

Tuesday November 12, 2019

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Members attended: Brigitte Tuinder, Michelle Simms, Kim Byers, Patty, Cindy, John Copland (Vice Principal) and Chantal Howard

Review minutes from last meeting- changes needed to be made as correction. This is to be completed by Brigitte and updated.

Treasurer's report has a balance of \$4147.41 with an outstanding cheque not yet processed in the amount of \$400.00. New balance is \$3747.41

Forest of Reading Program was reviewed. More information was requested by council in regards to what the programs actually is. This information was requested to Principal for review at the next meeting. Book fair discussed; dates confirmed for April 17-18. This book fair is run with the school and the Kiwanis Club.

Principals Message

Student Achievement: School Improvement Plan this year is focused on grades 3 and 6 Math. Homeroom and support teachers have met twice to review EQAO data (October), review and complete diagnostic assessments to gauge where kids are (September), and to set some initial goals based on diagnostics. We will be meeting again next week to set targets for improvement (% increase in EQAO scores) as well as to discuss the evidence-based link between students' attitudes about Math and their performance in Math tasks, particularly standardized tests. Hawthorne, like other schools, follows a discernible pattern that says that students who feel more or less confident in Math do better or worse based on this confidence. Our work, then, is not only to teach Math content but to ensure that we are building a Growth Mindset and instilling confidence in ALL students' abilities in Math.

Student Well-being: Our well-being team will be meeting before the end of November to come up with the well-being plan for the year. This plan will focus on specific plans to create a positive school environment and to address bullying (including activities aimed at addressing bystanders to events).

Identity-based data collection: From November 26 to December 13 our district will be engaging in a student survey around identity. Every parent should have received a letter detailing participation. For students in grades K-6, parents will be filling out the survey. For grades 7 & 8, students will fill it out during school hours. We are looking to have our grade 7s and 8s do it the first week of December. We are also aiming to have parent nights whereby anyone from grades K to 6 who do not have internet access at home can come into the school to fill out the survey. We are looking to also do this first week of December.

Keeping Students in School Project: Reminder that this is a Ministry project aimed at improving outcomes for Indigenous, Black, and other racialized students. As a district, consistent with stats across Ontario, racialized and Indigenous students are less likely to graduate, more likely to be placed in Applied level courses in secondary school, and more likely to be suspended or expelled from school. As a

school, we have undertaken staff training last week and this on Restorative Practices which is an approach to conflict resolution that focuses on the importance of relationships, of maintaining them, and of repairing harm done to them. It seeks to help students identify how their actions have impacted others' and supports them in making repairs where harm has been done. Restorative practices is one way in which we are hoping to improve outcomes for our racialized, Indigenous, and all students in our community. We are hoping to have a student day of training as well as a parent information night on Restorative Practices before the winter break. We are also engaging in different activities to incorporate and/or deepen our culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy so as to better meet the interests, goals, and needs of our students/your children. We currently have 15 staff who are engaged in a book study to this end.

Labour Relations: OSSTF (EAs, ECEs, Office & Custodial Staff) are in a legal strike position as of Monday. We have not received any word that strike action is occurring. Legally, we must have 5 days notice before any action is taken—this would be notification by tomorrow were action to be being taken on Monday. ETFO (teachers) will be in a legal strike position as of Monday, November 25th. Again, we have received no word of any action and would require 5 days notice if action were to be being taken.

We are committed to working through this process in a way that protects the integrity of the bargaining process as well as the integrity of the relationships within our different employee groups in the school and between our school and the broader community.

Teachers update

Primary/Junior gym equipment really needed. Wish list provided. To be discussed at December meeting.

Movie night reviewed. Movie chosen was Toy Story 4. Bev, Cindy and Patty volunteered to help with the sign in sheet and clean up duties

Pizza Day- This item was not discussed but being moved to the first item at the December meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 pm