



Humewood Council: Meeting Minutes

DATE	October 14, 2020
TIME	7-9pm
FACILITATOR S	Lori Litman, Jordana Joseph
SECRETARY	Rae Ann F.
ATTENDEES	Lori L., Jordana J., Rae Ann F., Bari C., Joanna T., Cheryl B., Tanya B., Rachelle N., Julie W., Eduardo C., Carly L, Shannon J., Sara H, Anna R., Karen S., Ali S., Alexis M., Amy F., Eliane S., Nawar N., Sarah C., Alexis M., Rachel Y., Cheryl B., Jason C., Nehad A, Jaty, T., Anna Z., Jayme D., Morris B., Kay M., Shari L., Katsu, T., Sandy C., Matt G., Debbie B., Shannon G., Lisa L., Mikael W., Sabrina V., Jeff B., Michelle M., Sarah B., Matt G., Fiona C., Shannan D., Michael K.,

AGENDA:

- Welcome
- Principal's Report
- Financial Summary: closing of last year; starting of this year
- Role of SAC/volunteers - please join us! Class reps
- SAC Elections
- Brainstorming (1) building community (2) fundraising

WELCOME

- Welcome to the start of such an odd year
- We have a record number of parents at meeting
- Great way to hear about what's happening and be part of the conversation
- Join our mailing list to get email updates. Please spread this link WIDELY! :)
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScaU0lwDunMNXiHA_nCSYC88MluPJ5-Dsh7dcBkXJAlbJ-fw/viewform

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

JULIE: Thanks to everyone for joining tonight, including all the people in the virtual school. One of the mandates is to include virtual families in our community and our council. It has been a really great start up to the school year. It's so great to see kids back in the building, and it's so great to have this big of normal in a world that's abnormal.



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There have been a number of changes to the structure of the school day:

- Parents not to be on school property; if they are they need to have masks on when on school property
- Kids meet their classes at various locations around the school
- A lot of anxiety but when it all started happening, it was quite smooth.
- Also changed the structure of the school day to incorporate 2 recesses in morning and 2 in afternoon – A schedule and B schedule – to minimize traffic in and out of school and to provide more room outside to play at recess. Each class has two areas outside that alternate.
- Staggered lunch that is more delineated than before. Kids eat in class so proper hand hygiene Why no lunch outside? There are issues like additional litter outside and kids pick up other people's litter; hand hygiene easier to control inside. That's why we've opted for in-class lunch. The bonus is that we don't have litter on the school yard!

Students don't move classrooms; teachers come to them

- There isn't really rotary classes in the traditional sense, but in some cases the teacher changes rooms (french etc)
- Each rotary teacher is assigned to 6 cohorts – each teacher does rotary subjects for all of them. (i.e. Mr. Polak teaches music, phys ed, and drama/dance)
- There are outdoor spaces that teachers can book for outdoor learning. Teachers have taken advantage of nice outdoor weather

We had a realignment following the deadline for students to switch between virtual school and in-school:

- We had one realignment just before school opening that required re-timetabling
- Then, last week, we had a realignment based on the switch between virtual and in-school. Our net gain was 2 students but we lost a french immersion classroom. Went from 6 primary FI classes to 5 – they're all under the 20 cap but much closer to that number than they were before
- The deadline for the next switch is Nov 6. The board may be reviewing that date. Trustees are looking to a motion to move that because it's so close to the most recent realignment. They want to minimize the impact to the changes to the kids in bricks-and-mortar schools

Terry Fox Run – Rachelle

- Terry Fox Run: we had a meeting with a committee of teachers – Mme. Clarke, Ms. Terenzio, Mme. Rodrigues, Ms. Watkins – about how to have the Terry Fox run this year
- Typically TF happens in September. We've opted to wait for things to settle so our event is taking place on October 22/23
- We're doing it over 2 days so we can smaller cohorts outside. There will be a max of 3 classes outside at a time. We'll also be holding a virtual school-wide assembly



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- The Terry Fox Foundation has done a great job of adapting their run; they're doing a log of online support
- This being the 40th anniversary of Marathon of Hope, each class is doing a "what's your 40 challenge" (40 jumping jacks, 40 positive words...)
- Last year we had the toonies for Terry but not doing physical money this year. All fundraising done online.
- Last year we raised over \$2K. This year we want to raise \$2,500
- We're having a raffle for a 40th anniversary T-shirt.
- This will be our first school-wide event of the year; it looks different but still humewood spirit. Students are encouraged to wear Canada colours or Terry Fox gear.
- Fundraising here:
<https://secure.terryfox.ca/registrator/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?TeamID=911644>

Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to parents who are doing the virtual book fair. Since Mr. Mcnamara is teaching virtual school this year, he's not able to do it.

- Scholastic book fair - Nov 9-16
- All virtual but still fundraiser for the school

Covid screening tool

- Thank you to everyone who's doing this on paper or with the app. We know there was a rocky start with the app, but everyone seems to have found their groove with it
- We also know that the parameters around symptoms have changed. Direction coming from Toronto Public Health
- Things can change on a daily or weekly basis. Protocols being constantly update and we try to pass on to you as soon as we have them
- There are 3 options if your child is exhibiting one symptom: get a covid test, isolate for 14 days, or wait until symptoms improve and seek alternate diagnosis.
- If you're ever confused about symptoms, call us and we'll work it through with you.

Ojibwe language program

- We cannot operate the Ojibwe program in the form that it has in the past because kids from many classes would typically come and work together.
- Ojibwe teacher Martha Toulouse is an important voice in our school so we're working with her to find a way to work with our students. She's teaching part time at another school so to in order to limit her exposure, she's only working with 3-4 intermediate classes, 1 class per half day.
- Interacting with intermediate kids first re: orange shirt day and residential schools

Itinerant music - strings

- We've elected not to run the program this year



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- It was opt-in; there hasn't been a lot of uptake in past years
- Since it's all virtual this year, it's too hard to manage the schedule
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How can school council help this year?

- Mr. Polak is running a field games unit
- He wants to get some other games
- If you have any or would like to donate or make some of these games, we're looking for bocce, cornhole, molke, can jam, horseshoes and washer toss

School budget

- Our school budget has not been uploaded yet and we won't be getting it until the end of October
- We have been spending money but we haven't been able to track it because our budget hasn't been uploaded
- At the end of last year we did purchase 100 chrome books with money leftover from last year's budget because we had 95 taken out last year for students to use last year went virtual. They haven't come back in case the students need them this year. However, we did get 18 more from the board. We have 100 now.
- Two classes sharing one cart of 24
- Wipes to wipe them down between classes.

Yearbooks

- We have some 2019-2020 yearbooks left over from last year.
- \$20 in the office

Q: How are the kids spending time outside? What can parents consider?

- Julie - because we're an OPAL school, our kids are used to being outside and parents send them ready
- We play outside in all weather – all weather recess
- Teachers are teaching outdoors - phys ed/drama/dance/music outdoors is all taught outside. Students are not allowed to sing but there is a lot percussion
- One of the features of the OPAL program has been loose parts (tires, tarps, ropes, fabric, wood etc). This year we haven't used them yet because of Covid and the concerns around shared materials. This has been a challenge because we don't have toys out there. But we do have trees that they climb and wooden "cookies" and stumps that they use
- One thing we're starting to look at are recess bags for each of the classes. Can't put balls because they might intersect with other classes.
- One of the philosophies of OPAL is that you don't shut down play and we've had to say no to all kinds of play. That's been challenging.



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- Some of the kids are starting to get to the point that they need something else to do. Looking at equipment for each cohort

Question from Michelle M: are parent donations allowed to purchase air purifiers?

- Julie: We're not allowed to take parent donations, however the board has been given some that they'll be bringing into schools that they deem in need. Don't know if it's us. We'll find out soon.

Question from Michelle M: Some schools allow cohorts mix at recess w/ masks. Can we?

- We allow kids to have mask breaks outside, that's why we're not mixing
- In operational guidelines we can't have students mix with more than 50 other students
- There's a potential to mix two classes, but the worry that they're mixing with others isn't worth it. We deemed it safer to keep cohorts separate

Q from Jordana J: alignment - is the board intending to do a re-alignment at each opt-in/opt-out point. Will classrooms be affected with each point?

- Julie: the next opt-in/out is Nov. 6 and there has been some talk that they're going to review that. There were a lot of concerns about disruption to students in school
- We now have empty classrooms in our school
- More students were going virtual boardwide; at our school we had students coming back
- The board didn't anticipate demand for virtual school and had to staff those classes. That meant taking staff from bricks-and-mortar and placing them in virtual school
- VS was having issues with french teachers – they look at staffing system-wide and place staff when they need to fill the gaps.
- Lori: Shelley laskin is a great resource for these types of questions: sign up for her newsletter or reach out to her directly: shelley.laskin@tdsb.on.ca

Q: Can students in virtual re-join ojobwe when back to in-school learning?

- Yes

Q from Michael K: As kids are coming in and out from virtual school, what happens on an individual class level when kids come back in? How does that affect the progress of kids in class?

- Kids and teachers always need to do a reset
- This year is different because kids are coming in at a variety of different levels and not where we'd anticipate them being because there was such a gap in learning over 7-8 months
- There have to be adjustments anyway, but yes, it's disruptive but teachers make it work.

Mental health: how we're dealing with health and wellness for staff and students

- A lot of classes doing mindfulness in class



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- One staff member is doing a certificate and is educating other staff.
- We still have our position of responsibility for wellbeing - Mr Polak looks for programs that incorporate wellness into the day
- The board has resources that we can use
- If anyone has ideas, we're happy to listen
- Lack of chance to run for high-activity kids - that's why a lot of our teachers take kids outside for learning; it helps even if they're not running
- Classrooms look different; they're sitting at desks. It's not how we like to teach but the teachers take opportunities to get outside.

Q from Cheryl B: Will there be gifted testing for grade 3?

- This is TBD. We have been in contact with the special education consultant but there's no date scheduled.
- Will share info as soon as we have it

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

- As a council, we generally raise \$45-50K each year that goes toward programming that wouldn't normally happen (arts enrichment, scientist, drama, instruments) Here's where we are this year, following last year when we were unable to hold several key fundraisers (Snowball in 19/20, Fall Fair in 20/21)

Co-treasurer, Tanya B:

Here's an overview of our typical fundraisers

- Pizza lunch - largest fundraisers
- Fall fair
- Snow ball
- Blue jays game/marlies
- Pumpkin drive
- Wine survivor
- Bake sales

This year we have no pizza lunch and no fall fair

Updated numbers from last year's budget

- While we didn't have Snowball last year, we did ok from last year because we collect most of the pizza lunch at the beginning of the year but don't incur expenses from march to June. A lot of parents graciously left the money with council following the school closure last year and didn't ask for refunds
- We have about \$24K from pizza lunch without any additional expenses
- Overall we're holding \$54K in the bank
- TDSB requires us to keep \$12K in the bank



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- We have in past years allocated funds to field enhancements: we have \$16K put aside and approved by council
- There's also \$2,700 put aside for a Claire Yung school memorial
- That means available funds amount to: \$23,424
- That's assuming we do no fundraising
- School technology is a big need - we generally sit down with Julie and Rachelle to understand gaps and priorities

FUNDRAISING IDEAS/QUESTIONS:

Pizza lunch by class?

- There's a strict protocol with visitors in the schools
- Too complex with hygiene/sharing
- No for now

Humewood masks?

- We're looking at spirit wear
- Reached out to vendor re: ppe (fanny packs/masks) – looking at that as an option
- Julie - you might not want your child's mask to look like everyone else's mask

Wine Survivor

- Mo is happy to do wine survivor in November

Jayne Derkson - my starry chary fundraiser

Can you just donate to council?

- YES - it's on the council website: <https://humewoodcouncil.com/>
- The hope is that once Julie has her budget, we'll be to give some clarity on what kind of support we need/where donations would go

Elections

- All positions up, but some people willing to come back
- Co-chair: Lori L., Jordana J
- Secretaries: Rae Ann F., Bari C
- Treasurers: Tanya B., Joanna T
- No positions challenged. All returning people remain

New council positions:

Fundraiser chair: Jayme Derkson volunteered to lead fundraising.



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Mental Health Committee: Shannon Greene, Joanna Morrison, Sara Handler volunteered to set up a new committee

- More than just mindfulness. For active kids, mindfulness is great but they need opportunities to stretch and move, activating their brain gym in the class - can teachers look into that.
- Julie - yes - for sure - if you have any resources let us know. Teachers take kids outside but open to other ideas
- Rachelle - we're having an upcoming staff meeting, let us know and we'll share with staff and see how they can integrate

Grade 8 grad committee: Rae Ann Fera, Joanna Tam, Debbie Baker, and Cheryl Batty volunteered for grad committee

Now that we're a month into the school it's a good time to get voices from the teachers re: what they have and don't have - class reps.

- Class reps are the bridge between council and the families in you class - want to bring that back
- Virtual class parent? Rachelle - it would be tricky - there are multiple students across the learning centre - not sure how it would be facilitated - we can look into it.
- If a community event, that's possible, but school based events less so
- Need class rep set up to help with comms

Remember to fill out signup form to be part of council communications

UPCOMING VIRTUAL COUNCIL DATES

- Tuesday November, 10
- Monday December, 7
- We'll plan the 2021 meetings at the december meeting

Minutes from June 3, 2020 will be approved at next meeting.

Move to adjourn:

1st: Jordana J

2nd: Lori L