

Humewood Parent Council Meeting Minutes

DATE	June 19, 2018
TIME	7:00pm
FACILITATOR	Janine & Natasha
SECRETARY	Bari C.
ATTENDEES	Karen R., Tanya B., Ali S., Anna R., Jim S., Bari C., Rebecca D., Phillip O., Rachel Y., Lori L., Sam S., Janine G., Natasha G., Kailey S., Elisse G., Cheryl B., Debbie B., Sam B., Lori E. Todd M., Mack P., Darrin S., Avi M., Marisa M., Shelley Laskin (Trustee – Ward 11)

1. Welcome and Introduction – Janine

- Janine welcomes everybody to the last council meeting of the year

2. Approval of Agenda

- A few changes to the agenda: Julie W. could not be here so Avi M. Will give the principal's report, Kailey has been added to the agenda to give an update on pizza lunch, Shelley Laskin will speak last per her request
- Moved by Rebecca, seconded by Phillip, approved

3. Approval of May Meeting Minutes

- Minutes were amended to remove parent surnames
- Moved by Anna, seconded by Elisse, approved

4. Declarations of conflict of interest

- None at this time

5. Update on Positive Space – Mr. Singbeil

- Mr. Singbeil and Mme. Cumbaa are Humewood's new positive space representatives: staff members who create and maintain a safe, welcoming, affirming and inclusive environment for persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and relationship statuses
- They have received training in the Safe and Positive Spaces course by the TDSB's Gender-Based Violence Prevention Office and are members of the Safe and Caring Schools Team
- Role is to listen, affirm, treat everyone with dignity and respect and offer access to accurate, age-appropriate, non-judgmental information and resources
- The primary positive space will be set up in Mr. Singbeil's classroom and will be marked with posters and signage; they will identify themselves to students at the Pride Celebration

6. Treasurer's Report – Tanya

- Most fundraising initiatives made more money than anticipated and most expenses were lower than budgeted so we have a significant amount of uncommitted funds
- There are still some expenditures to come (eg. grade 8 grad) so surplus will be somewhat lower than noted
- Approval of financial report: moved by Ali, seconded Philip, approved

7. Allocation of uncommitted funds

- We have approximately \$24,000 to re-allocate
- Priorities identified at the beginning of the year: band, tech and field
- Mr. Polak: we were able to get Vaughan Road's instruments, can now expand band programme to grade 8, 224 students will be playing a band instrument next year, approximately 10% of students own/rent their own instrument (number may go up), only need about 13 instruments to ensure all students have an instrument next year, in 2019/2020 will be approximately 260 students in band programme; needs shelving for instruments, nothing appropriate in TDSB shelving catalogue, will also

need to be attached to wall (estimating \$7,000 to \$10,000), also requesting funds for repair of broken/damaged instruments (estimating \$1500); school will pay for some of cost of shelving and installation will be done for free by the board, there is also a modest repair budget from TDSB

- Mr. MacNamara: would love additional desktop computers for the library, down to 4 that are used all of the time by both staff and students, 6 more would be ideal (estimating \$3000)
- Cheryl: asking for \$600 for primary classes for butterflies, magnifying glasses, hardcover books, dress-up costumes and science equipment
- Lori L.: OPAL is asking for funds for a major field enhancement, will begin the planning process this summer, some things will be covered by TDSB but the outlay will be very significant, will need to fundraise separately but any surplus that can be allocated would be greatly appreciated, plan is for different planting/digging areas, climbing equipment, more room for open-play around the entire school; there are also a variety of different grants available for these types of expenditures
- Mr. Mani: looking to add more laptops and a new iPad cart, would like 5 more laptops and a new iPad cart (estimating \$5500), Lori raises possibility of corporate partnerships/sponsorships, these do exist and can be looked into in greater detail
- Anna: would like a set of vests for choir, band, etc. (estimating \$1600)
- **Allocations voted as follows:**
 - \$600 for primary grades
 - \$1600 for music vests
 - \$8000 for band
 - Remaining funds to be split between field and technology (approx. \$6900 each)

8. Principal's Report – Avi M.

- Track and field was great, 7 students went to city finals and did very well
- Grade 8 grad trip at Youth University was amazing, kids loved it and are very grateful for the experience
- Grad is on Thursday, will be an offsite party after the ceremony, kids are very excited

- Mr. MacNamara and Ms. Duong have taken lead on next year's focus: Universal Design for Learning (designing something for neediest users), idea is to plan lessons to reach all students, front-end loaded so less tweaking is necessary as year goes on
- All hiring is done except grade 2/3 F.I. teacher

9. Chair Report – Janine & Natasha

- Thank you to Dulux paint on St. Clair for donating paint for grade 8 legacy project (repainted bathrooms to make them more inspirational and creative, keeping in mind that they are often used as spaces of refuge for students)
- Thank you to Karen for completing application for the Pro Grant
- Lice check is booked for October and February of next year
- Fall Fair Committee has things well in hand for next year, thank you to all for your hard work, hoping to engage older students by asking for help running events, also have some new activities/events planned

10. Pizza Lunch Update

- Kailey is willing to continue in role next year but has some suggestions for changes:
 - Would love for kids to more involved (as opposed to only parent volunteers), perhaps a few kids from a certain class each lunch, grade 4 to 6 would be best
 - Would like a committee to ease the workload and divide the tasks, council will send out a request

11. OPAL Update

- Pop-up playdate was great, good turnout, parents got to see how kids are engaging with OPAL, thank you to Sarah who donated delicious gazpacho
- We now have a shed, in the fall will have kids do some designing/decorating
- Will go through inventory of loose parts so we know what we have, what we need more of, etc.

- Had an OPAL audit last week, our score was 74% which is very close to gold, Earth Day Canada team is very happy with our progress, we won a camera and a hammock
- We now have outdoor signs and an OPAL board
- Lots of OPAL messaging via newsletters, social media, assemblies, etc., will continue next year
- If you want to be involved next year please email Lori (lorilitman@gmail.com)

12. Trustee Update – Shelly Laskin

- School population is exploding within ward but Humewood has a very stable population, expected to hit a high of 650 students in 2022
- The board is hoping to implement a strategy to work with city/developers and plan for upcoming housing development, at this point only able to react, idea is that ‘growth should be pay growth’
- Budget and fundraising policy will be completely re-examined over the next 18 months to consider differentiation of allocation and equity issues
- There are some changes being implemented to the central structure of the board, schools will be part of learning networks that work together; no more department of special education, instead all superintendants will be able to answer questions on special education, moving towards more inclusionary model
- Implementing evaluation process for superintendants
- Natasha asks about traffic plan for Davisville students attending Vaughan Road Academy → all students will be bussed so there should not be a significant increase in traffic
- Bari raises issue about Safe Arrival System → will email Shelley to follow-up
- Debbie asks about implementation of phase 2 of school plan → no planning concerns have been raised for Humewood even with French Immersion students moving into grades 7 & 8
- Elisse asks about why schools are dual track instead of being English or French Immersion and about balance between English and French → TDSB favours community schools that students can walk to, French numbers are capped so as

enrolment grows English programme should expand so numbers become more balanced

- Rebecca raises crossing guard issue → this is a City of Toronto issue, need to speak to councillor
- Cheryl asks about F.I. at Oakwood and lack of choice for optional attendance → F.I. is a planned pathway programme, there is very little optional attendance in the F.I. programme in general
- Cheryl asks about lunchroom supervision → there is insufficient funding from the province for more supervisors but parents cannot volunteer
- Elisse asks about catchment for high schools → secondary school reform is expected over the next 2 to 4 years to ensure breadth and depth of programming available within a reasonable distance from home

13. Motion to Adjourn

- Approved

ACTION ITEMS:

- Recruit members for pizza lunch committee