



## Queen Victoria Elementary School (QVES)

### **School Council Meeting**

Thursday October 24, 2024, 6 pm

### **Minutes of Meeting No. 2**

Items numbered and bolded are those from proposed agenda:

- 1. Land Acknowledgement read aloud by Jamie.**
2. Special guests introduced by Mr. White – Ward 2 HWDSB School Board Trustee Representative Sabreina Dahab (sdahab@hwdsb.on.ca), City of Hamilton Public Health Nurse Karen Galloway.
3. Meeting minutes from last meeting – to be approved – move to be approved – Dave, seconded: Shannon.
- 4. Call to Order**
- 5. Setting Meeting dates for 2024/2025**
  - Jamie addresses timing, evened out over school year
  - Teachers are flexible but would prefer Thursday meetings
  - Dates chosen (to coincide with QVES Staff meetings):
    - i. November 28, 2024
    - ii. January 16, 2025
    - iii. March 27, 2025
    - iv. May 15, 2025
- 6. Sub-Committees – discussion**
  - As discussed subcommittees are to be comprised of three members minimum. Subcommittee members do not have to sit on council.
  - Liz, Nutrition Program Update – Fresh from the Farm fundraiser - \$1500 raised; more money from government has been received; Little Caesars fundraiser still to come (this program is member controlled: Liz, Shannon)
  - Various subcommittees suggested/discussed as follows:
    - i. Subcommittee for grade 8 graduation
    - ii. Fundraising subcommittee
    - iii. Lego robotics subcommittee
    - iv. Parent engagement subcommittee – Rebecca nominating self, as well as Jamie and Shannon indicating interest – looking to ensure the school is a hub for the community
- 7. Principal's Report:**
  - Focus on human rights, safety and well being
  - setting, creating conditions for human rights – kids to feel safe, how kids can address concerns
    - i. STOP (acronym) policy reviewed – Speak up, Tell what's wrong, Offer Help, Protect by reporting
    - ii. Hypothetically/Scenario: If your friend says a racial slur, what do you do?

- We are seeing incidents of racial bias
- Equity consultant was here this day October 24, 2024, to educate teachers in the use of anti-discrimination tools.
- Mr. White to be putting together a list of school council voting members. List of email addresses to be shared.
- Some teachers were surplussed and found 100% workloads at other schools
- Looking at the data for reading: QVES below standards. More details to come at the next meeting.

## **8. Updates/Upcoming events**

- Diwali on October 31
- Halloween October 31 - Autumn Ball and Kindergarten Parade
  - i. no masks to ensure faces are not obstructed
  - ii. No cultural or ethnic appropriation in costume
  - iii. No trivialising of indigenous community
  - iv. DJ with hyping sidekick
  - v. welcome parents to see kinder-parade
  - vi. Note – to allow students to enjoy treats - Nutrition Exemption under PPM 150 (policy/program memorandum) (one of ten days allowed) – to be used on October 31
- November 1 PA day:
  - i. Challenging Islamophobia, Anti-Muslim and Anti-Palestinian Racism
  - ii. Teachers to receive training
- November 11 – Remembrance Day Assembly
  - i. Learning in classroom (racial diversity in war efforts)
  - ii. Student leadership to lead assembly
- November 19 – progress report cards
  - i. Translators available to understand report cards
  - ii. Support language reported on progress reports
- February 2025
  - i. Anti Semitic training for teachers

## **9. Staff Report**

- Cross Country – grade 7 girl won first place, Grade 4 attained 3<sup>rd</sup> place
- Each team needs 2 teachers
- Dance club started – 50 students – split between Gr. 3-5, 6-8
  - o Miss Delli leading the dance instruction as a professional dance instructor!
- Eco-club started
- Photo day was a great success

## **10. Fundraising Initiatives**

- School community to help subsidize and inform fundraising
- Fundraising isn't necessarily incumbent upon council to undertake
- School Fundraising Plan
  - i. Minimize pressure on teachers (unattainable goals discouraged)
  - ii. School store: subsidize trips
  - iii. Pizza Days (affirmed as 1/mo)
  - iv. MacMillans

- v. Bake Sale – Valentines day
- vi. Freezies Sales
- vii. Sub Days
- Discussion of upcoming clothing drive in nutrition room
- Noted looking for accessibility to hygiene products and removal of barriers for students (menstrual products, deodorants, etc). Karen Galloway (Public Health Nurse) noted she will inquire and inform the group of known Walmart grant for various products. Others to consider any known contacts, ie – women’s shelter, and other programs that may assist with access.
- Question from Online: Hamilton Foundation for Student Success – can donate directly and address it to Queen Victoria – encourage this avenue for donations
  - i. “School Cash Online” – idea for donations
  - ii. Add an extra dollar or two and to whom/what event – to be further discussed.

#### 11. Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

- Grant for \$1000
- Getting more parents out to the school: a priority
- Bringing in a speaker to **benefit parents** for ie. Teaching reading, mental health, safety online, have a “Math Night”, other suggestions include: Safety with Roblox, Minecraft (online), using thewhitehatter.ca. for topics like how to use social media positively – rather than focusing on negative aspects
- As discussed, the more engaging meetings should be early on in the school year to ensure parent interest. Looking to ensure kids are welcome with parents to foster a family atmosphere.

#### 12. Round Table:

- Anxiety around what high school to go to, and what is the safety at each school.
- Sabreina can connect with chair of board, can she enquire as to if there is data on increased violence at certain high schools available to publish. She noted, “Actions outside of schools could put schools into “Hold and Secure”” The following was discussed:
  - i. There are three vice principals at Bernie Custis to support school kids
  - ii. The board needs to respond to acknowledge and communicate the cause of problems at the school and in the surrounding area.
  - iii. Student success teacher speaks with grades 7 and 8s about highschoools and keeps in touch with kids after graduation
  - iv. Cathedral is geographically closer than Bernie Custis
  - v. Sabreina clarifies we don’t have data on overall violence, etc. but there is [mandate] to protect against possible sensationalism [or misrepresentation of data??..]
- Lateness was discussed, it is causing a lot of distraction for kids from those walking into class minute after minute. Families need to be here on time between 8:15 - 8:30 [propose 8:05 – 8:30??]
- Grant money to improve school grounds has been provided. The hope is to have action finalized after talking to 3+ contractors:
  - i. Line paintings for games, sensory activities, seating.
  - ii. Astro turf \$6,000.00 for fenced in kindergarten space that faces Forest Ave.
  - iii. \$25,000 available for capital improvements
- Ideas for lot improvement and school grounds for consideration:
  - i. Shutting Forest Ave for staff parking, expand grounds to Forest Ave
  - ii. Re-imagined intersection Ferguson @ Forest leading to Corktown Park
  - iii. Corktown Park fenced in dedicated to school grounds

- iv. Parking suggestions around Young St.

**13. Adjournment**

Moved to adjourn, seconded 7:10 pm