**Hespeler P.S. School Council Meeting**

**Via Google Meet**

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 27, 2021**

7:00 pm

Present: Rebecca Jutzi, Kevin Pomfret, Sharon McKeown, Elke Lupinsky, Michelle Bush Broga, Kyly Miller, Kara Hall, Jillian Bolender, Jesse Sabbagh, Caitlin Ramcharitar, Sabina Voisin, Susan Fryer-Davis, Sean Wells, Scott Toman, Melissa O’Krafka, Rose Kowalczyk, Stacey Lawrence, Courtney Riddell

Regrets: Megan Gallinger, Susan Ford, Crystal Bechtel, Tryna Gray

1. **Welcome**
   * Appreciate you all coming tonight, especially with all the extra time spent on screens these days!
2. **Approval of Minutes from November 25, 2020**

* Approved as read - Jesse motioned to approve, Kyly seconded, approved unanimously.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**
   * Opening balance of $19,980.59
   * 2 expenses paid since our last meeting: $500 Nutrition for Learning cheque, $597.79 Cougar mascot costume cheque.
   * Allocations/pending expenses of $12,950 remain: $5,500 Kindy play area, $5,700 playground equipment, $1,000 Fun Fair prepayments, $750 parent workshops.
   * Available balance is $5,932.80
2. **Principal/Vice-Principal Update**

Principal’s Update – Rebecca Jutzi

* + We have made the big switch to remote learning, we are waiting on ministry guidelines as to when we can return. Both ACE classes are attending class in the building as distance learning doesn’t work well for special education classes. About 15 staff members are in the building along with these low-capacity classes.
  + We’ve handed out a lot of Chromebooks for students to use at home during this time.
  + There is currently the opportunity to change student mode of learning. Currently about 15 students are requesting a change: 1 is going to distance learning from in-person, the others are returning to in-person learning. These changes will start March 4 and we don’t anticipate that this will have much of an impact on class organization.
  + Staffing updates: Kara Hall is now on staff as LTO for James Bastin in Phys Ed as well as planning time coverage in the ACE program; Claire Chambers has moved from DECE in Kindy (after 8 years) and is now LTO in gr2 for Laura Woods; we’ve hired Abbey Mulder as the new DECE with Robin Brenner in Kindy; Leah Raymer is back in gr8 FI; Melissa Brandsma is back next week in gr7 FI and is retiring in March.
  + Full Term 1 achievement report cards (Sept. - Dec. plus a few weeks of distance learning) are coming out Feb. 17. How those get sent home will depend on the school shutdown, if we are not back in-person they will be mailed.

Vice-Principal’s Update – Kevin Pomfret

* Math marks on the report card will be different this year, it won’t be separated by strand anymore, will be shown as one mark.
* Kindy registration is open for students born in 2016 & 2017, quite a few have come in already.
* FI registration is also open. This closes Jan. 31 so spread the word if you know anyone interested.
* It is transition to high school time, this will be via online orientations this year.
* Next year gr9 math will be de-streamed, the government deciding when to implement this for higher grades as well.
* New health and safety procedure in place this week: now staff must do screening online and staff are logged as having been in the building. Parents will need to continue to make sure they are screening kids daily before sending them to school when we return to in-person learning.
* With the school closure, some maintenance items have happened that can’t usually be done at this time of year: the office and library carpets have been cleaned; the gym floor is waxed; touch up painting in the hallways.

1. **New Business/Fundraising**

Parent Workshops/PRO Grant

* The PRO Grant is available to Councils, but the application process has changed since last year and we must have a detailed action plan for its use in order to be approved. The application deadline is Feb. 5.
* Given the current climate of parents being online all day with their kids, would there even be any interest in a virtual event? Do we want to host an event? Do we believe there’s anything specific that we feel we should make available to the community?
* We can still get the application done if we feel strongly about something right now. Or, we can use $500 out of our Council Funds later in the year if we decide now isn’t the time.
* Kyly feels is would be somewhat unappealing for another online event in the evening right now, parents are tired and need the evening as a slower time.
* Courtney agrees, she expressed concern it would be money spent on something that could have low attendance. Doesn’t feel like it’s something that’s going to feel missed right now.
* Kara echoes the same feelings. It’s a very delicate balance to keep everyone happy and adding another thing into the evening feels like too much. When we were first thinking of a virtual event students were still in school in person.
* Earlier today, Sharon spoke with Rebecca/Kevin about this grant and our parent workshop this year, they also all felt this way.
* Scott suggested that this doesn’t need to be definite decision right now, but we could table it until the next meeting and see where things are at then (if in-person school resumes for example).
* Sharon mentioned there have been other years when we haven’t done an event like this, it’s not critical to run it. The grant money isn’t critical so we can still do this later in the year if it makes sense then.
* Michelle motioned to forgo applying for the PRO Grant this year, Kyly seconded, passed unanimously.

Community Event - Scavenger Hunt

* + It was a quick decision to do the outdoor scavenger hunt, thank you all for rolling with the quick decision post-meeting.
  + Sharon, Jill & Sabina put the scavenger hunt together, thank you Jill for arranging the Dominoes pizza gift certificates!
  + It went well, it was fun for families to get outside and do the activity. Only one minor hiccup: on the 2nd last day the JAWS word got painted over in graffiti alley, oops!
  + It was a lot of emails back and forth to track participation, etc. but it made the most sense given the government restrictions.
  + Kara said it was really neat to see other HPS families out walking around. It was fun to do and the kids really enjoyed it.
  + 140 families signed up, 70 families picked up their gift certificate. 50% participation rate is quite good. We’ve heard other families still did the hunt after the deadline and didn’t ask for the pizza certificate. This is something we could consider doing again in the future.

Fundraising

* Is any fundraising appropriate at this time? We had committed as a Council to come back and discuss at this meeting.
* Sharon still feels this is not the right thing to do right now. If anything, it feels even less appropriate than before. The opinion of parents could be quite negative given that students aren’t in school in person right now. We could maybe discuss a pizza night fundraiser in the future.
* Rebecca agrees 100%, the timing isn’t right.
* It’s hard because as a Council we usually raise a lot of money and it could be putting a damper on what we can do next year but right now it’s not the right thing to do. We will revisit again at our March meeting.

1. **Other business:**

Cougar Mascot

* Rebecca presented a slideshow of “our new faculty member”.
* The costume looks great!
* We will share close-up photos to give hints to students to get them guessing about what this is.
* Will need to figure out how we will run the name-the-mascot contest. When kids get back we’ll figure out who will wear the consume to go around the school and show classes.
* Rebecca and Kevin will take it from here, will likely get our Child and Youth Worker to help come up with a strategy to get the Cougar into the classrooms to meet the students.
* Thank you Michelle for taking care of this!

Grade 8 Graduation - support from Council

* Unfortunately, we can’t foresee a normal grad experience being possible for gr8’s again this year.
* Last year we got sent home very suddenly, teachers and admin did their very best on short notice to celebrate the grads.
* Council has usually supplied a photo booth for grad, should/could we be doing something this year to support our gr8’s?
* We don’t need an answer tonight, there are also teachers brainstorming this. Can we do something completely virtual via Megan’s platform? Would need to run a test event.
* Is there something we can do in conjunction with the teachers? We would be prepared to supply funds as we usually have. These gr8’s are missing all of their usual gr8 experiences.
* Everything will depend on the COVID situation at the time.
* Admin tried their very best last year and HPS followed the rules which meant we didn’t do certain things that other schools did. There wasn’t a formal statement about what could be done last year and so schools were on their own to decide. Not all grads have somewhere to display a lawn sign so did not do that. We gave each grad a picture frame gift.
* We’ve learned a lot since then and have more information available to us. This hinges a lot on our gr8 teachers and what they are able to do. Last year we did grad via a google meet. For now, admin needs to meet with the teachers to see what they’re thinking of and then come back to Council with any requests. HPS will form a grad committee within the next month.
* We will need direction from the board as well. It likely makes sense to start planning a virtual ceremony with a drive-by pickup of awards, etc.
* We have approximately 80 gr8 grads this year.

Miscellaneous

* We are missing some Council members because our meetings are currently conflicting with HVNA board meetings. We were not aware of this conflict when the meeting dates were originally set. Sharon proposes we move our meetings off of the 4th Wednesday of the month.
* We will change to March 31 and May 19 instead.
* Please feel free to reach out to Sharon if you have questions, want to discuss anything or have suggestions for now or in the future.
* Kara: parents have been asking if there will be opportunities for virtual parent/teacher meetings after this report card. Rebecca stated that yes, there will be opportunities for this.

**MEETING ADJOURNED 7:57pm**

(Jesse motioned to adjourn, Jill seconded)

**Next meeting: Wednesday, March 31, 2021**

**Meeting dates:** May 19, 2021