



Huntington Park ELEMENTARY SCHOOL *SCHOOL COUNCIL*

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Huntington Park School Council Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm on Thursday, March 21, 2019, in the School Library at Huntington Park School at 80 Kingslea Drive, Hamilton, Ontario.

Roll call was conducted. The following persons were present:

Kelly Bruckner, Sammie Button, Cheryl Cader (arrived slightly late due to conflicting appointment,) Christina Carter, Lee Ann Cook, Sara Haluik, Laura Hill, Heather Knowles, Jennifer Lee, Susan Martin, Crystal Seager, Bethany Skerret, Laura Gedye (Teacher Rep), Pat Petruccelli (Principal)

REGRETS: Cory and Tabitha Downey, Lisa Hammell, Jessica Henderson, Kate Post, Sharon Pynn, Jennifer Smith

ABSENT: Courtney Botelho, Grace Tansley

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

The previous meeting minutes from February 2019 were approved.

10 - approved, 1 - abstained, 0 - denied

III. MATH AWARENESS

Mrs. Tara Bowler and Ms. Chelsea Jacobs were in attendance on behalf of the math department to promote math awareness and help bring some understanding to council members as to how math is currently being taught in Ontario. Mrs. Bowler is one our math teachers here at Huntington Park and Ms. Jacobs is a math facilitator that we share with three other schools. (She is at HP approx. 25% of the time.) For complete notes on this topic, please see the final item of this report.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT – P. Petruccelli

PEOPLE:

- No report*

*Jennifer Lee asked about Mrs. McKinney’s absence (Mr. P. is not privy to the details of why she is off or what her return date is.) Also, Ms. Dowd (EA) is going to be off as of March 29 for medical reasons. (Mr. P. stated that they are finalizing a replacement for Ms. Dowd)

PROGRAM:

- School Annual Plan: This is the current data on our students with respect to our targets as reflected from their report card marks and other assessment tools.
 - Reading
 - Revised Mar 1/19: At least 25 of 38 Grade one students (66 %) will achieve a B or higher on their June 2019 report card.
 - Sept./18: At least 29 of 39 Grade one students (75 %) will achieve a B or higher on their June 2019 report card.
 - Math
 - Revised Mar 1/19: At least 28 of 40 Grade six students (70.0%) will achieve at/above standard on the Grade 6, Junior Division EQAO Assessment of Mathematics.
 - Sept. / 18: At least 17 of 42 Grade six students (40.5%) will achieve at/above standard on the Grade 6, Junior Division EQAO Assessment of Mathematics.
 - Requesting approx. \$1,000.00 for math manipulatives across the school
 - Positive Culture and Well Being: Students feeling safe, supported and accepted
 - Are there two or more adults in your school who you feel care about you?

2018 Middle Years development Instrument Survey 2017-18	School Annual Plan 2018-19 Target	March 2019 Classroom Survey
Grades 4-6 53% answered yes	65%	78%
Grades 7-8 27% answered yes	65%	62%

- Agendas
 - Current Agenda
 - First Class Large Size \$4.85 (US Based Company)

- Hans Agendas Large Size \$4.25 and Small Size \$3.25 (Local Company)
- Grades 1-3 prefer the Large Size: 160 x \$4.25 = \$680.00
- Grades 4-8 would prefer the Small Size: 270 x \$3.25= \$877.50

Spending Request would total \$1557.50

This year's experiment of using the Remind App, etc. did not work out. Small percentage of parents signed up and an even smaller number of parents stuck with it. The staff rethought and decided to have agendas for all grades again. Some of the parents asked if we would be able to get a commitment for the teachers to actually use the agendas if we spend the money? How much dependence is on the students and how much is on the teachers? They are trying to teach independence. In the intermediate grades it becomes harder to make the students comply.

It was decided to wait on voting until the next meeting. Mr. Petruccelli is going to go back to the teachers to discuss how this will play out.

- FDK Levelled Readers
 - Mrs. Martin prefers to continue with RAZ-Kids with her class. The other three FDK teachers are requesting \$500 per class for new levelled reading books to support the Snuggle Up and Read program.
- Math Team
 - requesting \$1015 for program MathUps for ten teacher users (covers grades 1 – 8)

Funds to purchase a variety of new Math Manipulatives has also been requested but has been deferred to the next meeting for approval. Manipulatives include shapes, ten blocks, snap cubes, new type protractors, mirrors, fractions manipulatives, etc. Laura Hill brought up the point that if our students are effectively taught how to use manipulatives, they can be made accessible for the EQAO testing and students can elect to use any or all of the manipulatives, provided that they have a working knowledge beforehand of how to utilize these tools.

PLANT

- Buddy Benches
 - Our staff is supporting the purchasing of a buddy bench for the spring.

IV. TEACHERS' REPORT (Laura Gedye)

There has been a great transition coming back from March Break.

Basketball: Jr. Boys and Girls Basketball is happening now.

- Cricket: The Cricket Tournament is on March 29th at Redeemer College.
- Swim Team: Senior Swim team will start next Thursday from 3:30-4:30pm (Thurs., March 28 for 5 practices at Huntington Park Rec Centre - Forms are due Friday, March 22.
- Sr Swim Meet: The swim meet will be on Fri., May 3rd from 9:00-12:30pm at Jimmy Thompson Pool.
- Water Polo: Sr. (Boys and Girls Grade 6, 7 and 8) Water Polo Practice - Monday May 13- Huntington Park Rec Centre 3:30-4:30pm. The Tournament will be held on Thursday, May 16 at McMaster Pool from 9am until approx. 12:30pm.
- Orienteering: There will be an Orienteering Meet in April for Grade 6, 7 and 8 students.
- Track and Field: Meet will be in June - Practices will start end of April / beginning of May (depending on weather)
- Sub Day: April 9, 2019 will be sub day to raise funds for Grade Eight Grad. Forms to go home soon. There will be another sub day in June to raise funds for Camp Mini-Yo-We.
- Student Council: Spirit Day (Twin Day) will be at the end of April – Date TBD

Student Council will be attending a Team Development and Leadership Program at McMaster on May 10. It is an interactive day of learning and team building. A great opportunity for our students!

- Open House: Scheduled for Thursday, May 16 in conjunction with Kindergarten Orientation. Student Council is wondering what School Council would like to do for the Open House - last year school council sold pizza with the support of student council - any thoughts for this year?

*In the past they have raised money to donate to charity. We've done a BBQ in the past and then pizza last year. We would like to see if we can find something that is not so labour intensive for the volunteers. The bake sale was really successful. We are happy to support them if they really feel that food is the way to go, but perhaps we can come up with a different idea. We love the idea of having people coming, staying and mingling. It does create a massive amount of work. Discussions will continue.

- Int'l pink day: International Pink Day is on Wednesday, April 10. Information will come home.

Fund Requests:

Music, Drama and Dance - Our students get many performance opportunities while they are here at Huntington Park. We have two choirs, a concert band, dance team, talent shows and winter concerts. We sometimes catch snippets of these performances using iPads or iPhones, but the quality of recording with these is limited. We would like to request school council funds to purchase an HD Camcorder so we can film our rehearsals and performances. Our students will then have the opportunity

to see how their hard work all comes together. The camera will also be a tool for assessment in our performing arts classes and will be available to other staff for drama and other learning opportunities.

Canon VIXIA R83 32GB HD Flash Memory Camcorder with Tripod and Carrying Case - Black
Price \$497.19 including tax (TOTAL)

Bus Request to Canada's Wonderland for Music Festival

Mr. deMan would also like to request funds for a school bus for the glee club and concert band trip to the Canada's Wonderland Music Festival at the end of May – *Approx. \$500*

Mrs. Johnston is requesting funds for sketch books for the intermediate art program print making supplies, such as speed ball carving handles, attachments, etc. to be used to create art to be displayed at the HWDSB Art Exhibit and also four mini, rechargeable Bluetooth speakers that the students will use in dance and drama workshops in small groups. – *Approx. \$675*

Mr. Resovac has a Physical Education fund request for multi-purpose school shirts for team events for students to wear for a variety of sports. He will have an exact quote for the April meeting but approx. \$1000 for 40-50 shirts.

Junior Division Science Team is requesting funds for science materials:

15 Ajax Scientific Plastic Tubular Spring Scale 100g/10N Weight Capacity from Amazon

Cost : $\$7.50 / \text{unit} \times 15 = \112.50

15 Triple Pulley Wheels from Scholars Choice

Cost: $\$4.75 \times 15 = \71.25

15 Double Pulley Wheels form Scholars Choice

Cost: $\$3.75 \times 15 = \56.25

15 Single Pulley Wheel for Scholars Choice

Cost $\$2.69 \times 15 = \40.35

Total with tax: \$316.80 - will look into shipping cost

FDK Outdoor Shade Request. We have a Kindergarten yard that is fenced in and has a grass area and a paved area. We love to be outside and would like a structure to provide some shelter for students when the weather is hot. In Spring and Summer months, we often have to cut our time outside short because the students are exposed to the elements - namely, the sun. Mrs. Martin has written a grant proposal that was submitted yesterday to construct a shade structure in our kindergarten yard. She isn't sure when she will find out when it will be approved or denied. If it is approved, they will not require any funds and the cost will be covered by the grant. However, if the grant is denied, they would like to place a request for a temporary structure.

The cost would be *approx. \$400*.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT (Heather Knowles)

Huntington Park School Council Treasurer's Report							
March 2019 - submitted by Heather Knowles, Treasurer							
Projected Funds		Actual Funds	Variance	Projected Expenditures		Actual Exp	Variance
MacMillans	\$5,000.00	\$4,378.05	-\$621.95	Benches	(2000)0	\$1,972.30	\$27.70
Holiday Baskets	\$4,000.00	\$3,932.73	-\$67.27	Sensory Board	\$2,000.00	still pending 0	\$0.00
Chocolate	\$8,000.00	\$0.00		Baseball Equipment	(225.92)0	\$225.92	\$0.00
Dance-a-thon	\$4,000.00	\$4,635.20	\$635.20	Balls for recess	\$350.00		
Pizza	\$5,000.00	\$4,093.51		Buses for Cross Country	(350)0	\$248.60	\$101.40
Spirit Wear	\$120.00	\$428.88	\$308.88	JK/SK Bikes	(2000)0	\$2,171.65	-\$171.65
Total	\$26,120.00	\$17,468.37		Holiday Baskets	(600)0	\$585.02	\$14.98
				Dance-a-thon	\$1,100.00	\$869.05	\$230.95
				Chocolates	\$500.00		
				Mt Albion Volleyball	(240) 0	\$240.00	\$0.00
				Scientist in the Classroom	(2500) 1930	\$570.00	
				Bus for Swim Meet	\$150.00		
				Projected Outstanding Expenditures	\$5,080.00		
				*amounts in brackets have been pd			
Balance forward	\$23,557.83						
Still outstanding	\$5,080.00						
Final Balance	\$18,477.83						

VI. FUNDRAISING REPORT (Cheryl Cader)

Valentine's Day Dance-A-Thon: The kids had a great time. It was lots of work but it is well worth it because the students and staff had a blast. We raised \$4,635.20 which was slightly more than we predicted. However, the other fundraisers fell slightly short of our predictions, we are still on target for the year. There was a small issue returning some of the food items. We were told that we could return them, and we can. However, the Walmart policy is that they refund the money and throw all of the food away. Therefore, we decided to keep the \$100 in left over chocolate bars and plan to use them for one of our next fundraisers.

World's Finest Chocolate: Our Chocolate campaign kickoff assembly is on April 2 and sales begin on April 4. The grand prize is a Nintendo Switch which has already been purchased. We need volunteers

to help. We are going to try to limit collection to Mon, Wed and Fri. only to relieve some of the demand on our volunteers.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

High School Preparedness: (Cheryl Cader) This is an issue that has been talked about among parents and students in grade 9 and 10. The students and parents report feeling unprepared and overwhelmed by the amount of homework in high school, the type of work, a lack of understanding of the material and say that they feel lost. There are many students who were honour roll students, valedictorians, medallion winners, principal's award winners, etc. among the students who reported feeling shocked on the first day of grade nine. Kids that previously breezed through school and never seemed to have homework are suddenly struggling to keep their heads above water with daily homework, multiple tests and assignments. Some of the students report having homework in three out of four classes, nightly. The majority of homework is assigned as homework and does not represent work not completed in class. Christina Carter works in a pediatric healthcare setting and says that her two oldest children also struggled in grade nine and ten. In addition, she reports that in her workplace, she sees lots of different children from across the region. Many of the kids are struggling with the transition to high school. They see a rise in anxiety in kids starting high school and the overwhelmed feeling is a sentiment that seems to be echoed all across the region.

Mr. Petruccelli stated that two years ago, the board created the role of "Student Success Teacher." That person is the link to transitions from grade eight to grade nine. They also have a Numeracy person and a Literacy person and they are trying to address some of what we are discussing. From the standpoint of trying to get the grade 7-8 expectations and work ethic to match the grade 9-10 ethics and expectations. It is a work in progress.

VIII. SPENDING:

Canada's Wonderland Bus for glee club and concert band \$500:

Voting Results: 12 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained

Science Materials request \$350:

Voting Results: 12 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained

Camcorder \$500:

Voting Results: 12 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained

The FDK Book request (3 x \$500) \$1500:

Voting Results: 12 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained

Postponed for next meeting: Math Manipulatives, Agendas, Art Supplies, Athletic Shirts, shade structure, Mathups subscription

The buddy bench was discussed again. It appears that when the fundraising plan for the year was submitted to the Board, the buddy bench was included as were attempting to map out projected funds and projected expenditures. How does this translate to actual spending as the year morphs and progresses? The pie chart from October was discussed and Sammie has taken this on for the next meeting. She will determine how much has been spent, how much is still going to be spent and what percentage of our pie spending has been met.

IX. UPCOMING SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Thursday, April 25, 2019

Thursday, May 23, 2019 (Last meeting)

Next School Council Meeting: Thurs., April 25, 2019 at 6:30pm in the School Library.

All are welcome!

The Huntington Park School Council Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm on Thursday, March 21, 2019, adjourned at 8:21pm.

Minutes submitted by: Jennifer Lee

MATH AWARENESS PRESENTATION SUMMARY:

Mrs. Bowler: Math has changed so much in Ontario in the last ten years. We used to think of math as very fixed thinking. There was a way to do things, an algorithm, and it was fixed. You learned and then executed. We started experimenting with noticing, naming and strategies-based teaching where we

explore a number of different strategies, all of which are student led. Strategies that make sense for one, do not necessarily makes sense for all. Through conversations and collaborative learning, kids can identify a strategy that works for them and then have the opportunity to share that strategy with others. Through discussions we are able discover lots of strategies and then examine the methods for efficiencies in our thinking. If we are multiplying one by one numbers, some kids will use repeated addition until they come to the answer whereas other kids may use a formula or an equation to arrive at the same answer. We would call the latter of the two a more efficient way of thinking. Both answers are correct but one of the methods, but one took less time or was easier.

One of the programs that we are using this year is called “Math Up” which is a great visual program and encourages the use of manipulatives.

In Ontario, we are using three-part lessons. The three parts are 1) Minds On 2) Action 3) Consolidation.

Minds On would be something quick, a conversation with a partner, independent thinking, a picture, etc.

Action may be coming together as a class to share their thoughts

Consolidation which is the “meat” of the lesson.

Mrs. Bowler showed an example of a picture of a yellow and a blue triangle and the students were asked to move the yellow triangle to the blue triangle. (Action) They were given, tracing paper, scissors, mirrors, protractors and use them to manipulate the shapes to determine how to move the shapes using combinations and then asked to do it again with a different combination. (Consolidation) Then they came back together and bring the students back to the central focus or big idea. The purpose is to get the kids communicating using mathematical reasoning and mathematical terms. E.g., rotated 90 degrees counterclockwise, or it reflected over a mirror line on a certain point.

Ms. Jacobs: There is also a practice piece that comes afterward so that the kids can practice the concepts that they’ve mastered and become more confident.

Mrs. Bowler: Another tool that we use is the EQAO website. Practice for EQAO starts in the first week of school. There is a link to our math resources on the school website. Based on scores from the previous two years of EQAO testing, we determined that our kids are not performing in multiple choice questions as well as we had hoped they were and so as a staff, we are focusing on multiple choice questions and get them prepared to write the test so that we are always exposing the students to the types of questions that they will see on EQAO testing and that will help to reduce their anxiety as the approach testing time. Additionally, we are focusing on application questions. Examples of EQAO questions, along with a scoring guide can be found on the website. They are practiced at least once per week in the junior division.

Mr. Petrucci: What happened to skill and drill, knowing your times tables, et cetera?

Mrs. Bowler: If a student masters a concept after three questions, we found that we weren't expanding their thinking if we then had them do 30 similar questions. I like to think of math as expanding them to be real world thinkers, critical thinking, collaboration, inquiry, looking at real world problems so that they are prepared to exist in the real world. The skill and drill method doesn't allow for multiple entry points and multiple ways of thinking. It doesn't allow for expanding horizons in terms of thinking. In all classes, there are kids who are not at the grade level, either above or below and the skill and drill method really isolates those kids. For example, if you're timing kids on multiplication questions, there is a lot of pressure as to who will be first, who will get them all right, etc. To build confidence and skills, in Ontario, we have really moved away from that type of teaching. The goal is always to have them master the skills from the beginning. As a parent, I could choose to teach my own children the drill method, but as a teacher, I don't feel that there is room in the class for that anymore with the way the curriculum is designed.

Ms. Jacobs: When the focus is strictly on memorization, I could in theory, memorize all of my times tables but when presented with a test that isn't just a multiplication test, I would panic because I didn't know how to apply those skills. So, I could recite my times tables but in a word problem not be able to figure out if I was actually supposed to multiply. So that is where the "real world" part of the lesson comes in to play.

There are many additional math supports available via the school website.

Go to the Huntington Park Website, click on Math Supports, click on Additional Supports. There are many links that can assist your child with math.

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/huntingtonpark/math-supports/hwdsb-math-helps/>

The EQAO website shows test questions from the last five years of testing and shows the different levels of tests, i.e., grade three, grade six, and grade nine.

<http://www.eqao.com/en> click on "The Assessments," click on "Examples of the Assessments"

The EQAO site also give you language as well as mathematics. There are examples of test questions and if you go into the scoring guides, you can see how the answers are scored. For example, if you came up with the correct answer but made a miscalculation, a student would still get partial marks if they have shown the process correctly, e.g., "minor error in the application of procedures."

Lee Ann Cook: Do you recommend a child in grade 7 or 8 looking ahead to the grade nine or going back to the grade 6 assessment?

Chelsea Jacobs: I think you could do both. The grade six EQAO is a junior test based on knowledge of grades 4, 5 and 6 so depending on if they are struggling, certainly go down to the six and see if they've mastered that, if they are looking to extend their learning and their thinking, looking ahead to the grade nine would be great. Then you can also see as a parent and a student what things are going to be

applicable in grade nine. Patterning and fractions are important in grade 9 but place value isn't as it should have already been mastered. It will help you to see where they need to get to as well.

A Parent's Guide to the Fundamentals of Math: Gives information regarding the math curriculum and suggestions for augmentation. Including math in your daily lives at home is very helpful. Baking, computer games, math with money. Asking your kids, "If I pay with \$20.00, how much change am I going to get?" Involve kids in everyday math problems, including in the home and in the car, not just in the classroom.

TVO Mathify Blog: Ministry funded, free 1:1 math tutoring for grade 7-10 by Ontario certified teachers available through chat or text, Sun – Thurs 5:30pm-9:30pm. Can also be done interactively through an online whiteboard. You can take a picture of the homework page that you're struggling with and they can have a conversation and actually show you how to solve it. Teachers have the option of uploading things to it as well, if they choose. It is anonymous and secure. Everything is recorded so that they can see where kids are struggling. All that's needed is the OEN number which is on your child's report card.

That Quiz: If you do have an interest in the skill and drill style of learning. It is timed and you can practice. You choose your level and choose what you are trying to learn. Addition, multiplication, integers, fractions, time, money, etc.

EduGains: This is a gap closing resource for students needing additional supports. There is a Facilitator's Guide as well as Student Books. This is something that high school teachers have used to identify areas of struggle for students entering grade nine. For example, representing fractions. If you click on the student book, you will be given questions for practice including some additional real-life examples. If your child struggles, you can go to the facilitators guide to get information on why they might be struggling as well as some ideas about the types of intervention you can provide.

Mathies: It has an introductory video followed by a variety of different interactive activities. Fractions, integers, etc.

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/elementary/supports/mathematics-parent-resources/>

Under supports/mathematics click on "change in teaching", to find a video that helps clarify the changes. There is a second video under the "student learning" section as well.

The question was asked if we, as a school, find out where our kids are not doing well on EQAO? Do we get the tests back?

Mr. Petrucci: No. They release a section of the test called individual responses. From there, they try to glean the patterns. They had Trish Tapp, EQAO student officer, come in to help the junior team understand where the patterns were in previous years compared to last year. Over the course of years, we have been having the same patterns of errors in multiple choice and application questions. Those are the areas that we are focusing on.

Math a huge topic and this is just a taste to get our feet wet. This is a long-term task. Mr. Petruccelli will be putting out more information on the weekly news via the website, etc. The idea is that you feel comfortable at home when your child comes home with something that they don't understand.

We extend our thanks to Mrs. Bowler and Ms. Jacobs for taking the time to present this information.