



Humewood Council: Meeting Minutes

DATE	December 7, 2020
TIME	7-9pm
FACILITATORS	Lori Litman, Jordana Joseph
SECRETARY	Rae Ann F.
ATTENDEES	Lori L., Jordana J., Rae Ann F., Omar G. Julie W., Tanya B., Mack P., Sara H., Rebecca D., Ali S., Marissa M., Sandy C., Alexis M., Lisa B., Anna R., Anna Z., Cheryl T., Rachel Y., Sarah C., Jaty T., Kadeen M., Jayme D., Danna B., Jessica F., Joanna T., Lisa L., Anne S.,

AGENDA:

- Welcome
- Approve Nov mtg minutes:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QcWjHn7Y1LPXuNAO0x4DDbkiYoYhEL0L/edit>
- Principles report
- Budget review / approval
- Events / activity priority: Dec - Jan
- Stay connected / Class reps needed
- Other?
-

WELCOME

Anna R moves to approve November minutes; Tanya B seconds

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Covid update

- We've had 4 confirmed cases since Nov 24. Dismissed, along with associated staff.
- One class resolved and they're back on Dec. 4
- In the event of a confirmed case, that class is dismissed along with homeroom teacher and associated teachers
- Toronto Public Health does an investigation on each case
- At this point, the origin of the cases has been in the community and not in the school



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- We're being as vigilant as we can while also allowing kids to have enriched learning and creative play
- TPH protocols have changed - now looks more like the beginning of the year. Screening includes ONE or more symptoms, including runny nose, which means that students either have to be tested or self-isolate if they have one symptom, and the sibling has to go home as well.
- The last few weeks have been challenging; never like to communicate this kind of news. The responses have been very supportive. Thank you.
- The staff have been amazing, both in the building and virtually. We've been short staffed and everyone has stepped up.
- I want you to feel reassured they're in good hands.

Q from Sara: if a kid has a runny nose and tests negative, how do you show proof?

A: on your phone is fine, though protocol only requires you to let us know of negative test\

Q from Sara: If someone had tested positive in the cohort following being sent home, how would we know?

A: TPH would have done an investigation and communicated it to the school.

C-CAT 7 Testing

- If you're a parent of a grade 3 student, they're doing C-CAT 7 testing - later than usual
- This is a tool for gifted assessment process
- Students in virtual school will do it in January (likely on the PA day)

Gift Card Giveback

- Want to say how amazing the participating in Gift Back has been .
- \$6350 to date, not including ones from online over the weekend.
- Congratulations to the school community - it's amazing.

BUDGET REVIEW

Parent council and the parent community help raise about 45K that goes directly to school initiatives like Scientists in the School, theatre and arts initiatives, clubs etc.

We did a survey of the teachers recently about what they say as the top priorities for the school budget. We also asked them if the 150 allocation was enough. Also questions that were mental health related. Asked how their kids are doing in the class and if they thought they could benefit from different supports.

They saw mental health as a priority for the year and an area they could use support for themselves and the classroom. Identified needs include:



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- Classroom supplies
- Outdoor safe equipment
- Technology
- Virtual programming

These insights were used for budget planning. We have \$23K of cash in the bank from last year despite no fundraising (this is in addition to the \$12K we are required to hold in the account as per TDSB rules). We've taken an ultra conservative approach for this year's budget planning so that it's covered by the \$23K and anything else we raise is bonus.

TANYA - Budget overview:

Arts and Enrichment:

- This is usually a big one but we didn't spend most of it last year because of Covid. We decided to prioritize elsewhere for the 20-21 year since there's no in-school events

Classroom allocation:

- Teachers generally said \$150 was sufficient funding; outdoor equipment/recess bags is different from the \$150 in-class supplies

ECWID/Square:

- lower than budgeted last year because of no Snowball; this year will be even lower because our two major ticketed events aren't happening.

Grade 8 Grad:

- Kept the \$2,700 despite no expected Grad trip because we don't know what the situation will be like in June - they may have other ways to celebrate other than a trip

Lice Check:

- We usually pay for 2 - this year we're going with TDSB one; that's because we can't have other people in the school; if it can happen at all it will have to be through TDSB

Music:

- We have 500 for instrument repairs. A lot of the instruments can't be used at this time so because of the budget we have available, we're allocating less this year

School/Online workshops:

- there were workshops last year in the gym, but we're now hoping to get some online

Scientists in the School:

- kept 500 for that because there's some options for virtual workshops



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Sports and phys-ed:

- \$2,000 for indoor gym equipment. Want to increase the amount of equipment we have as they're talking about allowing gym indoors

OPAL/recess bags:

- \$2500 to provide a bag for each cohort with outdoor games/equipment. We increased the budget from this item so each class can get a bag and increase what's in there

Specific requests for play equipment from Mr. Polak:

- we have a lot of skipping ropes in the equipment room so don't need more of those; we bought bean bags, foam dice, metal stilts - they are very popular
- Looking to buy pool noodles, hula hoops
- would be nice to get more magic carpets for snow play
- Snow play equipment requested- snowball makers, snow bricks, shovels
- We purchased spikeball sets; they're a hit. It would be great to have lawn sports - can jam, bocce, corn hole, hacky sacks; they're socially distanced and give something for the older kids
- If we do get more, lawn sports could become a unit in gym

Tech:

- New tech is always needed. Allocated \$5,000

New spending categories for 2020/2021:

- Covid Equipment/PPE: \$790 for handwashing stations (already purchased)
- New Mental Health committee: \$2,000 for resources/workshops

This spending totals \$23,840

Q from Anna: teacher survey revealed that kindergarten teachers didn't feel that \$150 was enough. Can we increase the kindergarten allocations?

A: that might make it a bit tricky with the other teachers; would prefer to entertain specific asks on an as-requested basis

Q from Cheryl: can we have a pavilion or outdoor shelter for classrooms?

A: TDSB doesn't allow outdoor structures

Move to approve budget for 2020/21 year

Motion to approve: Joanna

Thumbs up: approved (see screengrabs)



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Upcoming event:

Virtual trivia, Wednesday, Dec. 16.

Register online:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/disney-animated-classics-trivia-online-fundraiser-tickets-130196700837>

My starry chart promotion for Humewood parents:

<http://humewoodcouncil.com/2020/11/23/give-the-gift-of-healthy-habits-with-my-starry-chart/>

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMITTEE

Due to increased levels of anxiety in kids - and parents - as well as feedback from feedback poll, we're going to try some new initiatives.

- Into the new year, we're thinking of doing wellness assemblies that are jumping off points to a theme. I.e. mindfulness, meditation/breathing, yoga, dance, outdoors, June very optimistically looking at music
- We've had two virtual assemblies and they've gone very well.
- On Fridays after lunch, planning something to get the whole school moving (i.e. Bring Sally Up) - it gets everyone moving and energized!
- Talks about creating an online resource with links, articles, youtube videos on staying healthy, supporting each other etc, and getting kids understanding what to do to make themselves feel well
- Guided mindfulness meditation for children
- Mr. Polak - as a teacher, having these resources available is helpful
- Please share any articles and links related to mental health and wellbeing for children and families to sara.yhs@gmail.com
- Mr. Polak - introducing mini workouts to staff this week to use in their case
- Recess flash mobs?
- What about a teacher appreciation food truck instead of our usual lunch? Will need to add it to the budget for future consideration (at the mid-year budget reevaluation)

UPCOMING SAC MEETINGS:

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Thursday, February 18, 2021

Move to adjourn:

Tanya B moves to adjourn; Anna R seconds



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