

Mary Hopkins School Council Minutes
Wednesday, December 2nd, 2021
6:30 pm - 7:30pm



Attendees: Charon Buck, Gail Aruda, Ashley Black, Carley Casey, Jeanette Weatherill, Cheryl Dalrymple, Susan McCusker, Lorelei Wilder, Jenny Collins, Nina Hansra

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

December Agenda:

- 3) Principal's Report:
 - Ms. Buck recommends that we think of inviting our Trustee and (new) Superintendent to an upcoming meeting as this is who can really support us facilities-wise
 - November PA Day focused one half of the day on Safe & Inclusive Classrooms; the other half, on School Improvement Planning (students, not the building)
 - MDI (Middle School Survey) available for Grades 5 and up to complete during school; Grades K-4 to complete at home with adult help. Access via Parent Portal. Please complete, as this anonymous survey informs school around student feelings and connections with staff and can reveal deficits
 - Human Rights Policy development: tied to School Council. Fill in survey to provide feedback/volunteer time
 - In-school monthly assemblies focus on topics like joking and teasing; intention versus impact. Classes have the opportunity to enter comments or questions in the chat, making these virtual assemblies very interactive and engaging
 - Safe school drills under way (there are 3: Lockdown/Hold & Secure/Shelter in Place)
 - 1st **Lockdown** of 2 complete; we also perform **Hold & Secure** (where there is a threat outside of the building) and **Shelter in Place** (where we are told to stay in building due to severe weather conditions) Students get sufficient notice that the practice is coming, but to take it seriously, as though it were a real life event

- Covid protocols and reminders: please stay updated on protocols, especially when returning to school and before- and after-care following the Winter Break
- We will have access to PCR and Rapid Testing very soon, possibly prior to break
- There will be a quick 100th anniversary kickoff meeting Wednesday, Dec. 8th at 4:30pm. Ms. Buck will send an invitation out to staff and community members this weekend
- There will be 2 Spirit Days in December: "Winter Spirit Day," where the school will dress/bundle up warm and cozy, and then "PJ Day" on the last day of instruction

(4) Teacher's Report:

- Assemblies and classroom observation from Ms Arruda: lots of points for discussion offered in virtual environments, classes can really contribute and engage nicely by adding questions/comments in the chat. Very interactive, many positive reactions, and students are leveraging tech competencies :)

(5) Treasurer's Report:

- No update; no #'s from fundraisers until February meeting

(6) Other Business:

- **Fundraising:** Council looked at a few options, but with Board restrictions it was not possible. We will re-visit in 2022!
- Council is also looking at ways to leverage the Parents Reaching Out **grant**; if we have a shared interest here, and can match the criteria in any way, we stand to receive \$1K! Ms. Buck to look at criteria
- In previous schools, guest speakers around special math instruction, mental health evenings w refreshments have been run
- Could we also shape PRO grant around literacy and reading? Grant \$\$\$ for additional readers to go to homes?
- Ms. Buck suggests to survey parents and caregivers: does anyone know any guest speakers? Break up into more than one event based on interest of group
- "Policy" on student **bathroom use**: there is no policy. Students are welcome to use bathrooms when necessary
- There are 2 sets of student washrooms, but one was vandalized resulting in a 5-day closure; we also have to implement alternate urinals and stalls due to Covid

- A kindie washroom was added where it was once a staff washroom
- Ms. Arruda: teachers DO find it less disruptive when students go during nutrition breaks and remind them to do so BUT they are always welcome to go
- **Parking lot safety/Crossing Guard:** City contacted for survey. There is a shortage of guards, so even if survey shows that we qualify, we may not get one right away. Ms. Buck will follow up with City
- There is staff in place to assist with the movement at Kiss n' Ride; we do have more being dropped off than before. Please do not walk up through the parking lot or Kiss n' Ride, and keep the line moving!
- Please keep parking lot and blacktop parent-free; use gate at base of grass/baseball diamond to walk through and stop at end of grass/black top
- "Main Highlights" to be shared with school community right after School Council meetings

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, February 2nd, 6:30 pm** on MS Teams: subscribe at
<https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/maryhopkins/subscribe/> and via parent Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/678475858900639/> All are welcome!