



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

Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2020

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Huntington Park School Council Meeting was called to order at 6:02pm on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 online through MS Teams

Roll call was conducted. The following persons were present:

Susan Martin, Tammy Popiez, Sammie Button, Breanne Graham, Marion Garrido, Cindy Bourassa, Shannon Collerman - Public Health, Laura Hill, Tabitha Downey, Tanya Hozjan, Tracey McGrory, Jennifer Bain, Jennifer Lee, Sharon MacKinnon - Public Health, Sara Haluik, Cindy Csordas, Crystal Seager Late

*ABSENT: Courtney Botelho*

*REGRETS:*

Shannon Collerman and Sharon MacKinnon from Public Health attended the beginning of our meeting to provide answers to questions about the positive Covid-19 case at Huntington Park School.

Shannon began with a timeline of events.

October 7<sup>th</sup> at approximately 1:45pm, a student from Huntington Park received a positive Covid-19 test result. Instructions for students and teachers, who could have come into contact with the positive case, were issued to stay home and begin isolating,

October 8<sup>th</sup>, Public Health came into Huntington Park to clarify what procedures needed to be taken. That day, through consultation, public health determined the period of infectivity. It was determined

through attendance and interviews that Oct 1<sup>st</sup> was the only day of concern. Any students or teachers not in school or in contact with positive case on October 1<sup>st</sup> were free to come back and were released from isolation.

**STUDENTS:** Any student in contact with the case in the classroom is deemed close or high-risk. Those students are required to be off of school for 14 days following the last day of exposure. (ie October 1<sup>st</sup> to October 15)

Any student not in contact with the positive case is deemed low-risk and there is no need to isolate.

**STAFF:** There was a group of teachers who did NOT teach the individual on October 1<sup>st</sup>. They were released from isolation and permitted to return to school.

The remaining teachers were each interviewed separately. Public Health asked many questions including length of time spent with student on October 1<sup>st</sup>, Was Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) worn for the duration of the time spent with the student, e.g., Were masks worn at all times? Was a face shield worn? Was Physical Distancing practiced? Was the student taught indoors or outdoors? If indoors, what size was the room? Were the windows open or closed?

Many factors are used by public health to determine whether a student or staff member is considered a high-risk or low-risk contact. Low-risk does NOT mean no-risk but they can return to school as long as they monitor for symptoms.

Parent, Cindy Csordas, asked what the protocol should be to communicate this as there were lots of unanswered questions and unsatisfied and concerned families in the community. Shannon suggested that the best course of action for families with questions is to contact Public Health directly and speak with a nurse by calling (905) 974-9848 and choose [option 5](#) or Email Public Health at: [covidschoolteam@hamilton.ca](mailto:covidschoolteam@hamilton.ca)

Shannon also clarified for us that even if a contact has a negative test, it does not negate the need to isolate for 14 days.

Shannon stated that while there is communication between the Board of Education with Public Health, based on this discussion and community concerns, they will look at crafting information with all schools in order to facilitate better communication with school communities to let them know what happens after a case is discovered.

Parent, Tracey McGrory, also agreed that the communication from the school and school board was very misleading and that better communication in the future would be beneficial.

Sammie Button asked if the exposed staff and students are required to be tested for Covid-19. Shannon stated that any symptomatic close contact can choose to get tested but that 14-day isolation is still required. Public Health does not recommend asymptomatic close contacts be tested as they could have a false negative. As well, they still need to isolate 14 days regardless of test results.

If they become symptomatic during the 14 days, they should be tested.

Additionally, there is follow up from Public Health with each of the close contacts.

Mr. Petruccelli apologized for the lack of clear communication in the days following the announcement of the positive case of Covid-19. He promised that he would do his utmost to improve the communication moving forward.

*Shannon and Sharon were thanked for their time and exited the meeting.*

The Council Meeting then continued.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING**

The previous meeting minutes from March 2020 were approved.

8 - approved, 3 - abstained, 0 – denied

Cassandra Ballantyne (not present), Susan Martin, Jennifer Bain and Sammie Button, Bree, Sara Haluik, Jen Lee, Laura Hill, Marion Garrido, Crystal Seager

### **EXECUTIVE POSITIONS:**

No one is interested in Executive positions at this time. We have not been in this situation before.

We will be required to have four meetings total for the school year. This meeting counts for one of those meetings. Breanne asked for a breakdown of what each role entails. Pat will post to the website tomorrow

## **III. COUNCIL MEMBER STATUS-REVIEW OF MEMBER AND VOTING MEMBER AND EXPECTATIONS OF EACH**

Applications for members at large were received from:

Cassandra Ballantyne (Absent), Susan Martin, Jennifer Bain and Sammie Button.

Additionally, during the meeting Breanne Graham, Sara Haluik, Jennifer Lee, Laura Hill, Marion Garrido and Crystal Seager all requested to be members at large.

## **IV. EXECUTIVE VOTE:**

For the first time in Council's known and recent history, there is no one is interested in Executive Positions at this time. We have not been in this situation before. However, we will be required to have a total of four meetings for the school year. This meeting counts for one of those meetings. Mr. Petruccelli will facilitate the upcoming meetings in absence of Executive Members. Breanne Graham asked for a breakdown of what each role entails. Mr. Petruccelli will post to the website tomorrow.

## **V. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – P. Petruccelli**

### **PEOPLE:**

- No people change in the building other than an additional custodian.
- However, with the upcoming process of families transitioning from remote to in-school and vice-versa as of November 3<sup>rd</sup>, we do not know if we will require more or less staff moving forward.
- Jennifer Lee asked Mr. Petruccelli how the addition and subtraction of student bodies will affect the cohorts. Mr. Petruccelli did not currently have any direction from the Board as to how this will play out.

### **PROGRAM:**

- Moral imperative remains the same. It is the goal to be able to reach out to grade one students from March 2020 to find out where their reading level is. We would still like to aim for 75% of our current grade one students reading by the end of grade one.

### **PLANT:**

- Looking at getting swipe access for the playground for greater ease moving in and out through the playground doors during the day.

### **TECH:**

- Tech given out in April. For the students who returned to school, the tech was also returned to school.
- Tech given to students who chose remote stayed with the remote students.
- For tech for the students transitioning on Nov 3, we are unclear about the process.
- Sammie asked about EQAO and Mr. Petruccelli stated that to his knowledge, it has been canceled.

## **VI. TEACHERS' REPORT (Spencer DeMan)**

Unfortunately, we still cannot report on sports or extra-curricular activities.

The teachers report that they are all navigating their way through the new challenges. They miss all of the extra-curricular. They love the community and thank the families for the support they've received and wished to let us know how happy they are to be back in the classroom with students face-to-face.

Cindy Bourassa asked Mr. Petruccelli if it was possible to obtain more information on the new teacher, Mr. Misener who took over for Mrs Vice. Pat stated that Mr. Misener came to us from Adelaide Hoodless school where he was a long-term, occasional teacher. Mr. Petruccelli was given very short notice of Mrs. Vice leaving and additionally, they were directed to cohort the students who also attend the before and after program with Today's Family. These changes created a domino effect. They had to move many students to accommodate the cohorts, which was not ideal, but they did their best.

## **VII. TREASURER'S REPORT (Cindy)**

Cindy said that we are still in the same position as we were, at the March Meeting.

## **VIII. FUNDRAISING REPORT – No changes**

There will be no fundraising until further notice.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

Sammie asked if we purchased agendas for this school year.

Pat stated that they were ordered centrally and that the Board took ownership of ordering them.

The school absorbed the cost of the agendas this year. Due to Covid-19, and lack of council meetings, Pat decided to forgo asking council.

Additionally, Pat stated that we purged about 6000 books from our library over the summer.

Schools were instructed to have rooms dedicated to third parties, i.e., reading specialists, ESL and Isolation areas. We now have three rooms that have been dedicated to remote teaching. Our library contains ESL & Reading specialist as well as Mr. Anderson, who is now in the library due to a staff shuffle. Mr. Anderson puts books in a box for one class at a time. Students choose a book and then the books are quarantined for seven days after use before they can be recirculated.

Sammie asked if all council funds frozen and Pat stated that he will look into this.

Breanne Graham asked if her daughter who is in SK remote learning came back to in-school learning, would she be placed with her original Teacher and ECE? Pat said that he cannot answer that until numbers and staffing for Nov 3 have been more finalized.

HALLOWEEN: Mr. Petruccelli has been talking to other schools about Halloween. At this point-in-time, it seems most likely that they will celebrate with a black and orange day on October 30 and have families send in individual treats for their child only.

They are going to forgo costumes because of the health and safety complications during these Covid times.

Laura Hill stated that the school she teaches at in the Halton Board has also opted for a black and orange day. They too cited the safety aspects.

It was brought up that last year, Tracy Hunter talked about grant writing. For the record, we would like to see this happen in the future post-Covid or whenever would be appropriate.

There has been no request from the board for budgets this year, likely in light of the fact that there will be no fundraising.

## **X. SPENDING & VOTING**

All spending is currently suspended for the duration of Covid-19 or until more direction is available.

## **XI. MESSAGE FROM MR. PETRUCCELLI**

Mr. Petruccelli said that he is very glad to be back at work. He thinks its valuable for the kids to see each other and reiterated that the staff are doing their very best to keep things clean and safe. They are focused on learning, but they are very focused on health and safety. He asked that families please rest assured that protocols are being adjusted as needed to move forward and he apologized that the communication after the initial positive case was not adequate, but we will strive to better in the future.

**XII. UPCOMING SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING DATES:**

**Next School Council Meeting: Tuesday, in November 10, 2020 at 6:00pm on MS Teams.** All are welcome!

*The Huntington Park School Council Meeting was called to order at 6:02pm on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 online through MS Teams adjourned at 7:21pm.*

*Minutes submitted by: Jennifer Lee*