Principal Report

- Starting up the 2019/2020 school year
 - has been busy but overall **good**
 - some new faces (staff and students) but everyone is settling in
 - **reorganization** has occurred
 - can be difficult but it does help to even out numbers of students in classes
 - we **added a new Grade 3 class** which is currently **using the library until a new portable is built (approximately 6-8 weeks – early December)**
 - may be some safety concerns with students that young in a portable, planning on doing class visits to the washroom and/or having students come inside to use the washroom in pairs
 - our **student population is currently fluctuating between 330 and 336** as kids move in and out, our **population is transient**
 - one of our staff that was Long Term Occasional has been hired onto our staff as Permanent and a **new Long Term Occasional teacher has been hired**



Central Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

75 Hunter Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1P9
Phone: 905.522.9690
Fax: 905.522.9801

EMAIL: central@hwdsb.on.ca

PRINCIPAL: T. Hamill

www.hwdsb.on.ca/central

- **Central School newsletters and calendars**

- can be **found on Central's website** and will also be distributed as a hard copy with a voice mail to let parents know it has published

- watch for calendars sent home from classroom teachers as well

- **Meet the teacher night (Oct. 3) was successful**

- **Volunteers**

- always **looking for more people** to read with kids or go on trips with classes

- we are **considering a volunteer reading program** that would involve training volunteers how to read with kids

- **volunteers require a vulnerable screening police check**, which is valid for 3 years, get a letter from the office to take to the police station to have this done

- criminal record check (declaration) is done the years between the vulnerable screening police checks

- **School Annual Plan** – completed for Superintendent and Director

- **Positive Culture and Well Being**

- goals are set

- Grade 4 and 5 students complete the Middle Years **Survey that asks a variety of questions about bullying and safety**, 92% said that they felt safe and comfortable at school

- students who indicate that they feel unsafe are alerted to the principal and a discussion is conducted with the student to investigate, for some their answer “unsafe” simply because they misunderstood the question

- **Reading: All students reading by the end of Grade 1**

- based on **report card grade (B- or higher)**

- also based on **DRA (Diagnostic Reading Assessment)** level: by the end of Senior Kindergarten (year 2) they should be at DRA level 4

- ELLs (English Language Learners) may not reach this goal because they may be on a **modified ESL program**, if they are being modified for effectively they should be earning a B on the report card

- last year 89% of Grade 1 students received B- or higher, aiming for 75% this year, (Board goal is 65%)

- **Improvement in Mathematics**

- **no diagnostic or standardized test** but focus is **number sense and numeration strand**

- goal is mark of **B- or higher on report card**

- last year had 88% at this level with 12% approaching this level

- keep in mind that some students (ESL, English as a Second Language and/or IEP, Individual Education Plan) have a **modified program**

- goals are set in November, February and June with certain target students



Central Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

75 Hunter Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1P9
Phone: 905.522.9690
Fax: 905.522.9801

EMAIL: central@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: T. Hamill

www.hwdsb.on.ca/central

- teachers look at data together and work to push students forward to a higher level using planned strategies and reflection
- Central has a strong, talented staff of teachers that work very hard, together and individually, to support our unique culturally diverse population
- EQAO data
 - **caution is needed when examining EQAO data** online and comparing schools because the composition of a schools' populations will vary, (ESL or IEP students, number of Grade 3's writing, number of exemptions), which will affect the scores
- Nutrition
 - during our two Nutrition breaks we eat for 20 minutes and then go outside for 20 minutes, Kindergarten schedules may vary
 - our school is considered a target school for several reasons (for example, nutrition concerns and high ESL population) however, when they looked at the data Central is included in a ward where there are schools with more nutrition concerns than here – **the lunches of the majority of our students are actually quite healthy**
- Drills
 - **completed 4 drills so far** this year: 3 fire drills and 1 bomb threat drill
 - we still need to complete:
 - a **lockdown drill** – possible threat within the school, everyone sits completely quiet, hidden, with lights out and windows covered
 - lockdown drill done with police liaison officer visiting the school
 - a **hold and secure drill** – situation outside in neighbourhood, everyone stays inside with outer doors secured, most operations inside continue, movement within the school is reduced no movement in and out of building, doors locked and windows covered where possible
 - a **shelter in place drill** – environmental situation, keep everyone inside the school with fans off/windows closed, normal operations inside

Report from Darlene Scott – Public Health Nurse

- Darlene will be attending our School Council meetings
- this is her second year at Central, she is **at Central on Mondays**
- she also supports Westdale and Bennetto Schools plus five other contact schools
- see the flyers that were handed out at the meeting, Tannis also has them on USB (Information about how Public health Nurses support school communities)
 - including dental screenings and vision screenings, dates for this year to come, will be put in newsletter
- **Central Cares Club** (started last year)
 - small group of students working together with Darlene, and this year Mr. Ordowich, to **think of and implement ways to improve school positive culture**



Central Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

75 Hunter Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1P9
Phone: 905.522.9690
Fax: 905.522.9801

EMAIL: central@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: T. Hamill

www.hwdsb.on.ca/central

and well being, such as random acts of kindness, bullying prevention (W.I.T.T. – Walk away, Ignore, Tell them stop, Tell a caring adult) etc.

- teachers recently recommended certain students that have leadership qualities or leadership potential and **twenty-one Grade 4 and 5 students attended the first meeting this year**

- they will begin to share ideas next meeting (Mondays during a Nutrition break)

- Club began earlier this year than last year

Teacher Report

- Teachers are working with students to **establish routines** in classrooms
- Central has received **some newcomer students** this year from a variety of different countries (Cameroon, Bangladesh, Sudan) and **some students have also moved**
- successful whole school **Terry Fox Run** was held on Sept 23
- **Cross Country Meet** (Grades 3-5) was moved to tomorrow (October 10) due to rainy weather last week
- **Swim Team** (Grades 3-5) is practicing for the Meet on November 12
- **Choir** (Grades 2-5) is practicing for the Remembrance Day assembly
- **Parent Teacher Interviews** are being held on November 7 and 8
- **Raz-Kids** (levelled reading books – Kindergarten to Grade 8) accounts have been assigned to classroom teachers for use with students at school and home, students use a teacher username and their individual passwords to access books at their level

Other Business

- **Updated teacher list** to be found online soon
- **New teacher information in June?**
 - it may make it easier and less confusing on the first day of school
 - **no, we don't release this information in June** to avoid issues that may occur in the last weeks of June
 - a lot of time and thought is put into **class building** by our whole staff, many different factors are considered carefully in this process, so we ask that parents and students try the class placement their child has been given and let things settle before they think about a class change
- Will **tree stumps** near new portable be **removed?**
 - they may be removed when asphalt work is done around the new portable, but if not Tannis can put in a work order to have them removed
- **Garden**
 - if parents wish to visit garden, **please check in** with office first
 - possibly put up a **reminder sign** about respecting our garden (no litter etc.), but this may be difficult to enforce



Central Elementary School

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

75 Hunter Street West
Hamilton, Ontario L8P 1P9
Phone: 905.522.9690
Fax: 905.522.9801

EMAIL: central@hwdsb.on.ca

PRINCIPAL: T. Hamill

www.hwdsb.on.ca/central

-
- Tannis and police work to keep trespassers away (homeless) and Gary (custodian) does a grounds check early every morning
 - please inform the office if you notice anything wrong in the garden

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.