

**George L. Armstrong Elementary School Council**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING held Thursday October 17 2019 6:30 p.m.**

**1. Attendance:**

- Karen Koop (Principal), Aaron Puley (Vice Principal), Jolene Andrews, Dorothy Kamphuis, Leah Senior, Sara De Cloet, Christian De Cloet, Amber Yorke, Julie Carr, Paula Wardle (staff)
- Regrets: Kim Clark

**2. Principal's Report – Ms. Karen Koop**

- **EQAO RESULTS**
  - Full Report of results is available for download at [https://eqaoweb.eqao.com/eqaoweborgprofile/profile.aspx?\\_Mident=4721&Lang=E](https://eqaoweb.eqao.com/eqaoweborgprofile/profile.aspx?_Mident=4721&Lang=E)
  - Our results show improvement in many areas
  - READING: GRADE 3 – 54% at level 3 or 4 (i.e at or above the provincial standard) (up from 30% last year), GRADE 6: 58% at level 3 or 4 (up from 43% last year)
  - WRITING: GRADE 3 – 15% at level 3 or 4, last year was 18% but because of the small number of students this 3% difference accounts for one student., GRADE 6: 58% up from 36% last year
  - MATH: Both improved Grade 3 41% meet the provincial standard vs. 28% last year, Grade 6 15% up from 5%
  - Improved math scores reflect the extra help students received, the shift to core teaching (less rotary) for grades 5 to 8 – ( Gives students more time with their homeroom teacher, less time lost to transitions and physically moving around the large school), as well as the focused professional development in math for gr. 6 teachers
  - Ms. Koop tracked the cohort - 39 students who wrote in grade 6 last year compared to their results when they wrote in Gr. 3 – READING: 15 were at level 3 or higher in Grade 3, now 28 in Gr. 6. WRITING: 14 were at level 3 in Gr. 3, now 24 in Gr. 6 and 2 at level 4. MATH: In Gr 3 11 were at level 3, now 8
  - Ms. Koop's detailed examination of math results show that many questions were not attempted at all – plan to discuss with the Grade 7 students to uncover why they are skipping questions, and ask their advice for this year's Gr. 6s.

**3. Vice Principal's Report – Mr. A. Puley**

- **Eco Schools** - was paused, now back on track – group is in teams with different responsibilities
- **Positive School Climate survey**– Students who feel safe and cared for do well – survey students to find out if they feel a connection with two or more adults in the school. How

do students describe what a caring adult is like? Results will help create a positive culture

- Morning Announcements are now available on the school website – updated daily <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/georgelarmstrong/announcements/>

#### **4. Teachers Report: Ms. Paula Wardle**

- **Leadership Training** – Ms. Hutchison has just started
- **Junior Swim Team** – Grade 3 to 5 – Mr. Scheben
- **Lunch monitors** were shuffled recently
- **Volleyball starting**
- **Football** not available outside at break – students were too rough
- **Technology** – Details re: Fundraising for laptops for student use - HP Stream \$275 per unit - will be imaged by the board for student use – for Junior grades and higher, laptops are easier to monitor than ipads. 25 units were purchased for grades 6- 8 – 5 for each class, learning resource room has 6 units. Ipads are trickling down to younger grades. Grade 7 and 8 need access to both because they have to be proficient in ipad to be prepared for high school
  - Grade 4 & 5 – 4 classes - would like 5 units per class (\$275 x20 = \$5,500) Can be a long term goal i.e. start with 2 class this year and add more next year
  - Do not have quorum to vote tonight - Council can vote by email – Ms. Koop has to submit fundraising plan

#### **5. Fundraising**

- Last year:
- Subsidized class trips (bus costs are high especially outside of the city), class presentations – student enrichment
- Family Engagement – Fun Nights etc., \$500 available parent engagement grant to put toward a guest speaker
- Gym Equipment
- This year: would like to leave flexibility in the report so we aren't tied to percentages – all fundraising dollars will go to “classroom enhancements” including field trips, class presentations, equipment & technology
- Fundraising events run last year to be repeated this year: Bake Sale, Christmas Store, Poinsettia Sales, Samco, Spring Bake Sale, Carnival, Bag 2 School
- Poinsettia Sales Orders will be due Nov 18, Delivery Dec. 3 & pickup Dec. 3 in the small gym 3 to 6 p.m. – should allow 2 weeks for order forms to be out & returned – no cheques accepted this year, must be cash or credit card (Ms. Koop needs one week notice if the school credit card is used because the limit has to be raised)
- Cookbook – quote for colour printing
- Holiday Store: Dec. 4-5 – CYW students are available to help & Ms. Hobden – request donations after Halloween
- Bag2School – plan for April to align with Earth Day
- Kids Perks card - \$19.99 – gives a discount on local businesses – plan for springtime because families could use it over the summer

**6. Family Engagement Ideas**

- Science Show – February
- Speaker for Pink Shirt Day – something to make it meaningful

**7. Pride Day – June** – begin discussing now so it doesn't get overlooked – focus on every day inclusivity & ensuring students experiences are reflected & respected

- Book Display in library – students should read in class about different types of families
- Design your own rainbow flag & talk about why
- Bigger discussion than just a spirit day - Discussion will be ongoing

**8. Bake Sale & Halloween Family Fun Night – October 30**

- Jolene has connected with some non council parents and grandparents who are available to volunteer
- add a note to the website requesting volunteers
- Need ideas for crafts / activities / games for Halloween Family Fun Night – things that can be set up and don't require a lot of oversight
- Mr. Scheben will run Haunted House

**9. Progress Reports Oct 29, Interviews first week of November**