

HAMMARSKJOLD HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 18, 2017

Present: Jennifer Picard, Derek DiBlasio, Alex Kraft-Wilson, Dmitri Demetrokopoulos

Regrets: Constance Nowagesic, Will Oades, Kurtis Halvorsen, Donna Flaszka, Cheri Lappage

1. Welcome and Introduction

Principal Derek DiBlasio welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

Agenda was accepted.

3. Review and Approval of May Minutes

Minutes were approved.

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

- ProGrant money has been received. \$1000
- Will be used for a parent information session on anxiety that students may face while transitioning between elementary, intermediate and high school. Would include ways to support their children's mental health and wellbeing.
- Mr. DiBlasio is continuing to learn more about different types of social media to communicate with students and parents.
- Kurtis Halvorsen is the Co-SAC President

5. Teacher/Staff Report

- Jason Timko setting up kid's page in Chronicle.
- He is also the yearbook lead.
- Vikings @ Vimy to go in April
- Curling – both boys and girls are doing well. May go to OFSAA!
- Bram Kamerman has four students that will be going to Ontario Skills Canada Regional Cardboard Boat Competition.

6. Administration Report

- Athletics – Good representation for all sports!
- Cheerleading – field and competitive
- Wrestling – started now and goes until mid-March
- SR Girls basketball OFSAA
- JR Girls – Kylie Daniar was a great coach
- Football team worked well with Superior
- Cross country team had 100 students – 2 are getting scholarships!
- SR Girls volleyball at the top of leader board
- SR Boys basketball went to Falcon Invitational and placed third
- Student Success granted 60 credits through Alternative Education
- Ontario Literacy Course (OLC) established. The literacy lead, Diane Goegan, was invaluable in helping at risk kids/at need kids
- Nancy White, Business Chair, is running foods program for Grade 8 students visiting. They are preparing to serve indigenous meals. They'll be selling soup and bannock. Really integrating students into culture.
- Cross Country Skiing – wonderful mix of elite and recreational skiers and Kamview and Lappe
- ESL class coming to Hammarskjold next semester
- Seven Syrian newcomers and one from Nepal will get ESL support two half days a week to help them adjust and help them learn English
- Social Justice Seminar - Training and support at the Faculty of Education
- Mrs. Saunders – Jazz concert and string orchestra performed in several elementary schools and for the seniors at Hilldale and the Coffee House was a success. Valhalla Gala will be April 21, 2017. Music trip will be to Minneapolis in spring.
- Willy Wonka was a tremendous success with Ms. Deleon. 1000 elementary students came to see it! Ms. Deleon has done a promotional video which was chosen by the Council of Drama & Dance Educators. Well done!
- Math EQAO just completed, which is work 5-10% of overall mark
- Ministry putting more money into mathematics, including specialists to support struggling students
- Renewed Numeracy Strategy (RNS) funding will hopefully be received by September
- New Head Secretary is Pamela Alexander
- Head Custodian Rod McGee back at Hammarskjold after a leave of absence
- Mrs. Boshcoff and Mr. Mellerup are also coming back
- Ms. Daniar, Mrs. Johnston and Mrs. Adams are leaving, but Mrs. Adams will be doing kickstart for Grade 8 students
- Mrs. Wills will be doing Special Needs in February
- Mrs. Lafforrest is doing LTD

Upcoming dates:

- January 26 Grade 8 Tour of Hammarskjold (Daytime)
- February 9 Open House/Info Session for Grade 8 Parents and Students (Evening)
- Report cards to be sent home second week of February with newsletter
- Family Day February 20
- March 3 PA Day
- March 13-17 March Break
- March 30 EQAO – Literacy Testing (Paper version only)
- April 14 Good Friday
- April 17 Easter Monday
- May 22 Victoria Weekend
- June 22 Last Day of School

7. Student Council Report

We've recently finished participating in the United Way Youth for community challenge where we raised \$4650 for the united way. More than any other school! This money came from the Halloween dance (which had a great turnout of over 200 people- the best turnout in the last few years), haunted house (students donated spare change to enter), awful song day (a terrible song was played at lunch until we raised \$300), Jail and Bail (we sat in the jail cell made by the tech class and called local businesses, family and friends for donations -\$3600 raised) .

Before the break we had our annual Christmas assembly with a great turnout and also had a hot chocolate give away earlier in the week.

Still to come we have the dodgeball tournament, tour de Hamm (race around the school on plasma cars), and another dance. Other events we still have to decide on and we are always open to other ideas from you guys and other students.

8. New Business

- Health and Wellness Fair. Mr. DiBlasio will check with Dr. Bishop & Anita. Jennifer will forward last year's flyer to Mr. DiBlasio. What do we want to include? Robin Daley from Thunder Bay Health Unit can speak.

NEXT MEETING DATE: WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2017 @ 6:30