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

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, October 17, 2022**

7:00 pm

Present: Rebecca Jutzi, Karen Canapini, Michelle Bush Broga, Kyly Miller, Sabina Voisin, Sharon McKeown, Stacey Lawrence, Tara Delaney, Chris Sciascetti, Kristin Lovell, Crystal Bechtel, Jill Bolender, Susan Ford, Rebecca Mills, Alicia Young, Alexa Morrison, Melissa Legros-Cronkwright, Simone (missed last name)

Listening Virtually: Jesse Sabbagh, Rose Kowalczyk, Edesiri Udoh

Regrets: Kara Hall, Jen Regimbald

1. **Welcome**
2. **Approval of Minutes from September 19, 2022**

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

1. **Treasurer’s Report**
   * Opening balance of $7037.32
   * Allocated funds: $1500 for Fun Fair deposits, $1000 for Council Social Events, $1000 for Parent Workshops, $500 for Gr8 Photo Booth (or whatever it costs)
   * Revenue: $2758 from spring pizza lunches (to be transferred to Council from the school)
   * Expense: $18.07 yard bags from April 2022 garden cleanup
   * Available balance is $5777.65
2. **Principal/Vice-Principal Update**

Principal’s Update – Rebecca Jutzi

* We are already busy working on progress reports, they will go home in November. This indicates if your child is progressing with difficulty, well or very well along with comments (no grades).
* The cyber attack shut down all of IT this summer, and the board was transferring to a new database for student information and report cards. Teachers are working on the new system on the Oct. 24 PD Day.
* Ongoing communication with parents & families is always welcome so feel free to call or email if you would like to talk to your child’s teacher.
* IEP’s are also delayed due to the cyber attack, teachers are working diligently in the meantime to put plans in place in the classroom.
* Staffing update: Emily Helgerman has moved on to a permanent position at William G. Davis, we are happy for her but are also sad to lose her. Trevor Sauder is taking over her math class & homeroom. We are in the process of hiring an intermediate science teacher.
* Sierra Garcia is our new DECE to cover the added extended day section in Robin Brenner’s Kindy classroom.
* The office renovation is close to completion and hopefully we can show you the new space at the next council meeting.
* Oct. 24 PD Day is also municipal election day and we are a voting site. Health & safety training and the new computer system are the focus of the day for staff.
* Hallowe’en: Your child’s teacher will send communication as to whether children are dressing up or not in their class. We are moving away from centering the day around it, so there will not be a costume parade. We are making it more of an inclusive/optional kind of day. If students/classes choose to dress up they may certainly do that.

Vice-Principal’s Update – Karen Canapini

Dates to note

* + Oct 18: DECE Appreciation Day
  + Oct. 19: School Bus Driver Day
  + Oct. 21: Backwards Day (this doesn’t need to be clothes on backwards, it can even be a little sticker written backwards etc., be creative!)
  + Oct. 27: Individual Photo Day - our new provider is Pegasus. There won’t be a class photo in the spring, instead they give a class composite of all the individual photos. This allows for students that are absent on Photo Day to be included in the class composite. Photos are taken in the gym (4 photographers).
  + Nov. 22: Retake Day for individual photos
  + Primary intramurals are starting soon
  + Volleyball has started, teams forming
  + Bus evacuation drill will be before the end of November
  + Mindfulness Club, Equity Club, and Drama Club have started

1. **New Business/Fundraising**

Vendor Sale - Sunday, Nov. 27 (Crystal Bechtel)

* Crystal is moving all information online/electronic so that it’s easy to pass along in the future.
* We only have 10 tables left (5 hallway, 5 gym), currently 65 tables are booked.
* We are trying something new: HVNA would like to run a “fun day” camp in the Junior pod. You can drop your child off for the day, parents may leave the school to do other shopping, etc. as well.
* It will be a registered program, cost of approx. $20-30 per child - to be verified as it might be 2 x 4hr sessions or 1 x 6 hr session.
* A portion of the funds will be given back to HPS.
* We have a good split of direct sales vendors and crafters/makers.
* Saturday, Nov. 26th we will need volunteers to set up tables/chairs & table numbers.
* Sunday we open at 8am for vendor setup (7:45am for council volunteers).
* Stacey is organizing the bake sale - all hands on deck for baking please! Try to package items in groups of 6 cookies, or individual servings (for example). Try to package in quantities to sell.
* Stacey will submit expenses for tablecloths, bags, etc.
* Sharon will check upstairs for supplies as well.
* Later on we can ask vendors to donate items for the Fun Fair silent auction.
* We have raised the admission fee from $2 to $3, and additional donations to Nutrition For Learning are welcomed! (N4L will be there with a table)
* What are we raising money for? For the flyer: dramatic arts & physical education initiatives (microphones, floor hockey equipment).
* We also traditionally donate a minimum of $500 to N4L from our vendor sale revenue.

Pizza Days - Mondays starting Oct 31

* Pizza will be in the same boxes as last spring, 2 same slices per box for $5 per box, served at 2nd nutrition break.
* Gluten free costs $5 but we will sell it at cost so it’s the same price as the other pizza.
* Choose between cheese or pepperoni, and gluten free cheese or pepperoni.
* Sign up for an 8-week session at a time on School-Day, Shelley will post in the next day or so.
* Need volunteers at 12:10pm for 1hr: Sharon, Tara, Sabina & Jill alternating, Ryan sometimes (Chris).
* Student runners will take to classrooms in hot bags again.

1. **Other business**

Parent Workshops (Chris Sciascetti)

* Chris presented 2 options:
* A) Shelley Restall, Registered Social Worker with her own practice. $175/hour, evening sessions.
* Topic options:
* Supporting parents who support kids with anxiety and strategies specifically helpful with neurodiversity affirming approaches to supporting anxiety with autism & ADHD
* Eating disorders/disordered eating, raising kids with intuitive eating and a positive body image
* Communication strategies to reduce conflict
* Emotion Focused Family Therapy Model around validation, emotion coaching, and behaviour coaching specifically
* Shelley also has colleagues in the Social Work field with other options if one of these doesn’t fit.
* B) CMHA WW (Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo-Wellington). The workshops are free but we should do social media acknowledgement and a donation. Evening sessions are available. Some workshops are online, some are in person.
* Topic options:
* Understanding mental health
* The power of mindfulness and gratitude
* Self-care
* Building resilience
* Stress management
* Physical health for mental health
* Challenging negative thinking
* Silencing your inner critic
* Setting personal boundaries
* Coping with isolation and loneliness
* Seasonal affective disorder
* Mental health in the workplace
* Improving workplace culture
* Psychological health and safety
* Compassion fatigue and vicarious trauma
* Chris proposes that we do one from each.
* Chris needs date options to reach out to both: for Shelley try for the last 2 weeks of November, maybe Nov. 30 7-9pm for the anxiety workshop; for CMHA look ahead to February for either the challenging negative thinking or building residence workshop (Chris will ask what might suit our group best).

School socials (Rebecca Mius)

* Rebecca looked through previous council minutes to get a sense of what we’ve done in the past.
* We will do the winter concert social & a family games night.
* Rebecca has done an “escape room” at her work before (find Santa’s missing list), and it was very well received. This could likely be adapted to be played as family groups.
* Sharon relayed that historically, our winter social is us hosting juice & cookies after the choir concert.
* Winter Choir Concert date is Tuesday, Dec. 13 6:30-7:30. We decorate the gym right after school.
* We can do something else during December as well, but make sure it is inclusive to all families.
* Jill will update Rebecca on all the games from the previous family games night (scavenger hunt, active ball games, minute to win it, athletic council ran active ball games, board games in the library). Note: \*\*everyone must wear running shoes for games in the gym\*\*
* Admin reminded us that the dividing wall is not in the gym right now, it will be replaced next summer.
* Date decided: Thursday, Feb. 16 for family games night.
* Teachers also used to put on a math night of games & activities.
* We generally get a really good turnout for free family events, it’s just about having the time and volunteers available to organize & run the events.
* Rebecca will think about how to repurpose the escape room idea and see if it can work for winter. Dec 21 is the proposed date.
* Admin noted that we may not have teacher support for events if there is job action, and to just be prepared for that possibility for all events we plan.

Fun Fair: June 9, 2023

* Remember: all hands on deck for this event!
* Jill is waiting on an answer on the BBQ from Bennett’s after a couple weeks of emailing & calling.
* The donate the use of the BBQ, but we go get it and our volunteers cook. We have to pick it up with a truck/hitch and must return it the next day.
* Kiddie Fun Trax has reserved the date for us, we need to decide on what rides we want to book.
* They sent a list of what we had previously, and what they provided staff for. Price then was $3175 +hst. A current price list has been sent, Jill will go through it and add up the new pricing.
* The did not indicate they have anything new for big rides.
* Silent auction - Sabina, Jill, Kristin & Susan will set up a mini-meeting for silent auction to get going.
* We’ll do the kiddy prize draw table - please start gathering items to donate for that! We ask for donations, and will take a small budget if needed. We like to have 60-70 items of varying sizes for kids to put draw tickets in for.
* We need historical data from Tina on quantities to order for buns, burgers, etc.
* Tina has the binder and is to give it to Jill.
* Going forward we will keep digital records from all events so that we don’t miss information again in the future.

Danceathon

* Professor Jamz is tentatively scheduled for March 24 (or another day that week).
* The kickoff assembly would be before March Break (March 7 or 8)
* Sharon will need 1 or 2 other parents to help that day (all day), she will look for volunteers closer to the date.
* Funds raised will go towards outdoor equipment (accessible Kindy sandbox, outdoor storage shed).

Council funds

* Rebecca shared wish lists of items:
* Physical Education: Nerf ball carrier, replacement hockey blades, floor hockey equipment, starting blocks, Nerf balls, leather footballs, agility rings, hurdles, hand weights, Nerf footballs, composite footballs, field paint. Some of this will be covered by the school Phys. Ed. budget.
* Classrooms: megaphone, individual voice amplifiers (microphones), sensory equipment, zones of regulation posters, accessible Kindy sandbox, class set of MakeyMakeys (coding), document camera & projector, 2nd outdoor storage shed, outdoor pop-up tent, start-up items for ACE class coffee cart, headphones with attached microphones for Google read & write on Chromebooks.
* The ACE class dishwasher on the list has already been purchased.
* We are currently not lacking home reading/literacy resources.
* There will be a school fundraiser that will help cover some of these wish list items as well.
* Chris motioned to allocate $750 to the ACE class for the coffee cart initiative, Rebecca seconded, approved unanimously.
* Jill motioned to allocate $1500 for individual microphones, Stacey seconded, approved unanimously.
* Chris motioned to allocate $1500 for sensory equipment, Alicia seconded, approved unanimously.
* Tara spoke to the City of Cambridge regarding benches near the city-owned climber (red & yellow), and they have agreed to install 2: 1 in front of the swings, and 1 in front of the rest of the climbing structure (2nd bench to be confirmed if space allows).
* Sharon noticed that the shade structures at the Guelph skate park stay out all winter (intersection of Wellington & Edinburgh). Rebecca advised that we need permission from facilities to install things like that and has to be from approved vendors. But, it could be an option.

**MEETING ADJOURNED 8:47pm**

Michelle motioned to adjourn, Jill seconded, adjourned.

**Next meeting: Monday, November 21, 2022**

**Proposed Meeting Dates:** December 19, 2022, January 16, 2023; February 13, 2023 (early to avoid Family Day); March 20, 2023; April 17, 2023; May 15, 2023, June (date TBD)