

Mary Hopkins School Council Minutes  
Wednesday, March 31st, 2021  
6:30 pm - 7:45 pm



Attendees: Charon Buck, Ashley Black, Carley Casey, Cara Leitch, Jeanette Weatherill, Lorelei Wilder, Cheryl Dalrymple, Rebecca Long, Steph Sparham, Lindsey Hammond, Susan McCusker

- 1) MS Teams online welcome, round table introductions
- 2) [February minutes](#) move to approve, Carley; second, Cara

March Agenda:

- 3) Treasurer's Report:
  - N/a
- 4) Principal's Report:
  - **(2)** new HWDSB communications: **(1)** The Ministry of Education has introduced a revised [Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education Grades 1-8](#), (2019) to replace the interim 2018 document. There is also a new [Program/Policy Memorandum 162: Exemption from Instruction](#) related to the Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations, Grades 1–8, (2019) to accompany the updated curriculum document. This memorandum outlines the process for communicating with families about Strand D: Growth and Development and Sexual Health and the process for parents/guardians to exempt their child(ren) from this learning. HWDSB is informing elementary parents/guardians that learning on Strand D: Growth and Development and Sexual Health will occur between May 3 and June 20, 2021; **(2)** HWDSB Launches First Student Census, [We All Count](#): as part of its Equity Action Plan, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) will conduct its first student census to identify and remove barriers so all students can learn in supportive, inclusive, and respectful environments. Grades 1-4 can complete the survey with caregiver support, grades 5 and up can complete on their own, online, as of May 3rd.
  - There is a massive staffing shortages at the HWDSB, affecting Mary Hopkins in many ways (supply teachers, leaves of absence, staff on medical leave, staff isolating) If there

are not additional supply teachers, schools try to find coverage from within ie. no Music classes that day, teacher in class = better stability for students

- Part 2 presentation (how students receive and unpack info) on HWDSB anti-racism/anti-oppression curriculum ([Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild](#)) Please see [Slide Dec.](#)
- Lessons are created for staff, and created within the context of the pandemic with remote modules for virtual learners, as well
- There are 4 modules, and by mid- to end of April we will be in Module 3 (Module 1. Physical Safety, Mental Health and Wellness, Module 2. Understanding Identity and Intersectionality, Module 3. Exploring Human Rights, Equity and Anti-racism, Module 4. Empowering Action and Allyship)
- No rush to get through modules = deeper learning for staff and students

5) Staff Report:

- *All Are Welcome* display/bulletin/student work: applying the learning from *Learn. Disrupt. Rebuild*, a beautiful example was shared of a student-led exercise where “boring” (brown, beige, white, black, yellow, cream, orange) crayon colours were offered out, which echoed the book, [All Are Welcome](#), whereby all people, colours, are celebrated and included

6) New Business:

- **Snow removal:** Principal shared board snow removal and snow clearing policy
- Fundraising must be delegated to program enhancements that directly support students. We (parents) can't pay or fundraise for a contractor to clean; we are a public-school Board, so cannot do this
- Nor can we (parents) raise funds to hire a contractor or purchase a snow thrower: this would put the accountability on parents/contractors to maintain cleared areas throughout changing conditions; anyone could hold school accountable the school if they feel MH staff were negligent
- Maintaining the entire blacktop area is too great a task for 1 caretaker
- Church parking lot is not Mary Hopkins property; please come through MH parking lot or sidewalk from front

- Council felt this is not a solution, as parents will still drop off from here; can't just say "don't park there," or ignore the fact that people will continue to use this as a drop off location
- Principal suggested additional signage or closing off access in winter
- Council felt this was not a reasonable solution as there are very few access points to the school, and this would create even larger parking and safety issues such as street crossing, etc.
- Council asked for principals support in pursuing the issue with the board and felt that having the administration's support would go a long way to assisting in making changes they felt were in the best interest of the safety of Mary Hopkins students
- Principal affirmed that that winter playground conditions were not unique to Mary Hopkins, and that school uses board developed protocols to provide safe routes in and out of the school
- School Council felt that their communication with Trustee may fall short without the Principal

- **Remote packages:** up to teachers as to if they provide one ahead of remote learning or at the onset. Staff find out at the same press conference as everyone else
- **Online teaching/classes** all different: same storm, different boats. Everyone has the best intentions!
- **Crossing guards:** this falls to the City. We can request a survey, watch traffic ... as buses fill up and there is less and less courtesy busing, many will be walking: Ms. Buck to report back around a request for a traffic survey for Mill & Elgin as well as By-Law presence
- Continue to encourage NO congregation at the Kindie pen around drop off and pick up as it creates a problem for people crossing the street to get to the school

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

Next meeting: **Wednesday, April 28th, 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!