

Mary Hopkins School Council Minutes  
November 21, 2019  
6:30 pm - 7:40 pm



Attendees: Sumaria Waqar, Nicole Christie, Jeanette Weatherill, Susie McConnell, Ashley Black, Charon Buck, Holly Cotton, Jennie Isaacs

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Posting of meeting minutes: lots of interest in accessing meeting minutes from school community; Ms Buck to post previous month's minutes on school site. Otherwise, all minutes are in draft format until reviewed by School Council.
- 3) Secretary's Report - School Council members were polled, and the majority were in favour of going with World's Finest chocolates for late-Fall fundraising. Given the current climate in our education system, this method of fundraising was ideal. Some family/community members expressed interest in cash donation in lieu of buying the entire box of chocolates - Ms Buck is going to investigate the HWDSB Foundation, and around setting this up via School Cash Online, like the way the Angel Fund is set up. Foundation contributions can further be earmarked for special areas of the school, such as the Library.
- 4) Treasurer's Report - there is not a lot to report on at this time as items are in transaction status, moving in and out of school budget accounts. Typically, we see a clearer picture of school financials mid-year.
- 5) Fundraising:
  - World's Finest Chocolate orders are in. Delivery will hopefully be Tuesday, December 3rd, with boxes going home Wednesday, December 4th. Volunteers will be required in the p.m. of the 3rd for sorting.
  - Boston Pizza Spirit Night - same evening as Gage Park Holiday Train, but we have PD the next day so Families can potentially do both. Also, Boston Pizza fundraiser includes dine-in, take-out and delivery!
  - Ongoing community interest in MacMillan's: we may look to having this a Spring fundraiser, electing to offer the 4 most popular items via School Cash online

- Family Skating event: The Pond will offer insured ice time with instructors and community room/space for 100 people @ \$165/hr. Caregivers must also be on the ice at the same time as their child/children. We will create two 1-hour sessions Thursday, Jan. 23rd, as Friday is a PD Day. Tickets will be \$5 each and there will be baked goods for sale, as well as hot chocolate. An evening event will hopefully be more do-able than a weekend, where families are already tied up with activities, b-day parties, etc.
- Other Spring fundraisers we will look at are Food4Kids, as a volunteer delivery service to 6-7 community members, anonymously; Beeswax Food Wrap; Hamilton-based Cookbook (local chefs); Spirit Wear, including Grad shirts offered earlier in the Spring; Spring Open House with baskets and bake sale, Spring Boston Pizza night and silent auction

6) Principal's Report:

- The best thing about the Swim Team meet was the compliments they received as excellent stewards of their school! Awesome job everyone!
- Congratulations to Owen B, author, and 3rd place winner of \$1,000 for the school from the Telus Wise footprint Comic Contest!
- Spirit Days in school, with a fun twist: wear your onesie day; (Dec) ugly sweater day; (Jan) read my shirt day; (Feb) pink and red day, etc.
- Popcorn days have started; frozen yogurt in December
- Kindergarten Joy Days in early December instead of concert, as well as hands on activities like cookie decorating so our very youngest kids are no longer made to go on stage; Gr. 1-5 Winter Concert, Wed., Dec 18th.
- Bullying: staff meeting and PA Day dedicated to anti-bullying. Emotion coaching is a new tool that staff will be exploring, one item of which looks at hearing and validating what the child is saying versus assuming everything will be ok, work itself out. Ms. Buck will share modules from staff training 1 item at a time at School Council, the first being Validation. Council will explore inviting Superintendents and Trustees to future meetings to learn more around key pieces like Facilities, Admin Procedures and Policies, Mental Health initiatives, etc.
- Re. Facilities/Parents: questions around the little gym, and the Kindergarten gym and music programs - JKs and SKs are still accessing the same programs, as their in-class teacher is still responsible for that class and those programs. If caregivers have

questions, they are encouraged to reach out to the child's teacher first, and then the Principal if necessary

- In terms of Labour updates, please ensure that you are getting your updates locally, specifically pertaining to the Hamilton-Wentworth DSB, as other Boards have different staffing models, thus will be impacted differently than at our school.
- 7) Pancake breakfast - in-class model this year, last day of school before Winter break, staggered delivery with 2 Grade 5's per class helping deliver and pour syrup, etc.
  - 8) Last day of classes before Winter break will have the pancake breakfast during the first block in the morning, a sing-along during the second block, then free time/play in the third block.
  - 9) Next School Council meeting: Thursday, December 12th, 2019 at 6:30 pm