

Hespeler P.S. School Council Meeting

MINUTES

Monday, January 15, 2018

7:00 pm

Present: Michelle Bush Broga, Monica Laliberté, Afrim Ficic, Sharon McKeown, Elke Lupinsky, Jill Strome, Tina Castelli, Kyly Miller, Julie Lobsinger, Sabina Voisin, Jacky Shoebridge, Kara Hall, Greg Schmid, Abbey Smith, Sarah MacAllister, Susan Ford, Rebecca Birtch, Rebecca Jutzi

Regrets: Janice Koiter, Mark Koiter

1. Welcome

- Remember please: we are ambassadors to the school, please bear that in mind when being on social media or chatting on the playground. We know who we can ask for clarification if there are any issues and we can help resolve issues this way.

2. Approval of Minutes from November 20, 2017

- November 20, 2017 Minutes: approved as read – Kara motioned to approve, Tina seconded.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Dec. 12 balance of \$14735.40
- Cheque for the sign has come out
- Pending expenses: fun fair prepayments, Nutrition for Learning \$500, placeholder for parent workshops \$1000, Nutrition for Learning donation from vendor sale \$622.55
- Available balance of \$11,612.85

Vendor Sale Financial Report

- Total revenue \$4885.10
Bake sale \$902.05, book sale \$383.45, refreshments \$129.05, front door \$622.55, tables/pizza \$2833, miscellaneous \$15
- Expenses \$456.48
Refreshments \$52.79, pizza \$97.25, lawn signs \$169.72, miscellaneous \$23.72, Facebook ads \$113
- Net profit \$4085.14
- Tremendous day overall! Thank you Tina.
- About 50% more revenue this year.
- Nobody balked at table fee raise.

4. Principal/Vice-Principal Update

Principal's Update – Julie Lobsinger

- Julie introduced Rebecca Jutzi, incoming principal.
- Rebecca is looking forward to joining the school and getting to know everyone!
- January 26 PD Day is an assessment day for teachers.

- From Julie: What a pleasure and honour it's been to work with everyone. This is a dynamic and action oriented Council, we've achieved the goal of being more than just a fundraising body, have really increased parent involvement at the school. We have also achieved the goal of being more visible at school events. You're a truly caring group, for all the kids at this school. You really do make a difference here at HPS. Thank you!

Vice-Principal's Update – Afrim Ficic

- Afrim echoed Julie's above sentiments.
- The sign has been a bit of a tricky situation, the board will be coming to help. Ben from Florence Signs sent an IT person over today to fix the sign connection issues.
- Add a person who also has knowledge of the sign software program.

School information/Upcoming events:

- Jan. 17 – Grade 8's University of Guelph tour
- Jan. 19 – HPS Night at the Guelph Storm game, \$18/ticket, \$4 goes back to the school, HPS choir will be singing the national anthem, game begins at 7:30pm
- Jan. 25 – Jersey Day
- Jan. 25 – Grade 8's Conestoga College tour
- Jan. 26 – PD Day
- Jan. 31 – Julie Lobsinger's last day
- Feb. 1 – Welcome Rebecca Jutzi to HPS
- Feb. 2 – Carnaval (last two blocks): school will be immersed in different activities relating to the Québec celebration "Carnaval"
- Feb. 15 – Report cards go home (one day early due to winter field trip day)
- Feb. 16 – Winter field trip: skiing and tubing at Chicopee

5. New Business/Fundraising

Parent workshop – January 23

- Growth mindset graphic up on sign.
- Flyer went out with RSVP slip.
- Mme. Arbour will speak briefly at the beginning to connect the concepts to what is going on at school in relation to growth mindset.
- In library.
- Tina will get some refreshments.
- Need 2-3 volunteers at 6:30 to help set up.

Vendor sale: feedback

- We filled all the tables, had a bit of lingering interest that week still, do we expand beyond the gym or stick with what we've got? Maybe expand into one pod? Would have to make it clear to each vendor where they will be. Another option is around the gym in the hallway without lockers. We only turned people away in the last few days (around 5 vendors).
- What happens if we gain more momentum? We need to have a plan for potential expansion.

- Need to have a buffer of space in the gym to account for the wrong sized table being delivered. Must be able to place 8' tables in case they arrive instead of 6'.
- Book sale was way more work than what we got out of it, could we use that area for something else? Hard for anyone with stroller to get up there. Also, small safety concern around the open edge of the stage.
- The communication over email with vendors takes a lot of time. Vendors expect an instant response, which isn't possible.
- Set up an auto response that says we'll respond in order of time received within a certain amount of time.
- Raised a good amount of money for the school, as well as for Nutrition for Learning, also great community event for people to come into our school.
- Generally, great feedback from the vendors.
- Women were looking for well-made Christmas crafts/decor and we were missing that. Maybe we should seek out these types of vendors and see if they are interested. Vendors we had with this type of item sold out so can they bring more?
- Black Friday weekend works well on the Sunday, let's try it again!
- Sunday, November 25, 2018.

Dance-a-thon – March 29

- Need 3+ volunteers for the day of, please.
- Kickoff assembly Mon., March 5 @ 12:15pm
- Pledgeloop will highlight that it's on beach day, beach party theme will carry through.
- Feedback on times scheduled for kids to dance: last year we gave kindy and gr. 1 a bit longer to dance since they raise so much money. 45 minutes maybe a bit short for gr. 1-4.
- Students must bring pledgeloop back at least, even if empty, it's your admission to dance. We struggle a bit with that every year, we want to stay inclusive but it is a fundraiser.
- Will say on pledgeloop what we are raising money for. Need to decide at next meeting. Something tangible for people to get interested in!
- Tell gr. 7-8 the more money they raise the longer they have to dance?

Fundraising ideas:

- Kindy team would like natural play area. It would be great, have logistics struggle because a lot of property is city owned. Where would we put it? We could revisit this idea and research grants, etc. Someone needs to give a fair bit of time to research. Great idea, how do we implement?
- We still have bike rack issues.
- We lack shade: pergola or something? Shade sail? Again, struggle with property. Would have to start with facilities person at the board to determine location options. Susan can work with the city for greening options. We have to be ready to go with the project plan in order to apply for a grant, they need specific details. Could we start saving funds towards something while we work on it?
- Improving our outdoor space can include things for all grades. Likely not a one-year thing. Need to start with a plan, see if we could even do it, and then fundraise for it.

- New curtains for the stage? Really need an upgrade. Hard sell to the kids. Could be listed as a “top 5” item for the person who looks after our building and the needs like that.
- We can’t go wrong with chrome books, we’re not yet at our hoped for ratio of 1:1, we’re at 1:2-4 depending on grade level. How many do we own at HPS? Julie will provide that number. Is it a polarizing issue? Parents are realizing kids aren’t playing on them, they’re doing things to add to their learning. Better to have kids using school ones because they’re on secure network, on open network if people bring one from home and they get bumped off a lot, more troubleshooting needed. Some need to be refreshed soon too.
- Allocate money for class trips for teachers? Afrim did at a previous school. Or subsidize tubing trip busses.
- Facelift for outside tarmac to paint game lines, fill holes. There are new games at Preston PS, looks really good. Michelle will look into what they have, might have pictures. They have colourful new games. Afrim will get contact info.
- Everyone please think about it, we need to decide next meeting!

Fun Fair

- Tina needs a sub-committee: Susan, Michelle pending, Kyly, Sarah, Abbey, Sabina for flyers.
- BBQ is booked.
- Would like to start booking the usual items, move Erick Traplin over to eating area.
- Tex took up a lot of one on one resource, have him come for less time? We are spread really thin on volunteers that night. Can he bring his own escort? No, requirement is that he has one of our escorts. Kids weren’t super excited about him. Kids more into Disney characters, Star Wars, etc. Think we’ve evolved past Tex, don’t do this year.
- Need to watch for some good new spring games, buy at Costco or make. They need an update.
- Think about prizes for games, do we do them? Or set up so that one person can man two games? Stamps for games participation, then go to a prize table at the end. Or use tickets, but then we need to buy tickets.

6. Other business:

School Sign

- Sign update covered in Afrim’s report
- Sharon and Afrim to talk about getting another person knowing how it works.

Allocation of Council Funds

- \$11,500 to spend, asked Julie for recommendations based on talking to staff, etc.
- Kindy requested \$500 for home reading plus \$500 for some outdoor equipment, it needs replacing from wear and tear. \$1000 total. Could be 400/600 or whatever split.
- Chrome books: 25 are \$7350
- Julie has funds to give French and English home reading from the school.

- Elke motioned to allocate \$1500 to Kindy for home reading (\$500) and outdoor equipment (\$1000), and allocate \$8820 to purchase 30 chrome books for the school. Abbey seconded, passed unanimously. Julie will organize.
- After this, how many chrome books are in the school?

Christmas concert social: feedback

- Cookies were way better, quantity adjusted for next year.
- Could use a couple more volunteers at the end please.
- Decorations looked great.
- Minimal cost and it really adds to the evening.

Sharon offered congratulatory words to Julie: you've been an amazing asset to this school community and we are grateful for your support! It's always sad to lose someone, yet we are excited to welcome Rebecca. We really appreciate your endless support in our initiatives and the students have benefitted tremendously from your support!

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:18pm

Next meeting: February 12, 2018