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

**MINUTES**

**Monday, January 16, 2023**

7:00 pm

Present: Sharon McKeown, Rebecca Jutzi, Stacey Lawrence, Kyly Miller, Susan Ford, Tara Delaney, Alicia Young, Kara Hall, Kristin Lovell, Melissa Legros-Cronkwright, Rose Kowalczyk, Chris Sciascetti, Rebecca Mills, Michelle Bush Broga, Tryna Gray, Sabina Voisin, Jill Bolender

Listening Virtually: none

Regrets: Karen Canapini, Crystal Bechtel

1. **Welcome**

* A Google Drive has been started to save all documents, notes, etc. from council events. It’s shared access with the Principal as well as Council Chair. We’ll keep this updated as events happen so that we have an archive that can be shared as needed.

1. **Approval of Minutes from November 21, 2022**

* Approved as read - Kara motioned to approve, Chris seconded, approved unanimously.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**
   * We have an issue with pizza payments because currently Stephanie cannot print cheques yet, and with Karen out the cheques also can’t get signed because both Principal & V-P need to sign.
   * $7037.72 opening balance
   * Revenue in: $19,280 fall pizza lunches; $17,505 winter pizza lunches; $8221.64 vendor sale
   * Expenses out: $13,592 to Domino’s for fall pizza lunches; $350 Shelley Restall workshop speaker
   * Pending revenue: $2760 winter pizza lunches extension; $100 HVNA vendor sale camp donation
   * Pending expenses: $750 ACE coffee cart; $1500 sensory equipment; $1500 fun fair deposits; $1000 social events; $650 parent workshops; $500 gr8 grad photo booth; $1381 Domino’s 1st winter pizza week; $12,908 Domino’s remaining winter pizza weeks
   * $20,773.36 available balance
   * Kindy sandbox is on our radar for spring, no funds are allocated yet.
2. **Principal/Vice-Principal Update**

Principal’s Update – Rebecca Jutzi

* Karen has been off for December & January, Marc Lehmann (retired principal) is filling in as VP until Karen is able to come back (hopefully early February). Marc has been fantastic in the school and we’re lucky to have him covering.
* December ended strangely with a snow day on the last day before break.
* Vendor Sale was amazing and the mystery game night as well! Thanks for the efforts!
* We’ve had lots going on: reading with Winston, Kindy celebrations, volleyball season ended, choir sang at the Guelph Storm game, and the office renovations are now complete!
* The office reno started in May, and due to unfortunate delays it took until now. Two portable classes have now moved back inside which is great (gr8 math and Mme. Laliberté). We are using lunch room again for nutrition breaks for portable students.
* A year end committee will be forming soon to look at all year end plans. Gr8 Camp went on pause because of COVID and we haven’t been able to open that up again. We will be very limited by bussing issues, it’s very expensive with limited availability. We can look at options for year-end trips (for example, Canada’s Wonderland isn’t fun for kids who don’t like roller coasters).
* The school-wide winter trip to Chicopee is resuming! Gr1-4 are tubing, gr5-8 can choose between tubing or skiing/snowboarding. Some staff will be staying at the school for any students not going.
  + We’re very excited for the help from council funds: ACE cart is coming, sensory equipment is ordered.
* The French Immersion program in the WRDSB is changing now to be a Gr2, effective September 2023. This was a board decision made via a committee that looked at many options. This way students can have more exposure to French before deciding to enter the FI program. Part of this is also trying to get away from the idea of FI being a 2-tier system. Historically there’s been a perception issue that it’s a better education when we know that’s not true. Now, from gr2 onwards students will have 58% French until the end of gr6 instead of 50% so that it makes up for the hours missed in gr1. In general, out of bounds kids will have to switch schools at gr2 to access FI if wanted. HPS doesn’t take out of bounds students anymore but other WRDSB schools still do.
* We’re not sure if this will lead to higher or lower enrolment in FI. It might be lower as students/parents will get a better sense before applying for whether it’s a good fit for their child or not. We typically see a loss of kids out of French in the early grades. Gr1-2 and 2-3 are currently the grades with largest drop rates.
* French gr1 teachers will be able to give a more informed opinion on whether they would recommend students for FI or not. It remains to be seen how this will be staffed. Ideally for young kids one teacher will cover both English and French per class.

Dates to note

* + Jan. 20: PD Day - assessment & report card writing for staff. Extended day is closed due to staffing shortages. DECE & EA will participate in PD.
  + Feb. 15: Term 1 report cards go home

1. **New Business/Fundraising**

Vendor Sale feedback

* It was a sold out event, very successful event this year! Thank you everyone for your very hard work!
* Crystal put in a lot of time organizing, thank you!!
* $8221.64 deposited profit breakdown: $150 cake auction; $1003.65 door; $1713.20 bake sale; $5340 table sales (65@$50, 25@$60, 9@$60) 99 tables sold; $243 pizza
* Expenses: $228.21
* $100 donation will come in from HVNA - they didn’t get as much participation as they thought.
* Nutrition For Learning didn’t get much from door donations, decide what to give from council.
* Jill: what if we change to free admission/donation only. We’ve tried this and made nothing at the door.
* Kara: it will likely be better next year as people get used to us doing this again. It took time to ramp up attendance in the first couple of years too. We now need to recover from the years of no vendor sale.
* Also, the school sign wasn’t working so we had no ability to advertise there in the weeks before.
* The N4L grant goes into the school account along with grocery cards. We’ve never run out of money, and the school is not concerned about money running out since this grant came in.
* Tara motioned to give $500 to N4L, Rebecca seconded, passed unanimously.
* Stephanie can transfer to the school from council funds.
* Alicia: Can vendor sale be earlier? Many people maybe couldn’t attend due to illness spiking at that time of year. Historically we’ve geared it to holiday shopping. It also takes that amount of time to organize it from when council forms in September. To host it earlier someone would have to start reaching out to vendors in the summer, so the previous year’s council would be approving and event that the next year’s council would run.

Pizza night - Feb 8, 2023

* We will be hosting a pizza night fundraiser via Domino’s again, details will go out via School-Day.
* Domino’s assigns us a fundraiser night, $5 per pizza goes back to the school.
* You must type in the SGIVE code for EACH pizza you order. The deal is valid all day starting at 10am, only at the Holiday Inn Drive location. It’s very little work for us and raises a good amount.

Danceathon - March 24, 2023

* Currently the same day as grad photos - Rebecca will check if we can swap the date with another school to avoid that overlap. Or grad photos will be first thing and gr8’s dance at the end of the day.
* Kickoff assembly will be March 8 @ 9:45am - pledgelopes will go home this day, Tara will help.

1. **Other business**

School Sign:

* The sign is fixed! Sharon & Sabina were in today with a tech from Florence Signs to get it running again. Right now the software is only on Sharon’s laptop. It can’t be on board computers because the firewall needs to be dropped to run it. Maybe we buy a laptop for the sign that stays at school?
* It’s not a very intuitive program, and it has to connect to the sign wifi while the sign is on to upload. The sign will run 7am-8pm daily. If we need it to stay on later we can change it.
* Sometimes vandalism is a problem with other signs in Hespeler. We can put a protective layer overtop, but it’s more money than fixing the sign once. We’ve been very lucky up to now, and we are in a busier area so that likely helps.
* We will work hard to make sure it stays updated.
* We will need to have a conversation with admin about what gets posted vs. what’s not. If there’s too much information things get missed, so we’ll work together to find a balance.

Parent Workshop - Feb. 2 7-8pm (Chris Sciascetti)

* Jessica from CMHA coming to present about building resilience.
* We need to advise what equipment they can use: HDMI connects to the library TV.
* We didn’t provide water for other workshop, it was fine so we won’t provide it for this one either.
* Rebecca will finish the flyer, Sabina will make a sign, the flyer will get posted to School-Day.
* Chris suggests we make a donation to CHMA as thanks, since we are getting workshop for free. This can be done online via credit card and give a thank you card the night of.
* We have $650 left in the allocated budget, after the donation the remainder will not be needed.
* Michelle motioned to give $250 donation to CHMA, Melissa seconded, passed unanimously.
* Chris is interested to hear from someone who attended the previous workshop and will attend this one to compare them. Maybe next year we can incorporate child care to get more parents to attend? We would need people to pre-register if they’re bringing kids so we know what to expect. What are the logistics around that? Is there liability with that?
* We could also could incorporate other activities? Could HVNA be used for child care? We could donate/pay HVNA. We would make sure it’s free for school parents to access the child care.
* Maybe we could have a few speakers that people can choose from, or rotate between?
* If we do one great event that gets more parents out, then it’s worth having a bigger event.
* Tryna will ask about child care at the next HVNA meeting, Chris can also ask Amanda at HVNA.

School Socials - Mystery Game feedback (Rebecca Mills)

* Thank you Rebecca for putting it together! Everyone seemed to have a great time, and we got great feedback from those who attended.
* Thanks to Melissa & Tara for helping organize, and thank you to all who helped on the day of.
* Registration with time slots would have been better as everyone arrived all at once. About 60 families came out. It would also be better for facilitators to come get families from a central area.
* We could have tiered-level games for younger vs. older kids.
* We could re-use this game again, and add another so there are two to choose from. When people register they can indicate if they participated before or not.
* Athletic council ran games in the gym, the students did a good job managing this. At times it was very busy but it went well. In the gym parents mostly sat at the sides while kids played, in the rooms it was some just kids playing while parents waited and some where the whole family played. The intent was for families to play together.
* In the future we will remember to write thank you cards to the students who volunteered to help.
* At the end of the year council should give the athletic & student councils something for their help all year. Maybe a pizza or ice cream party?
* We would definitely do this again, at a different time of year. It was too close to the holidays for those organizing it. Earlier in December would be better.
* Rebecca will give expenses/receipts to Kyly.
* Is there an additional social this year? Yes. We can still do a family games day. Maybe in April? Rebecca will bring ideas to the next meeting.

Fun Fair - June 9, 2023 (Jill Bolender)

* After Danceathon all our attention turns to Fun Fair.
* Sharon & Jill will meet to review next steps & timeline.
* Kiddie prize table - please start gathering brand new unopened items to donate. They can be brought into school already! These items are good items that kids want to win. Please arrange with Jill/Sharon when you want to drop off. We usually have 60-70 items.
* You can also save unopened Happy Meal toys for game prizes please.
* To discuss further: Kids love to get a prize, but parents don’t want random items to collect at home, maybe switch to candy or stop?
* Kristin has silent auction well underway. Please talk to Kristin/Jill if you have something you would like to donate from your own business, etc.
* Susan is available to make online requests.
* Jill will be reaching out to those who volunteered for the subcommittee to designate roles.

Council Yellow T-shirts

* Since we are able to do more events again, do we need another run of council t-shirts? Sharon will send a Google form to determine interest from council. Kyly will ask her contact to see if they can be done again, and will get a quote. Is there a minimum run?

Council Facebook Page

* Please like/react to the council posts! It will make them get seen by more people. Reactions (love, wow, etc.) boost engagement even more than likes.

**MEETING ADJOURNED 8:35pm**

Jill motioned to adjourn, Michelle seconded, adjourned.

**Next meeting: Monday, February 13, 2023 (early to avoid Family Day)**

**Proposed Meeting Dates:** March 20, 2023; April 17, 2023; May 15, 2023, June (date TBD)