



February Meeting Minutes

Land acknowledgement (Mallory)

Present:

Executive: Alfredo, Mallory, Danna

Parent representatives: Arturo, Shauna, Liz, Midori, Jennifer

Community representative: None

School: Lovenia Gorman, Sue Casey

Alfredo moves to approve minutes – Mallory seconded

Alfredo moves to approve agenda – Mallory seconded

Principal update (Lovenia):

- Hosted volleyball tournament today, team won and will be moving to another tournament
- Musical rehearsals are running, choir will be supporting the musical. All students will be taught “I’m A Believer” in music class
- Student health action committee is running walk to school days, bringing the community together
- Student health action committee will also be hosting “the Big Crunch”
- Chess club is now offered for grades 3 to 6 students
- Grades 1 to 3 students will be starting inter-murals soon
- Garden project is now underway, grant was approved and will be starting this year
- Arts committee has funded some workshops and materials
- School-wide presentations to build community and well-being at Howard
- Calming space planning has begun
- Winter Carnival is being planned for before March break for all students
- Scholastic book fair is coming in April
- Grade 6 Graduation is June 23
- Caring and Safe Schools will have first meeting at the end of March, focusing on washroom safety. Working together on school focus of belonging and mattering and creating a welcoming space, ensuring students see themselves reflected in their learning and understanding the stories of others

- Staff learning continues re: science of reading, including lunch and learns. Howard teachers will have opportunity to visit Sir Adam Beck classes to see how science of learning is running
- Work with Speech and Language Pathologist is continuing and focusing on culturally relevant resources in the classrooms and to tie to the science of reading
- Work with Ilana David began last month in workshops re: gender-based violence
- School council is working on arranging a date for Ilana David to speak to council
- School has partnered with school social worker to work on personal boundaries and consent. He will visit all grades 3-6 classes this month, and then K-2 classes
- Report cards came back today
- Friday is a PD Day, Monday is a holiday
- Group discussion regarding after hours programming – it is not mandatory for teachers to attend, but some are done over lunch
- School is identifying areas of need at the school and finding opportunities for professional development
- Autism support team is helping to create sensory hallways in two spots in school

Financial Update (Danna):

- Not much different than last meeting, not much spending
- There are asks beyond current lists and we are under-funded
- Recent expenses: equity books, tech spending, musical
- With all fundraising, we would have approx. 45,000\$ remaining
- Grade 6 graduation is asking for additional funding – asking for 6,000\$ instead of 1,500\$
- Overspent by about 830\$
- Need to identify highest priorities for short term spending
- Some fundraising is already in motion: spring social, musical, could do a direct ask
- Direct ask is low effort and council can be specific about what the money is going toward, will get communications in order to begin email campaign

Kathy's Resignation (Alfredo):

- Kathy, the community rep for council, has resigned
- She has done so much for Howard, including being on council
- Suggestion to show Kathy our collective appreciation – need to figure out what will do her contributions justice, request for ideas
- Discussion on finding a new community rep – cannot be a current parent. Will bring perspective from the community around Howard

Land Acknowledgement (Midori):

- TDSB requires land acknowledgement at each meeting, and either we use the official TDSB one, or it must be approved by the TDSB
- Same LA read by the same person each time doesn't capture the purpose of the land acknowledgement, cannot be personalized, less meaningful
- Equity committee has had a conversation about this, likes the idea of moving the acknowledgement to different members of council. The next best option is to go with the TDSB

acknowledgement and to add personal reflections. Equity will reach out to other local councils to get a sense of how they are handling this new bylaw.

- Discussion over whether council has the resources to bring someone in to run a land acknowledgement workshop. This could add to the reflection piece of the land acknowledgement, if we must stick to the TDSB land acknowledgement. Could be done separately from the council meeting to allow for enough time.
- Request for cost of workshop

Committees (Various):

- Art (Liz): Clarified spending process for purchasing art supplies, teachers can purchase from anywhere. Six workshops have been purchased. Have not yet identified performance opportunity from teachers – deadline of early March. Ms. Ringler would also like to do some arts spending.
- Musical (Liz): Musical director has been found, and a parent volunteer who is an opera singer who will be offering support to the singers. Ms. Maitland will be leading the stage crew, lots of teacher support. Leads for all depts have been found. Parent volunteers are not yet all in place for each of these depts. Still looking for lighting and sound equipment.
- Parent social (Mallory): Parent social will be May 27 at St Casimir's. The estimated fundraise is higher than expected, but the cost is also higher than expected (ask is 4,500\$)
- Equity (Midori): Equity has received funding for the garden project, and are in the process of collaborating with Indigenous educators, including those who have supported other schools. Includes elders, knowledge holders from High Park Nature Centre. Ilana David has been in the school to do workshops with the teachers, and she will be coming to a parent council meeting in April to talk to parents. Equity is also looking at a standalone community-based workshop, potentially done with PFLAG to give community shared language/action to show up for one and another and to create a safe and affirming space. Equity members are doing training on disability justice and will help the committee to work on disability justice with the school.
- Sports (Alfredo): New request for hockey nets. Discussion over whether funds could come from playground
- STEM/Tech (Mallory): No updates
- Calming Space (Ashley): Met with student mental health committee, very engaged and excited. Some places on Roncesvalles and art places have offered discounts or finding free supplies. Next step is measuring the space and purchasing. It will be across from Ms. Casey's classroom on the second floor
- Grade 6 Graduation (Mallory): No update other than increased budget request

Other Business (Alfredo):

- What is the process for the special opportunity fund. Can council executive be in charge of this?
- Discussion over spending some administrative allocation on microphone to use for hybrid council meetings, could possibly come from a parent
- Guest speaker for next meeting is Debbie King (new trustee for ward 7). Might include more time April guest speaker is Ilana David, gender based violence social worker, she ran the sessions done with the staff

- May guest speaker could possibly be the speech language pathologist to talk about science of reading
- Alice (PIAC co-rep) notes that there is a new co-rep, and they will start circulating around the different school councils in the ward. Alice can take issues to PIAC – examples including the land acknowledgement discussion. She can submit a motion so that the exec supt can come on and discuss. These are public meetings that anyone can attend, so if there are any board-wide topics, they can be brought in to these meetings.
- Danna: There is a form to submit expenses. It is online and the link will be re-shared on the parent council website.

Meeting is adjourned

Questions, comments, concerns, or have a suggestion for us? We'd love to hear from you - please get in touch with Council: sc.howardjuniorpublicschool@tdsb.on.ca

Next meeting is March 22!