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

**MINUTES**

**Monday, January 15, 2024**

7:00 pm

Present: Rebecca Jutzi, Karen Canapini, Cheryl Tawse, Crystal Bechtel, Tara Delaney, Melissa Legros-Cronkwright, Alicia Young, Marissa Glen, Claire Black, Jesse Sabbagh, Darcie Black, Kristin Lovell, Stacey Lawrence, Carra Myers, Jaclyn Green, Cassie Bolland, Michelle Bush Broga, Chris Sciascetti, Emily Lord, Sharon McKeown, Sabina Voisin, Kyly Miller, Jill Bolender

Regrets: Rebecca Mills, Kara Hall

1. **Welcome**

* Sharon reiterated that we all agree to stick to the agenda in order to keep our meetings a reasonable length. If there is something you would like to discuss, please email Sharon and often she/admin can answer/solve it outside of a meeting without it needing to be a full-group item. If needed, it can be added to the next meeting’s agenda.

1. **Approval of Minutes from November 20, 2023**

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

1. **Treasurer’s Report**
   * Opening balance of $113,302.00
   * Revenue in: $237.90 additional chocolate bar cash, $21,600.00 term 2 pizza, $4248.75 vendor sale cash deposit
   * Expenses out: $1448.32 School-Day fees for chocolate bars, $14,991.00 term 1 pizza cost, $24,229.03 chocolate bar invoice less rebate, $618.83 chocolate bar sales prizes, $1526.85 document cameras, $8473.15 projectors, $4055.75 Kindy sandbox, $216.98 sign repair, $334.05 vendor sale pizza, $152.32 winter concert juice
   * Pending expenses/allocations: $6000 fun fair deposits, $847.68 social events, $1000 parent workshops, $500 garden cleanup, $5000 laminator, $2000 Kindy iPad covers, $2000 gr 1/2 Dreambox subscription (5 classes), $200 Kindy snacks for class concerts, $2000 gr 7/8 Blue Jays trip subsidy, $648 School-Day fees for term 2 pizza, $15,120 term 2 pizza cost
   * Pending revenue: $500.00 grant applied, $155.00 additional Danceathon online funds, $2538.83 vendor sale deposit for tables less expenses

* Chocolate bar sales profit was $19,275.72
  + Available balance is $51,220.52

1. **Principal/Vice-Principal Update**

Principal’s Update – Rebecca Jutzi

* Kindergarten registration is open for kids born in 2020
* French Immersion registration is open for gr1 students until Jan. 31 since FI now starts in gr2. We put out a letter online to help parents have a clear understanding of what the program looks like and to help them make the decision. 58% of the day is in French (gr2-6) (except for math, science & language/English). Gr7/8 has 50% of the day in French. It doesn’t leave a lot of time for English language instruction. For some kids, this works fine. For others, this isn’t enough time in language and then FI might not be the right choice. Reach out to your child’s homeroom teacher, their core French teacher or admin for help deciding if it’s a good fit for your student. The board doesn’t want the default choice to be FI to try it and then have students leave a few years in. Moving forward, the board wants the school to get superintendent consultation before moving a student from FI to English.
* High school registration is in the works. Magnet program applications were due Jan. 12.
* Teachers are working on term 1 report cards. New this year is that English language is combined into 1 mark instead of being 4 marks. There may be a lot of questions on reading vs. writing so please have a conversation with the teachers if you would like specifics. We can’t have parent teacher interview nights. You can see the new curriculum on the Ontario education website.
* Jan. 19 PD Day is for report card writing.
* Mad Science is coming back for gr1-6. It will be Mondays from 3-4pm. We had an assembly today to introduce it. This is an optional paid program.
* Hot Shot martial arts is offering a parents night as a fundraiser for the school. You can register to drop kids off and they can try out martial arts.
* We are having the parking signage assessed as it’s not clear in some places, so it’s a work in progress. We should include signage on Foxridge Dr. as well as in front of the school. The city will not allow us to have a kiss & drop because we don’t have the space needed.
* We had White Hatters do live virtual presentations on digital literacy. Older students need reminders of how to conduct themselves online!

Vice-Principal’s Update – Karen Canapini

Dates to note

* + Basketball season has started, ongoing until March 4
  + Jan. 16: “Sources of Strength” presentation for gr7. It touches on suicide prevention, and a notice went home to opt out of that if desired.
  + Hoops for Heart gr7/8 is this week (5 on 5 games during phys ed time). Students are encouraged to bring in a toonie or parents can donate online if they’d like a tax receipt for $15 or more.
  + Jan. 29: Chicopee tubing day for gr1-4
  + Feb 23: Chicopee ski/snowboard day for gr5-8
  + Apr. 17: Blue Jays game for gr7/8

1. **New Business/Fundraising**

Vendor Sale feedback

* Big thank you to Crystal for organizing! A lot goes into this event behind the scenes.
* Initial tables sold out quite quickly. We opened up hallway space for 20 more tables and they were easily filled. Total of 42 tables inside the gym, 26 outside the gym, 8 in the pod, 20 in the hallway.
* We bought 20 new lawn signs this year and placed them around the neighbourhood.
* We bought coffee & pop to sell this year, unfortunately did not have a donor for this. Pop worked fine but the coffee wasn’t worth it.
* We’ve had a lot of requests for kids entrepreneurs, so we might look at having a special area for that next year. Group suggestions:
* Cheaper tables for kids, maybe ½ a table each?
* Could maybe think about placement to highlight them?
* Could also run a competition to vote for your favourites?
* Unfortunately we had significantly less to sell for bake sale this year compared to previous years.
* Kyly heard some negative feedback on the hallway spots - would we do this section again? Some of them liked it. It’s definitely hard to please all the vendors. Yes, we would offer this area again.
* Jill suggested that we should advertise that kids are free admission.
* There were comments made that the implementation of the event was inefficient and chaotic; the issue of a subcommittee was questioned with respect to this event, along with several other points like the use of a schedule for volunteers
* Several council members spoke up in support of how it was run and how successful it was
* Some feedback to take away:
  + - * Remind volunteers that if they can’t be there all day that’s ok, and any help is always appreciated!

Magic Show feedback

* Overall good feedback, but he made some socially inappropriate comments so maybe not the right person to have back.
* It brought a lot of people out and kids really enjoyed it so this worked well as an event! We could do something like this again.
* The floor seating worked fine, as well as having adults stay with their children. Continue with keeping some rows of chairs at the back for those who need them.

Lunch Box

* We’ll start once a month for the last Thursday of the month. Due to less frequent deliveries we're required to stick to one vendor for a number of months.
* We need to pick a vendor to try out, and then we can assess for adding more options next year.
* Decided that cold food is easier to deal with than hot. Suggestion is Subway or Pita Pit (only 2 cold options available through Lunch Box), there both have options for gluten-free and/or dairy-free.
* They’re sending new 2024 pricing to Sharon tomorrow.
* Can the school try to avoid food days for school-wide field trips? Unfortunately not because date availability for trips is often very limited.
* This one you can book time to time, not whole term like pizza.
* We will try to start Subway for the end of January.

Parent Workshop

* Chris found a parent workshop through White Hatter for digital literacy. Approximately 90 minutes long, live virtual, recording is available for 48 hours afterwards. Proposing this instead of having speakers into the school as she’s seen how low the turnout tends to be for in-person evening speakers.
* $650 + GST, we’d get $50 off because we’ve already had White Hatter present to our students.
* We also have teachers wanting an opportunity to present about literacy, math, etc.
* These 2 options speak to parents of different aged students but we can do 2 different nights.
* Literacy/math presentations could be relatively soon after term 1 report cards - people might be more inclined to come because it’s fresh in their minds. We have teachers that are keen to present and demo what they do in the classroom. We can likely do this towards the end of February. Teachers can organize this event with admin as opposed to it being council organized. Council will help facilitate HVNA for child care.
* Maybe White Hatter can be offered in-person at the school in conjunction with online from home? Have people register if they plan to attend in-person vs. online.
* Chris is asking White Hatter if they can blend a couple of topics from the list they sent. Council’s hope is a blend of:
* Supporting youth being targeted by aggression, cyberbullying, threats, hacks and violence
* Monitoring, filtering and tools for parents and caregivers
* Date: March 27? Chris is asking White Hatter for dates options between March 20-April 20 & will tell Sharon so it can get booked.

1. **Other business**

Teachers’ wish list:

* We’re in pretty good shape right now but there are some small items:
* 160 pinnies for pays ed - $1600
* Redo landscaping with sustainable plants
* White art paper - price pending
* Make-do science kits for ACE - $55 each x2
* Rebecca will have more wish list items from teachers for our next meeting.
* Tara motioned to allocate $1000 for white art paper, Emily seconded, approved unanimously.
* Tara motioned to allocate $300 for 5 science kits, Emily seconded, approved unanimously.
* Tara motioned to allocate $2000 for pinnies, Emily seconded, approved unanimously.

Family socials:

* **Winter concert note:** Buy less cookies for winter concert - Melissa suggests 300 instead of the 400 bought this year. Juice was a good amount, bought 15 cans of frozen concentrate.
* Next meeting: Melissa & Rebecca are trying to find other new ideas for a social, but can’t seem to find anything that suits. Please brainstorm ideas for something along the lines of a games night or magic show and bring to the next meeting.
* Outdoor movie? Needs to be dark and if the weather is warm enough maybe it gets dark too late.
* Next social would be April or May.

**Council members - remember to wear your yellow t-shirts to all events!**

**We have pinnies to lend, or we have extra t-shirts for purchase.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED 8:37pm**

Jesse motioned to adjourn, Kyly seconded, adjourned.

**Next meeting: Monday, February 12, 2024 - early to avoid Family Day**

**(3rd Monday of the month)**

**Meeting Dates:** Mar. 18, Apr. 15, May 13 (early to avoid Victoria Day), June (date TBD)