

Helen Detwiler School (Parent) Council- October meeting minutes

October 27, 2022 @ 6:30pm in Library Learning Commons

Present: Mr. Ro (Principal), Mrs. Laws (Vice-Principal), Mrs. White (Teacher representative), Lora Wall (Co-Chair), Jessica Larabee (Member-at-Large), Allison Boyle (Member-at-Large), Heather Smiley-Deneau (Member-at-Large)

Regrets: Amanda Duncan (Co-Chair), Cara Healy (Secretary), Sukhi Dhillon (Member-at-Large)

1. Call meeting to order @ 6:35pm (Heather will take minutes for the meeting)
2. Approval of Minutes- change "Get Real" presentation to be in-person not virtual (Mr.Ro to adjust)
3. Co-Chair Report: no report
4. Teacher's Report:
 - a) Terry Fox Run/Fundraiser was a huge success- surpassed goal and raised \$2004.70
 - b) Cross Country team- grade 3-8 had great day at Christies CA; well behaved students and great results
 - c) Choir has resumed practise and will be performing at Remembrance Day assembly
 - d) RBG trip- 119 students from grade 6-8 attended
 - e) "Get Real" presentation will be in gym on Nov.4 for grade 6-8
 - f) Nov.1st is Comfy Clothes Day- wear loungewear or pjs
 - g) Remembrance Day Ceremony- Nov. 11 @ 11:15am in gym; parents and community members welcome
 - h) Halloween- see memo posted on School website
 - i) Pizza Days- have started and are every Wednesday; \$2.00 per slice; pepperoni or cheese slices
 - j) Mad Science (after-school program)- will start Nov. 7; registration info is on the HWDSB website
 - k) Photo Retake Day- Nov. 30
5. Principal's Report:
 - a) Neighbor to Neighbor reading program has begun (volunteers reading with Gr 1-3 students during class time)
 - b) Public Health Nurse for HD- Alphonse Agregado; will visit each Thursday to support students and staff with Mental Health initiatives
 - c) Roof work is finished- brought up at Sept. meeting the connection between portapak and connecting shelter was missing and that has been addressed and fixed
 - d) Change from ReOrganization- grade 4 students from the 3/4 split class are now able to go out for recess with their peers; then eat in a separate room for supervision

- e) Progress Reports- coming home on Nov.18; meant to be a “snap-shot” of learning so far
 - f) Fundraising: staff are working on a few ideas- talked about what Parent Council can do for fundraising and it was agreed to be discussed further at Nov. meeting (try to bring some ideas with information)
6. Student Council:
grades 6, 7, 8- each class has two class reps and there are two Co-Presidents; also there are two gr.8 students who are regular attendees at the HWDSB Student Senate
7. Community Concerns:
- a) (from Lora)- can pizza be posted on School Cash Online every two weeks instead of a month at a time? (ANSWER: Mr. Ro agrees and will ask Office Admin to see if it’s possible moving forward ie. for December)
 - b) (from Lora)- what’s happening with extracurriculars? Sports teams? (ANSWER: it is dependent on a staff member to coach and there are not staff members who are available)
 - c) (from Lora)- some parents are asking for more frequent communication from the Office/Admin team; suggestion for more frequent Synervoice reminders might be helpful as not all check the website or email/junk mail
 - d) Is it possible to recognize other holidays? (ANSWER: yes of course- the school board does cover this for the most part so we don’t want to duplicate the same message but just be sure to share and talk about different celebrations when they occur ie. have a student read about it on the announcements)
 - e) Many parents are inquiring about volunteering for class trips or for Nutrition program/pizza (ANSWER: parents who are interested in volunteering must pick up a Volunteer Package at the main office and have a VSS (Police check) done along with an interview
8. Additional Business:
- a) (from Mr.Ro) EarlyON has been approved for a beautification grant for their outdoor space
 - b) (from Jessica) the entrance to the “kiss & ride” area is often very congested and it is creating a safety issue for parents who are trying to access the parking lot to drop off their children (ANSWER: Mr. Ro will look into placing pylons so that no one will park in that area between the entrance of the kiss&ride and the parent drop-off parking lot)
9. Adjournment at 7:37pm