

Mary Hopkins School Council Minutes
Wednesday, November 25th, 2020
6:30 pm - 7:10 pm



Attendees: Charon Buck, Gail Arruda, Ashley Black, Carley Casey, Cara Leitch, Jeanette Weatherill, Susan McCusker

Regrets: Kristin Read, Sumaira Waqar, Lorelei Wilder

- 1) MS Teams online welcome
- 2) [October minutes](#) move to approve, Carley; second, Susan

November Agenda:

- 3) Treasurer's Report: N/A - Cara to follow up with Ms Gunn. School has used all funds, though, so we began 2020-21 with a clean slate

- 4) Principal's Report:
 - 6-year projections in hand: we have to reach a certain threshold of "fullness;" MH is being monitored as school with a 3-year deadline
 - In terms of new builds, land at Dundas and Avonsyde, is on Halton/Hamilton border so we cannot determine if a new HWDSB school may be built at this side of town
 - Remembrance Day saw pre-recorded class presentations, then presented via virtual assembly. GREAT job by all, very respectful
 - Unfortunately, virtual assemblies cannot be shared out with greater community because of media consent restrictions. Media consent forms can be found on the Parent Portal and can be reviewed or revised by calling our office
 - Spirit Days: **November 26**, Wear a Hat Spirit Day (it could be wacky, warm, or just something you love to wear); **December 18**, Pajama Day; none in January
 - November 27 PA Dad: ½ day dedicated to violence prevention/intervention training; other ½ day dedicated to communication with parents and caregivers (via phone, email or MS Teams - agreed upon ahead of time between teacher and parent/caregiver)

- French Immersion (FI) opportunity to apply for Grade 1s done remotely; information is posted on Board website; November 30th deadline for applying; everyone is accepted to the FI program, but maybe not at home school if they are at capacity
- Fundraising is still on pause: Hamilton Foundation for Student Success an option, however, as you can donate online, get a tax receipt and earmark donations to our school
- Remote Readiness/Readiness for Distance Learning Survey: asked families to assess their preparedness to have students learn from home should a school close due to an outbreak or in the event the Ministry of Education directs us into a full remote learning scenario. Thank you to all who filled out the survey. Logins were sent out: please login to ensure that everything is working and you are comfortable navigating Outlook/The Hub/MS Teams. Priority is to review expectations related to remote learning during times of closure. Staff will be working on a plan to help remove barriers for learning during COVID-19, including barriers to technology and internet.
- Snow removal/closures: can plough come in and help caretaking staff to create wider paths? Re. closures, Board is triggered by busing, will alert community by 6am
- Teacher/Staff gifts: families welcome to offer gifts: staff can opt to let sit for 72hrs then take home. NO baked goods, NO parents/caregivers delivering; teachers will manage class activities

5) Staff Report:

- Covid support and understanding: staff are doing everything possible to support student health (ie. opening windows occasionally to let air flow/ventilation, extended outdoor time)
- Parents/caregivers, please support staff in remaining behind cones at drop off and pick up: this lessens potential exposure for ALL, and ensures staff can manage classes and students safely, especially little ones who are easily lost in the shuffle at transition times!
- Reminder for all to please be respectful of Church grounds and parking lot

6) New Business:

- Good idea to invite Trustee Penny Deathe to a virtual meeting in the near future to discuss concerns the Mary Hopkins community have; it will likely be easier to secure a

date now, now that we can meet so readily in MS Teams (item #1, Facility question: second gym, would be great to be able to access that space, especially as we move to Winter conditions. More spaces within the school for students and staff to utilize, move around in, and space out safely)

- Covid and parent/caregiver pick-up and drop-off: pylons set up between portable and fence. Parents/Caregivers are to please wait here at drop-off and pick up if necessary

Agenda items may be submitted at least 7 days prior to the meeting date by emailing our chair (maryhopkinsSC@hwdsb.on.ca)

Next meeting: **Wednesday, January 27th, 6:30 pm** on MS Teams: link to be sent out via school website (subscribe at <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/maryhopkins/subscribe/>) and via parent Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/678475858900639/>). All are welcome!