



Huntington Park ELEMENTARY SCHOOL *SCHOOL COUNCIL* *Meeting Minutes*

Date: Thursday, November 14, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Huntington Park School Council Meeting was called to order at 6:38pm on Thursday, November 14, 2019, in the School Library of Huntington Park School at 80 Kingslea Drive, Hamilton, Ontario.

Roll call was conducted. The following persons were present:

Jennifer Bain, Sammie Button, Cindy Bourassa, Cheryl Cader, Tabitha Downey, Marion Garrido, Sara Haluik, Laura Hill, Jennifer Lee, Susan Martin, Mark Mundell, Crystal Seager, Julie Wiltshire (Today's Family Rep), Spencer de Man (Teacher Rep), Pat Petruccelli (Principal)

GUEST SPEAKER: Ms. Deanna MacKinnon, Teacher Librarian

REGRETS: Breanne Graham, Tracy Hunter, Ashley McLean, Courtney Botelho, Bethany Skerrett, Jessica Henderson

ABSENT: Hazel Cabrerros, Lisa Hammell, Heather Knowles

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

The previous meeting minutes from October 2019 were approved.

13 – approved, 0 - abstained, 0 - denied

III. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – P. Petruccelli

PEOPLE:

- No report

PROGRAM:

- Inventory taken of all technology in our school
- We have redistributed the mini iPads to support School Annual Plan, Grade 1 reading, G3 and 6 Math, G4-8 Literacy and Equity.
- 48 Netbooks were purchased by School Council and have now been reimaged to meet Board standards.
- These are in the process of being labelled and will be deployed to grades 4 to 8 classrooms on Monday.

SCHOOL ANNUAL PLAN:

- With the Progress Reports written, here is our growth to date:
- Goal 1 Reading: At least 44 of 55 Grade 1 students (80%) will achieve a B or higher on their June 2019 report card.
- Goal 2 Math: At least 18 of 51 Grade 6 students (35%) will achieve at/above standard on the Grade 6, Junior Division EQAO Assessment of Mathematics.
- Our Junior Teacher have begun the Board professional development using the Continuous Learning and Improvement Process (CLI). The focus for the CLI math PD is small group targeted instruction in number sense and numeration. We are also exploring math centres. Each team has chosen a diagnostic to administer and use to determine next steps for our small groups. These marker students will then be re-assessed using the diagnostic tool and we will compare their thinking at our next meeting. It is hoped that we will also develop a bank of math centres as a team for each of us to use in our math program.
- Goal 3 is 75% of Grade 4 to 8 students indicating they have two or more important adults at the school. Last year, our target was 65% and we were able to reach that goal.
- It is important that students feel that they have someone safe to talk to about feelings or problems that they might be having. It helps to develop a relationship for a caring school.

PLANT:

- Outdoor Classroom
- The fence has been put into place facing Kingslea Dr. Gate to be installed.
- Attached is the reasoning why the K classes will use this area.
- The fence cost \$5757.35
- I will be applying to TD in January for a grant from TD.

- We have a donation of \$200 from TD Bank thanks to Cindy Bourassa with a hope of securing more donations in the upcoming months. She is hoping that since TD's fiscal year begins again on November 1st, they will perhaps donate more money along with the grant. She is hoping that we will get funding for a large portion of the new yard.
- Therefore, I will be asking for School Council's support in the future to offset a portion of this cost.

Letter from Kindergarten Team:

Dear Pat and School Council:

The purpose of this note is to outline for you some of ways we intend to utilize the "front" school yard; once the fence is in place. We see this space as a place to bring the children to provide them natural shade. We do have a canopy for the back play space but it does not cover nearly the amount of shade that we could use for the kindergarten students. We see this space being used as an outdoor education space. The space will provide us the opportunity to learn about our natural world, enhance our learning about living/growing creatures which fits in with our curriculum. We plan on utilizing this space to further enhance our science experiences. Our hope is to plant a garden where the plants and vegetables will be more protected, study the natural life cycles and wildlife that already lives in this space. We also hope on occasions to move our individual "learning centres" out into this space. (Therefore, not only focus on science but will also incorporate language, math and fine motor skill development.) This space is not expected to be needing any equipment nor storage space. We have all agreed that we would be bringing out our own supplies, based on the interest and use of the front at that time. i.e. clipboards, chalkboards, books etc. As a Kindergarten Team, with 4 Kindergarten classes, we do find it challenging at times to have two classes (approximately 60 students) in the current kindergarten yard at the same time. The space at the front will allow us to have more outdoor time, and less students in each space providing more opportunities for the students to develop their skills. The front space will also allow for more flexibility in following the leads and needs of the students. Currently, we are limited to when we can spontaneously use the one yard.

Thank-you, Kindergarten Team

IV. TEACHERS' REPORT (Spencer DeMan)

Remembrance Day Assembly:

T. Johnston, C. Tondreau, S. de Man, L. Cognigni

The Remembrance Day assembly went very well on Monday. Our students showed their appreciation and respect by working hard to learn and perform heart felt songs and a very moving dance.

Fenced-in Outdoor Learning Area:

S. Martin

The kindergarten classes are super-excited about the new fenced-in outdoor learning area. We are really looking forward to the new opportunities for learning in a natural environment, to increased opportunities to be outdoors (all 4 classes can be outside at the same time now if desired) and to the increased safety that having an area attached to the building provides. This is such a significant addition to our program and we are thrilled!

Volleyball

O. Resovac

All 4 volleyball teams are wrapping up the season and playoffs start next week.

All 4 teams are playing in the Mt Albion Invitational volleyball tournament Nov 15 & 20 at Dofasco Park. Looking for subsidy for the \$240 entry fee, previously paid for by School Council.

Concert Band and Glee Club

S. de Man

Concert band begins tomorrow and Glee club starts rehearsing on Monday.

Holiday Concert

S. de Man

Classes have begun to rehearse their numbers for the Winter Concert. Information regarding date and time will be up on the school website in the next few days.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT (Cindy Bourassa)

We have cleared the balance from last year and have started the year at zero for Fundraising Dollars.

In the School Council Account, we have about \$33,000 balance forwarding and we have spent about \$8,000 from September 1st to present on items that were already earmarked to be paid out. That brought our total down to approx. \$24,800. Since then, have earmarked approx. \$1,500 for Dance-a-thon, buses, Raz-Kid, as well as \$14, 916 still owing on the netbooks. Leaving just over \$8,000 in the account. The Pizza Account fluctuates greatly. We are hoping to raise approximately \$12,000 this school year.

Sammie reported that the Budget that we prepared for the Board has been submitted.

VI. FUNDRAISING REPORT (Cheryl Cader)

Upcoming Fall/Winter Fundraiser:

Winter Wonderland Dance-a-thon will take place on Friday, December 6. Selling Glowsticks and gathering pledges.

We discussed finding additional items. We could not come up with anything that we really felt was worthwhile doing, other than glowsticks and prize ballots for every \$5 raised.

We are hoping to decorate the gym on the evening of December 5th.

Mabel's Labels (Laura Hill)

Mabel's Labels essentially runs itself. We make approximately 2%-3% profit on sales, but it will also help reduce the amount of Lost & Found items.

They will send pamphlets and we simply need to promote it.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Introduction of Ms. Deanna MacKinnon (Huntington's Teacher Librarian)

Ms. MacKinnon attended the meeting as guest speaker to bring forth the topic of a Library Learning Commons (LLC) at Huntington Park. Tracy Hunter, School Council Member, was unable to attend tonight's meeting but she has done some investigation into this topic and sent a summary of what an LLC is comprised of and also had offered to head a committee if the opportunity was available.

The pros and cons of a Library Learning Commons were discussed and because of the complexity of the discussion, a motion was made by Tabitha Downey to form a Library Learning Commons Committee.

A motion was made and carried to form a LLC Committee with intentions to ask Tracy Hunter to head the committee.

13 approved, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

School Cash Online

Several members of council have asked if School Cash Online could become a more utilized tool for families to pay for trips, fundraisers, etc.

Ms. Russell, in the school office is currently the only person with access to School Cash Online.

It potentially could create more work for Ms. Russell, however, there would be no cash to count or deposits to be made, so it may not necessarily equal more work. School Cash Online is a good way to prevent cash from coming to school, eliminates miscommunication, i.e., students receiving milk instead of pizza.

Currently, very few families are taking advantage of School Cash Online. However, there has been no promotion of School Cash Online at Huntington for several years, so there isn't a way for parents to know about this option. Highview School currently has one office administrator handling all School Cash Online and they do not accept alternate forms of payment.

In order for School Cash Online to be successful, it would need to be promoted.

Mr. Petruccelli is going to do some investigating into transitioning to School Cash Online.

School Fundraising Plan

Sammie talked briefly about the School Fundraising Plan which was submitted at the end of October. It is a document submitted to the board by the school which shows our projections and plans for any and all incoming funds into the school as well as a general plan for spending. It is a very fluid document and is subject to change based on actual monies raised and items purchased.

Bullying Update

The Board is trying to promote Bullying Awareness. There is a need to overhaul the understanding of bullying within the Board and the province. The Board is implementing changes and communicating through staff meetings, PA days, etc. and trying to shift more focus on positive school and well-being. There will be a School Council presentation coming from the board that Mr. P. will be sharing with council when it is available.

Emotional Coaching is part of what is being promoted to staff via the Board.

Several parents shared emotional stories from their personal lives that highlighted the feelings and concerns of students who are being bullied and/or are the aggressors. As well, the impact that behaviours have on all of the students within the classroom.

Mr. Petruccelli stated that he has not had to deal with any major bullying. In his third year at Huntington, he currently has given 44 suspensions. None have been for bullying. Issues arise mainly during break times. Bullying is persistent, repeated behavior which in Mr. P.'s experience hasn't been an issue at Huntington. Restorative Justice and discussions seem to help clear up issues more effectively than suspensions.

There are problems and incidences which are not being reported to the principal. Several Council Members had knowledge of issues that have arisen within the school that have not been officially

reported for various reasons. Mr. Petruccelli would like to encourage families of students to bring concerns to him directly.

VIII. SPENDING

\$240 for Volleyball Tournament Fees

12 approved, 0 opposed, 1 abstained

IX. UPCOMING SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Next School Council Meeting: Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 6:30pm in the School Library. It may not be a standard meeting as we are planning to decorate the gym that night for the Dance-a-thon happening on Dec. 6th. All are welcome! Helping Hands will be needed!

Thursday, January 9, 2020

Thursday, February, 6, 2020

Thursday, March 5, 2020

Thursday, April 2, 2020

Thursday, May 7, 2020

The Huntington Park School Council Meeting was called to order at 6:38pm on Thursday, November 14, 2019, adjourned at 8:19pm.

Minutes submitted by: Jennifer Lee