

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

April 4, 2022

Attendance:

Rachel Smith
Catherine Scott
Amber Wilson
Emily Coe

Meaghan Ollmann
Michelle MacIntosh
Kathy Compton-Morgan
Holly Silenzi

Sarah Marsden
Mrs. McGowan
Mrs. Del Mastro
Mr. Puley

Upcoming meeting dates 6:30pm

May 16, 2022

Last Meeting Minutes approved by Brittany Tolsma

Principal Report

- **Construction update** – 8 rooms are now totally completed. We are on pause now due to supply chain issues again. We have a delivery of more HEPA filters expected, we do have working HEPA filters in every classroom already
 - Q** – How are teachers finding the new installed units?
 - A** – The wind that comes out of them is pretty powerful, hard to stand in front of. They are loud. The units are large, floor to ceiling. It is a ventilation unit to clean the air, but it is also now our heating and air conditioning. The boiler system is no longer in use, which is good, that system was quite old. This new system is better for consistent heat and cooling. It is not controlled in classrooms. Once all are installed it will be wired in and controlled by the board. We won't have access to change the temperature in individual rooms. It will be set to a consistent safe temperature. If there are any issues, they will have access to turn it off if needed.
- **Kindergarten pen update** – The planned cost is already at \$95,000 with an additional \$30,000 expected to be needed for the drainage issues. They are going to go ahead with this. Project likely to be started in the summer
- **New phone system** – End of February was installed, ours was quite dated. All staff members now have their own extensions. If you need to contact a teacher, you can do that directly. They will get a voicemail and it will go to their email as well. There are a few other features, mostly important for school use.
- **Outdoor PA system** – We don't have a working PA system for outside, for emergency purposes we should have one in the event we need to call outside. We are looking to get this installed.
- **EQAO** – All schools going forward with EQAO testing. It looks different this year; the assessments are all done online. Testing for students in Grade 3 and 6. It is very game-like, so it is appealing to students. Assessments for language and math components. It will still be completed over 4 sessions. They have provided a lot of features for all students to access for accommodations like speech to text, highlighting, read to me features etc... Ministry and board have provided learning sessions for teachers. There is some in school training. We will need the newest version of iPads for this program to work properly. We do have new iPads, we had purchased some and are expecting more to arrive. Visit the EQAO website if you want more information. There are practice sessions on there. Teachers have been looking at this with students for practice. Plan is to do EQAO the first week of June. Then the next week can be for any catch up
- **Graduation** – Venue booked at Hill Park on Monday June 20th. Hill Park is close, and it has a beautifully renovated auditorium. It is expected to be able to share this event with families. More info coming as plans are made...
- **Picture Day** – Correction, will be held April 22. A school messenger notice will go out to families this week. This is for both grad pictures and retakes.

- **Snack program** – Started a few weeks ago. Run by Miss Eustace. This year we are doing 2 days, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. Every classroom gets quite a large bin of food. A fruit and a grain are included, eventually we will get yogurts as well. This is open to everyone. Kids have really enjoyed this in the classrooms. Will continue throughout the rest of the year
- **Fridge** – We are down to one fridge; we do need to purchase a 2nd fridge before we can run our milk program. We are going to wait until the new year for the milk program due to this. Plan to purchase a fridge at the end of this school year so that it can be up and running for these programs for next year
 - Q** – Can a fridge be donated if someone is getting rid of one?
 - A** – No, we are looking to get a new fridge with a warranty. There are some restrictions on appliances. There is a bit of a budget set aside for this, as well as some funding through the tastebuds program to share the cost
- **Food days** – No plans for food days so far. We are holding off, especially for April. There have been a lot of changes recently with covid protocols in schools. We want students to be settled with mandate changes etc before introducing this back. Hoping by the end of the year we'll have a pizza day or two.
- **School Trips** – Discussions have happened, we are excited to offer excursions again. Some teachers are planning. We also thought it would be exciting for classes to take advantage of our outdoor education programs. Staff are looking at that, many are in the planning/budget phase. You will hear directly from teachers if something is being planned for your class. Just a reminder that cash online is our preferred payment method. We are encouraging that. Trying to move away from cash in all schools
- **Volunteers** – excited to welcome volunteers back into our schools. All volunteers will need to have the vulnerable sectors checks done. If you are looking to get a police check done it does look like the fee portion for volunteering has been removed. You will need a letter from the school for that. If using the letter from school, you will need to still go into the police station for the fee to be waived. Otherwise, can be done online. All our volunteer checks have expired, so we will need new checks for anyone wanting to volunteer. There are several other forms volunteers will need to complete as well to support events.
- **Open House** – No set date yet. We are excited to have parents get to come in and visit their child's classrooms. Will be between May 2-7. The board normally gives us guidelines, we haven't received that yet. More info to follow.
- **Kindergarten Orientation** – Typically hold it the 2nd week of May. We are in early stages of planning. Excited to say we will have many new JKs coming to Franklin. More info to come.
 - Q** – We fundraise with Mabel's Labels, in the past they have come to this and set up a booth. Can we have them come in? It's always good to have them in for the kinder night, for parents labelling their children's items
 - A** – Yes, we could have them come in for kinder night

Teachers Report:

- **Caterpillar cocoons** - Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Carruthers have ordered these cocoons for all the kindergarten students to enjoy. Happening in May and June.
- **Spring Fling** – The leadership group as well as Ms. Marchand and Ms. Mair. More details to follow. They have already talked about parent volunteers. Mrs. McGowan and Mrs. Noiles have sent out communication to parents, waiting to hear back.
- **Track and Field** – Will be happening for juniors and seniors, starting mid may.

Teacher's Report continued...

- **Open Gym** – Mr. McQueen is starting open gym tomorrow 7:15-8:15 for grades 6-8
- **Autism acceptance and awareness month** – teachers are doing some activities in their classrooms for this
- **Human development and sexual health Curriculum** – parents should be receiving a letter shortly, making sure parents are good to go with this
- **Covid protocols** – Have gone from all to no protocols. Asking parents to be patient with their teachers as information changes. Also, if your child is sick, even with a cold please keep them home.

New Business...

Pro Grant Application

There is an extension on submission dates. We have the option to submit for this year, or is this something we'd like to brainstorm about and look into applying again for next year?

Because this can now be in person it opens some options. Some suggestions were literacy events, online safety...

From Mr. Puley – Most of the time any application you put in will be approved. In the application it helps to be clear we are gearing towards PARENT involvement in our community. This is not for students, but for parents and families. It has been used for ELL with translators and interpreters, family math nights, family literacy nights, ultimately to learn how to support learning in the home. Will share some samples that have been successful in the past.

Rachel - If teachers notice some trends that may be needed for students struggling with certain educational or behavioral pieces that maybe we could use that to come up with an idea to support families. Might be a good idea to set up a poll for what parents are interested in learning about. Could be done via Microsoft Forms with School Messenger, our website and /or Twitter

Can students Bring personal Items to school (Balls, frisbees, chalk etc....)

We discourage bringing personal items to school for a variety of reasons. Risk of being lost, stolen, or broken. This can also lead to conflict amongst students. We don't monitor students' belongings brought into the school. The school would not be liable for anything that might happen to these items. If there are items, we know kids enjoy we can look into purchasing these items. We normally have DPA bags out for student use. We are thinking of how to replenish these items currently. Because of the pandemic we haven't been tracking it as closely as in the past, but it is in the budget, and we will be purchasing items for this school year. We do have many pavement games (example: 4 square) that students may not know how to use. We can look into educating students on these, possibly led by the student leadership group.

Lockers

We are allowed to use lockers now. Some classes opted not to just due to logistics or other reasons

Next meeting – Virtual or in person?

We can send it out as a vote via email

Fundraising

Timing for fundraising – if we could do some fundraising it could help with upcoming end of year trips. We will take a vote through email with what we should move forward with and timing once we get some info back. Below is a list of fundraising ideas that were discussed:

Cinnabon – We can reach out about this one again. This is the one where you would sell a box of Cinnabons for \$13 and the box costs \$10. Making \$3 off every box. It's a paper voucher, so there's no worry of tons of actual boxes to be distributed. An easy option as far as fundraising goes, easy to sort, minimal volunteering needed.

Chocolate bars – We don't think grade 8s are doing this this year. Mrs. Del Mastro will check in with the office to see if they already have plans for a chocolate bar fundraiser. If we do this, we could aim for middle to end of May

Popcorn – The last time we investigated this, Kernels was very backed up and we were going to have to do all sorting off school grounds. Rachel can reach back out to see if that's the case

Spring Fling - Ms. Mair and Ms. Marchand are doing a small fundraiser with selling items at the spring fling dance. Looking at participating divisionally (Primary, Junior, Intermediate) We will make sure there are other activities throughout the school for students who don't wish to join the dance like a movie or cooperative games. Hoping to have it the Thursday before Easter. Mention to Ms. Mair that if she needs items donated to reach out to parent council for support. More info to come.

Bath Bombs Fundraiser – Holly has a bath bomb small business. She has done a fundraiser with Queen Victoria school. They requested a fundraiser with her mini bath bombs. They did this before Christmas, it made them \$700-\$800, With about \$1 from every sale going to the school. Unlikely for this year, but a possibility for next school year.

Meeting adjourned 7:23 pm

Important Emails:

Assistant to Ester Pauls: zora.milovanov@hamilton.ca
Ward 7 Councillor: esther.pauls@hamilton.ca

City of Hamilton bylaw: mle@hamilton.ca
Ward 7 School trustee: ddanko@hwdsb.on.ca