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

**Via Google Meet**

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, May 19, 2021**

7:00 pm

Present: Elke Lupinsky, Caitlin Ramcharitar, Sabina Voisin, Kara Hall, Kevin Pomfret, Kyly Miller, Rebecca Jutzi, Rose Kowalczyk, Scott Toman, Sharon McKeown, Stacey Lawrence, Susan Fryer-Davis, Tryna Gray, Crystal Bechtel, Jillian Bolender

Regrets: Courtney Riddell, Susan Ford

1. **Welcome**
* At our March meeting we talked about this being our last meeting but given our late fundraiser we’ve added a meeting in June to wrap up from that.
1. **Approval of Minutes from March 31, 2021**
* Approved as read - Kyly motioned to approve, Kara seconded, approved unanimously.
1. **Treasurer’s Report**
	* No account activity since our last meeting, so we have an account balance of $18,882.80
	* The agreed upon allocations/pending expenses of $11,200 remain: $5,500 Kindy play area items, $5,700 playground equipment.
	* Last meeting we voted to remove the allocations/pending expenses of $1,000 Fun Fair prepayments, $750 parent workshops since these events would not be happening this year.
	* Leaves an available balance of $7,682.80
2. **Principal/Vice-Principal Update**

Principal’s Update – Rebecca Jutzi

* + We’re back in full remote learning, which is going well on the school end. Teachers are well-versed now in how to run their programming and we’ve lent out many Chromebooks to support students.
	+ June 2 is the new deadline to express interest in remote learning as per the government extension.
	+ We know students really benefit from being in the classroom so we hope that we can get as many students back in class in person as possible.
	+ Per the first survey, 30 students expressed interest in remote learning. The board has mandated that the decision is for the whole year since remote school will be run as a separate school. When students come back to in-person learning they will be able to rejoin at their home school, but while they are remote they won’t be included in their home school’s activities, etc.
	+ This will be similar for teachers: they will not be affiliated with HPS. We’ve had two teachers so far opt to teach in the remote school: Heather Turnbull & Julie Halter.
	+ Our enrolment numbers are down 3 classes from where we started the ’20/21 school year. We would have lost 3 teachers because of that, but since 2 have opted to go to remote, as of now we have one other teacher who won’t be returning: Amanda Censner.
	+ This means we don’t need as many portables so we’re hoping we can remove the standalone P7.
	+ If people are asking: if you already signed up for remote learning at the first opportunity, you do not need to do anything for the June 2 deadline. Also, if you want to come back in person you do not need to do anything, your home school will assume you are returning in person.
	+ We have 4 full Kindy classes, of 24 students each. We went down 1 extended day section, so 1 class will not be considered an extended day room requiring 2 ECE’s, they’ll have 1 full-day ECE.
	+ You can expect a full report card in June, but we don’t yet know how they will be distributed.
	+ Our preliminary class breakdown is:

English 1/2 x2, 2/3, 3/4, 5/6, 6, 7 x2, 8 x2 - FI 1, 2 x2, ⅔, ¾ x 2, 4, 5, 5/6, 6, 7, ⅞, 8

* + The multiple splits are due to the class cap of 20 students in primary grades. A difference of only a few students can change this if some decide to do in-person instead of remote by June 2 deadline.

Vice-Principal’s Update – Kevin Pomfret

* Welcome to Kindergarten Night can not proceed until after lockdown is over. Thursday, June 10 @ 6pm is the new date. We hope that we can have families pick up their welcome bags the Monday & Tuesday of that week to be ready for the virtual presentation.
* Kindy area - as far as we know the recent updates are at no cost to school. The sand bins are partially buried in the ground, and the mud kitchen has been secured by burying the legs partway. The mulch is in, it can’t be everywhere because they need to keep it away from the sand area, but they can do about another 15 feet of mulch. The hole the stump was removed from has been filled, and it will be mulched as well.
* They have a solution for the issue of having to walk through the muddy area to get to mulched area - when they do the paving of the driveway/parking lot, they will pave a path in the Kindy area too.
* This will hopefully be taken care of soon, but will definitely be ready for September.
* A few community members have mentioned to Sharon that the little seating stumps don’t look good right now because they look like they’ve just been thrown around. They do have an idea to bury them in place where the mulch is. We can stand them up so they look nicer in the interim.
* Construction is still going ahead as planned. We still don’t have drawings, hopefully for the June meeting we will have plans. We’re adding 12 extra parking spots towards the outdoor classroom on the other side of the shed. We might also be moving the custodial shed and then fencing that area. Removing the gravel baseball diamond and levelling out the hill should also still happen.
1. **New Business/Fundraising**

Domino’s Pizza fundraiser update & feedback

* Our first pizza fundraiser was last night. We had a few little blips but it went well. There are lots of schools doing this fundraiser around the city and each school is assigned to a specific night at a specific location.
* We sold 112 pizzas last night for a donation total of $560! The next closest school sold 90.
* Suggestions to highlight for next week: you can pay to add toppings the donation still counts, get it for nutrition break during the day as the deal is for the whole day, you can pay to add delivery, you can raise the donation amount yourself online if you wish to.
* Let’s try to add a goal as an incentive: let’s try to get 200 pizzas sold next week!
* If there’s a way we can get teachers to send it out to parents that might help too. People seem pretty good on School-Day now, but because the kids aren’t in school, they’re not hearing about it directly to tell their parents about it.
* Kevin has raffle coupons - Hillcrest is having people comment on FB that they ordered to go into the draw to win a free pizza. The coupons are to add incentive for people to participate. It’s not so easy to manage virtually, and with a school of our size. We could do the raffle via Twitter “tag us if you order a pizza”, or share on Facebook - but not everyone has social media.
* We could have the draw via a Google Form, link can be sent in the reminder in School-Day and it will compile all the names that can then be copy/pasted into a randomizer online.
* Sharon will write a blurb to add to the School-Day post, a reminder will come out each week and the Google Form link can be added to the Monday reminder post.
* Stacey: some people asked her if they could donate directly to the school instead of ordering the pizza. If anyone wants to donate directly to the school it can be done through WEFI and designate HPS. It goes into the WEFI account as opposed to the school council account but it’s still directly supporting the school.
* Total pizzas sold will be posted to FB, feel free to share the post!
1. **Other business:**

Gr8 Grad update

* Now that we’re home for virtual learning, the April 29 grad photo day could not happen. Lifetouch will be opening their Kitchener studio when the lockdown is over and students will be welcome to come in for grad photos.
* Online celebration will be June 22 @ 6pm. All gr8 classes across the WRDSB are doing it at the same day/time and with the same format to have it equitable for all students. So all students can participate the same way regardless of funding available at individual schools.
* We have a group of students working to organize it, it will be streamed for all students/parents.
* We’ll have certificates for students and are working with the grad committee with regards to the details of the ceremony.

Sign Wars

* Sign wars have come to Cambridge this week! Some Galt & Preston schools already started participating this week. Crystal contacted Sharon to suggest that we participate. Kevin had already put it out to some classrooms to come up with ideas for the sign as well.
* Sharon & Crystal have both spent some time on ideas. The goal is to be “tasteful cheeky”. But not so much play on words that our kids don’t understand since we’d like it to be fun for all ages.
* Our goal is to start by calling out the other schools in Hespeler. Crystal researched what the mascots are for all the different Hespeler schools (catholic, public & JHSS).
* Kevin can make the sign wars slide pause longer on the school sign so that the sign can still rotate with the other information we want to share but people have longer to see the sign war slide.
* If other schools respond to us we may need ideas of how to respond.
* Sharon will forward the email she had sent to Rebecca & Kevin of the current ideas as well as the mascot list so if you have an idea please send it to Sharon. Kevin is able to go into the school to post them on the sign as needed. Ideally we post a new one every 3-4 days.
* Sharon will try to keep track of who is participating, Kevin & Sharon will communicate to post updates. Sharon will share if we get responses and anyone with an idea can please let her know!
* We’ll also call out Temple Baptist and St. James churches since they have very prominent signs.
* If it’s going well we can add on calling out local businesses as well.
* The first sign will be posted tomorrow. A photo will be tweeted to school Twitter account and posted to Facebook.

**MEETING ADJOURNED 7:48pm**

Jill motioned to adjourn, Kyly seconded.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, June 16, 2021**

(Final meeting for the 2020-21 school year)