

Hespeler P.S. School Council Meeting

MINUTES

Monday, October 21, 2024

7:00 pm

Present: Julia Passmore, Diane Davenport, Sharon McKeown, Cheryl Tawse, Rachel Bain, Alicia Young, Claire Black, Stephanie Hainer, Jessica Kellerman, Marissa Glen, Rebecca Mills, Kristin Lovell, Darcie Black, Jill Bolender, Tyler Wilkinson, Crystal Bechtel, Tara Delaney, Stacey Lawrence, Chris Sciascetti, Kyly Miller, Sabina Voisin, Melissa Legros-Cronkwright

Regrets: Michelle Bush Broga

Welcome/Introductions

Approval of Minutes from September 23, 2024

Approved as read - Kristin motioned to approve, Stacey seconded, approved unanimously.

Elections hold-over from previous meeting

- **Secretary:** Chris Sciascetti offered to be co-secretary. Tara motioned to vote in Chris as co-secretary, Crystal seconded, approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

- Opening balance of \$62,900.50
- Revenue: \$6840.00 pizza term 1, \$500.00 chocolate bar sales
- Expenses: \$55.43 pizza baggies
- Pending revenue: \$270.00 Big Yellow Bag promotion (up to Dec. 31/24), \$499.00 movie night snack sales, \$5425.79 Danceathon (WEFI account balance)
- Pending expenses: \$825.51 garden cleanup, \$1284.88 fall movie night, \$5200.00 additional HPS pop-up tents, \$2900.00 Phys Ed track/field paint, \$4788.00 pizza term 1 expense
- Available balance is \$61,381.47

Principal/Vice-Principal Update

Principal's Update – Julia Passmore

- Due to unexpected changes in enrolment, HPS is reduced from 29 to 28 classes for the 2024-25 school year. These changes took place beginning on Tuesday, October 15th.
- This requires a reorganization of some classes and teaching staff. Staff collaborated to make decisions in the best interests of all our students, and carefully considered each student's academic, social, and emotional needs to ensure they are placed in the best possible learning environment.
- Changes include:
 - 4 kindergarten classes to 3
 - Mr. Mason is moving to Chalmers, and Mrs. Bedford is moving to Meadowlane
 - Mr. Grimm is moving to grade 7/8 science and math
 - Ms. Gray is moving to the English half of grade 5/6 FI and grade 6 FI
 - Our DECEs all stay as extra support for classes and to maintain Extended Day coverage
- EQAO Results: at or above the provincial standard - **HPS** / Board / Provincial
 - Gr3 math: **46%** / 58% / 61%
 - Gr3 reading: **72%** / 68% / 71%
 - Gr3 writing: **61%** / 60% / 64%
 - Gr6 math: **49%** / 52% / 50%
 - Gr6 reading: **86%** / 82% / 82%
 - Gr6 writing: **88%** / 81% / 80%

- This data gets used for school planning goals & PD goals, in our case math will be a focus
- Admin will be attending a workshop to learn how to view the differences in data across variables such as FI vs. English students, and other demographic differences to see if there are gaps or underserved populations that we're missing.
- School Improvement Plan and PD Updates:
 - Literacy Screeners & how to use results to design instruction and improve reading:
 - K-gr2 Acadience (Early Reading Screener)
 - gr3-6 and gr7-8 - Dibels (Oral Reading Fluency Screener)
 - Math - Reflex Math is a new program for gr2-7
 - Dreambox will be used again for gr1
 - Gr8 - continued focus on the Tiered Math approach and "Gradeless" assessment. Gradeless assessment is much more than the name suggests. It involves more review individually with students to go over what they didn't understand and what they're going to focus on.
- IEPs have been completed and sent home, Progress Reports go home November 18th

Vice-Principal's Update – Diane Davenport

Hespeler Happenings (things already ongoing)

- Ms. Hall/Mr. Akgol's classes went to U of W (STEM)
- Chocolate Fundraiser
- Pizza Days
- ACE classes Cougar Cafe
- Volleyball Teams
- Football Team
- Equity Club doing the morning announcements' land acknowledgment with a daily learning fact
- Primary Choir
- Intramurals (most breaks)
- Thanksgiving Food Drive

Upcoming dates to note

- Thurs. Oct. 24 - Picture Day
- Fri. Oct. 25 - Spirit Day: Favourite Decade
- Fri. Oct. 25 - Grade 5/6FI to Homer Watson Museum
- Fri. Nov. 1 - PD Day
- Mon. Nov. 11 - Remembrance Day
- Thurs. Nov. 14 - Dental Screening
- Fri. Nov. 15 - ECI Grade 8 program in library
- Mon. Nov. 18 - Progress Reports go home
- Fri. Nov. 29 - Spirit Day: Mustache Day
- Sun. Dec. 1 - Vendor Sale
- Fri. Dec. 6 - choir @ Guelph Storm game
- Tues. Dec. 10 - Holiday Concert
- Fri. Dec. 20 - Spirit Day: PJ/Comfy Clothes

New Business/Fundraising

Chocolate bar fundraiser: Oct. 4-21 (Sharon)

Thank you to those who have been in helping, office staff have been super helpful with this as well. It's been interesting compared to last year. Some of the rules around chocolate returns have made it more difficult, so we now own the open boxes, we will try to sell them at vendor sale. About 80 boxes still outstanding. Some families have really worked hard to sell chocolate! Some sealed boxes have come back and we can return those. Sharon spoke to all the kids with outstanding boxes today.

We were up against other schools selling at the same time, the rep did not make us aware that other local schools were doing it at the same time.

Stephanie asked if we can sell outside the grocery store? Yes we can, but we don't encourage door to door sales. It would need to be school staff supervised. We'll try selling at vendor first for \$1 per bar in the junior entrepreneur section.

Next month we'll know better where we stand on funds raised.

Next year we will do something different if we do a council fall fundraiser (might be the school). We took it over to help since the school couldn't handle it.

Bingo (Kristin)

Cambridge Gaming Association allows organizations/schools to apply to take receive funds from bingo & slot machines.

We'd like to apply to be accepted as a member organization, they have about 18 schools already.

Last year \$1.6 million was brought in by member organizations.

If accepted, they will tell us how many assignments we'll have each month. 2 people plus a backup person are needed for each assignment. They recommend a roster of at least 6-8 volunteers as you get penalized with less assignments if your volunteers don't show up.

A 2-hour assignment slot can bring in \$900-1100 for the organization with 1-2 assignments per month.

If approved they give a list of open assignments, and we can choose the ones we want to do.

We don't handle money, we call out the bingo numbers of winners and help clean up at the end.

Training is 20-minute video plus one shadow shift.

There's a list of easy things they ask for in recognition in return.

Because there's a penalty for no-shows, admin thinks we should recruit from council to start, and then council members could recruit a helper they know well. We just need to be careful because it's hard to replace a person as you need the training.

Kristin would organize volunteers and confirm/remind ahead of shifts.

Tyler motioned for Kristin to put in the application to the Cambridge Gaming Association, Jill seconded, approved unanimously.

Gardening (Alicia)

Thanks again to all the helpers! The garden beds are looking much better than in the spring. Fall cleanup & bulb planting is almost done.

This year we'll either need to sod over the gardens that are currently tarped/mulched, or continue to add mulch over the tarps. Would facilities provide sod? Most likely just grass seed. Sod/seed would also need very consistent daily watering.

The mulch donor has offered to continue to supply it so that's a good solution for now.

Tara motioned to allocate \$1000 for the garden budget, Tyler seconded, approved unanimously.

Other business

School Socials (Rebecca & Melissa)

Movie night debrief:

- It was a good night, not as big of a turnout as spring which was a bit surprising. Leftover candy will go to vendor sale to sell.
- Date was good in terms of timing, movie started at 7:15pm, everyone was gone by 10. It may have been that there was conflict with kids sports. Should we look into booking the first weekend of September instead? It's a neat event that families can enjoy. Maybe it can become an annual event that we prebook. Will discuss dates further.

- The first week of school can be challenging for families with getting back into routine. Could we do a Thursday before a PD day? This year there was one right before Thanksgiving, and not until November.
- Still lots of great feedback, just things we can consider as we decide about next year.

Additional events?

- They've talked a bit about a game night in the school. Or a reptile show? Look at a date first, then decide on the event. February - either the week before or after Family Day.
- Kristin motioned to allocate \$750 for a social budget, Alicia seconded, approved unanimously.

Vendor Sale: Sunday, Dec. 1 (Crystal)

Flyers & vendor call have been shared via email to council - please share wherever you can!!

We have just over half of the regular tables sold, and almost one full pod for the juniors sold.

Julia will get an update on the table order.

As much as you can help that day, the better please! Saturday setup as well is booked for 1pm.

Crystal will send an email for volunteers.

Extra candy/chocolate will be sold in the junior area, a council member needs to supervise that area anyway. Juniors also must have parental supervision.

Jill will sponsor the kids activity area again, suggestion is to have photos with Winston this year.

Could have a high school volunteer to be Winston, another to take photos. Crystal & Jill will discuss further.

We are competing against other markets at this time of year, but we have a lot of repeat vendors, so we're not worried about filling tables, or attendance.

Parent Workshops (Chris)

White Hatter has many evening dates available every month, we have lots of options, just need to narrow down the month/week.

Cost for the Parent/Caregiver Program is \$695.00 + GST for a 1.5-2 hour program.

Presentation Options:

- Digital Literacy and Internet Safety for Parents and Caregivers (we did this one last year)
- Supporting Youth Being Targeted by Aggression, Cyberbullying, Threats, Hacks, and Violence
- Teen Sexting, Nudes, Distribution of Intimate Images, and the Law
- Online Sexual Predation and Exploitation: What Is the Threat, and What Can Caregivers Do to Help Minimize the Risks
- Online Porn, Shaming & Disinformation
- Monitoring, Filtering, and Tools for Parents & Caregivers
- Sharenting (over-sharing as a parent)
- Technology, Sleep, and Children
- The Good of Social Media Technology and Teens
- Gaming Concerns, Balance, Addiction & Opportunities

A recording will be available for free for 48 hours after the live event concludes. Attendees of the live virtual program receive access to White Hatter's free web book, "Parenting In An Online World."

Presentation is a live, interactive production using two fully equipped broadcasting sets and six studio 4K cameras, providing a captivating experience that closely mimics an in-person event (not like a typical Zoom, etc. meeting).

Would we like to go ahead with a presentation? Yes. Crystal motioned to allocate \$800 to book White Hatter, Stacey seconded, approved unanimously.

Date (in library): January since many people give new tech/games as holiday gifts. Suggest Wednesday, Jan. 15th 7-8:30pm. Chris will confirm with White Hatter.

Are we doing a hybrid format like last year (they can view at home or in person)? Yes, it was a positive last year to have an in-person option last time to get away from distractions at home. Could we make it more social to entice people to attend in person?

Choose a topic: Gaming Concerns, Balance, Addiction & Opportunities (1.25hr session)

Can we promote this in the school & classrooms too? If teachers send it out to class parents it might hit home more too.

Danceathon (Sharon)

Suggested Friday, April 4, 2025 - determined this isn't good, it's Nationals for cheer which affects a lot of kids in this school.

Will look at other date options.

Tara will support Sharon with this event.

Council funds - intentions for this year:

Shade:

- Shelve until November meeting, we've gotten some further costing information, we're getting a new quote this week.
- We were not successful with grant application, there were so many applicants that they could not give a grant to all who applied.

School requests:

- We don't know where we are yet with respect to chocolate funds raised so we'll address these things in November as we'll be more equipped to make financial decisions at the next meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED 8:10pm

Crystal motioned to adjourn, Melissa seconded, adjourned.

**Next meeting: Monday, November 18, 2024
(3rd Monday of the month)**

Meeting Dates: Dec. 16, Jan. 20, Feb. 10 (avoiding Family Day), Mar. 24 (avoiding St. Patrick's Day), Apr. 14 (avoiding Easter Monday), May 12 (avoiding Victoria Day), June 23