



École Élémentaire Michaëlle Jean

PROUD SCHOOL OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

2121 Highway # 56
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EMAIL: michaellejean@hwdsb.on.ca
PRINCIPAL: Mr. Mark Hopkins
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École Élémentaire Michaëlle Jean
School Council Meeting
November 23rd, 2023

In attendance:

Mark Hopkins - Principal
Paul Hatala
Jennifer Miles – Program Leader for Umbrella Family Daycare (Before and After School)
Suzanne Hall
Elisha Szafran
Trish Rayner
Jen Omar
Kham Keochanh
Denise Bazeley
Kiran Javaid
Jennifer Valente
Brittany Hunter
Lesley Billingsley
Joanna Seymour

Meeting Stated at 6:33pm

1. Land Acknowledgement
2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting
 - o Second: Suzanne Hall
 - o Vote: For – 10, Opposed – 0, Abstain – 0
 - o Motion Carried – Minutes Approved
3. Council By-Laws
 - Volunteers to review the bylaws and update them to reflect the current school populations and values
 - Suzanne and Jen O, and Jennifer V
 - o Paul and Mr. Hopkins will make themselves available for reference
 - To have completed a draft by February 2024



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4. Rural Schools Committee

- Our school as well as Bellmore qualify
- There are qualifiers. Ex. Don't have transit
- Last meeting was yesterday
- Updates:
 - o There is funding that is available
 - o Must spend it within the school year
 - o Prior to this school year, there was a large budget surplus
 - o Last year it was used to paint the logo on the gym wall
 - o This year we have just over \$3000
 - o Can be used for anything in the school with coordination from the principals
 - Ex. ipads, busing, painting, music equipment
 - o Slide deck will be sent out
- Next meeting will discuss busing
- Suzanne will go to the next one. Mr. Hopkins will join

5. Candigrams

- Was a success – over 700 were sold
- Added another \$510 to our account
- Teachers have expressed some concerns around the equity perspective
 - o There is opportunity for further discussion – teachers to discuss and offer ideas
 - o Could council pay for children who are not getting one?
 - o Could parents who are able to purchase more do so - will go to those kids who do not have them?

6. Financial Update

- Total in the account is just over \$1500

7. Lunchbox Program Discussion

- History: Post pandemic, council wanted to bring back a lunch program. There were potential challenges with asking teachers to do more in the school with negotiations that were happening at the time. Former principal wanted to ensure that we had a program where the teachers did not have to organize anything
- Jodie fills the Gap in between which is a lot of work!
- Current Program: Pre-packages food and students hand out the food – this is a reflection of the post-pandemic policies of no contact with the food, in addition to minimal to no responsibilities for the teachers
- There is a cost
 - o Pizza: Cheese or pepperoni
 - Cost is \$4.00
 - We make \$0.43/slice



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- Pizza: Gluten free
 - we make \$0.29/pizza
- Subs:
 - We make \$0.53/sub
- There are always ongoing discussions about where the pizza money should be allocated – does it go to the school or school council
- The school is looking at making a change to the pizza so we get it right from Gino's
 - This would reduce the cost to parents
 - The funds would go to the school
 - Would require more help from volunteers
- Might be difficult to do it half way through the year
 - Some parents have pre-paid for the year
 - School Cash Online will not refund – only offer a credit
- 8. Fundraising
 - Surveys conducted at 2 points over the last 5 months
 - Top suggestions were:
 - Outdoor play structure vote 0
 - New ipads/classroom devices – 9 for
 - Reading materials vote 0
 - Shade structure - 9 for
 - Ideally the council would fundraise for a short term and a long-term project
 - Discussion:
 - Bienenstock (outdoor equipment/structures)
 - Approved HWDSB vendor
 - Minimum spend would be \$9800 not including installation, shipping and tax
 - \$20,000-\$50,000 is where you will get something pretty good
 - Shade Structure
 - Play Shades (HWDSB Vendor)
 - Single Post Umbrellas (They recommended 14x14)
 - \$5500 supplied and installed – This includes locates, decisions on where to place them, 2 day installment
 - \$395 yearly maintenance free (2 visits) for a maintenance crew to set it up at the beginning of the season, and remove the fabric and store it (this is for 2 Umbrellas). An extra \$100 for each additional umbrella
 - Do we want to move forward and get approval for the larger things
 - There were a lot of parents who wanted to build a project for the future
 - Should the thing we fundraise for go to the students who are doing the fundraising?
 - Should we get the teachers suggestions?
 - Suggestion for Council to Vote and choose top 2 choices



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- Vote:
 - o Outdoor play structure – vote: For 0, Against 10
 - o New ipads/classroom devices – vote: For 9, Against 1
 - o Reading materials – vote: For 0, Against, 10
 - o Shade structure – vote: For 9, Against 1
- Current suggestions for teachers: New ipads/classroom devices and Shade Structure
- Current plan:

Month	Activity	Ongoing
September	Terry Fox Run	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weekly Lunch - Weekly Kernals - Popcorn - School Cash Online - Ongoing Cash Donation - Possibility of a french café
October	Halloween Candigrams	
November	Bazaar/Poinsettia	
December	-----	
January	Used Book Sale	
February	Valentines Candigras	
March		
April	Card Box	
May	Jump Rope for Heart	
June	Picnic Cancer Assist Care Walk	

- Are we ok with this plan moving forward
 - Suggestion of Gift Card Fundraiser
 - o A portion goes toward the school
 - o Funscript
 - Motion: Does the council accept in principal the schedule as written with a subcommittee to work out the how's
 - o Second: Jen Omar
 - o Vote: For – 9, Opposed – 1, Abstain – 0
 - o Motion Carried
 - Trish to head up a group to move forward
9. Black History Month (Elisha)
- Must take this beyond February
 - Last year Leo came and it was great
 - Recommend that we do not do the same thing as last year
 - Elisha recommends fundraising for them again
 - Has a list of potential guest speakers for February
 - Wants to discuss the possibility of taking a school trip to Empowerment Squared
 - They are very much willing to work with us



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- There is potential funding for busing to bring the kids there
- So many opportunities for Volunteers (Grade 8's)
- Tie in the potential for a French Café – and be able to give proceeds back to Empowerment Squared
- Last year, brought in Josh – Taught kids Dance
- Black History Month is about celebration, and learning about people who have done great things
- Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre
 - o Working with HWDSB for end of year funding in June
 - o Bring kids together from different schools
 - o Would be a great opportunity for our school community
- Create a group to work on this
 - o Have council members reach out to Elisha who want to be a part (SLACK)
 - o Staff representative to join
 - o Put it out to the parent community (not on council) who want to be a part
 - o Ask the kids as well – Student Voice

10. Principal's Update

- Questions from the Council?
- MJ School Action Plan
 - o Human Rights is the filter that we do for everything in our school
 - o Indigenous Education Circle Strategic Action Plan (IECSAP)
 - o Knowing our students through assessment
 - o Student (In the Middle)
 - o Staff, Teachers, Parents, Community (the people supporting)
 - o Student Wellbeing
 - o Focus on the students that they are concerned about, the staff dig in, and learn more to help those students achieve, which will then help others (what's good for one is good for all)
- Student Voice- Announcements, Initiatives and Cultural Learning
 - o Grade 7's are taking the initiative
 - o Students putting up the announcement boards
- Lockdown Drill – Next Wednesday
 - o They are done very quickly
 - o What they will tell the students – Find the safest spot in the room, be quiet, teacher locks the door
 - o Need the Blinds back – Principal is on it (Safe Schools)
- Progression Meetings
 - o Going from grade 8-9 or from K-1 (formally transition meetings)
 - o Having a meeting with Sherwood
 - o What does it look like from K-1



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- What do we need to know in advance?
- Boys Volleyball
 - In Quarter Finals
 - The team is doing great. Great coaching (M. Seguin)
- Water Bottles
 - Has ordered 200 (SC approved the cost of 50)
 - 50 are going to the Grade 1's
 - Will save 50 for next year's grade one's (when they get here)
 - Will put the rest on School Cash online (first come, first served)
 - Can always order more next year
- Responding to Bias, Prejudice and Hate
 - It is our responsibility to respond
 - Number one thing is to STOP (Interrupt), IDENTIFY, EXPLAIN AND SUPPORT, ASK FOR CHANGE AND SUPPORT (handout given out)
 - Label it, Say it, identify it (ex. That is a homophobic slur)

11. Future Meeting Dates

- December 2023 – No Meeting
- January 18th, 2024 @ 6:30pm in the Learning Commons
- February 22nd, 2024 @ 6:30pm in the Learning Commons
- March 21st, 2024 @ 6:30pm in the Learning Commons
- April 18th, 2024 @ 6:30pm in the Learning Commons
- May 16th, 2024 @ 6:30pm in the Learning Commons
- June 2024 – TBD (End of year social and wrap up)

12. Motion to Adjourn:

- Second: Jen Omar
- For – 10, Against – 0, Abstain – 0
- Motion Carried

Meeting Adjourned at 7:52pm