



October 2023 Meeting Minutes

7:04: Land acknowledgement (Midori)

7:05: Alfredo introduces the agenda

7:06: Roll call (Alfredo)

Present:

Executive: Alfredo, Mallory

Parent representatives: Arturo, Midori, Jennifer, Shauna, Paul, Sonia

Community representative: None

School: Lovenia Gorman, Sue Casey

7:08: Approval of Minutes – no changes

7:09: School Council Business/Elections (Alfredo)

- Alfredo moves to ask for objections/discussion rather than vote on every item, if consensus is reached
- Explanation of mechanics of council:
 - Roles (principal, teaching staff rep, non-teaching staff rep (currently vacant), parent reps, optional community rep)
 - Executive (chair/co-chairs, secretary, treasurer)
 - Parent reps attend meetings, are voting members, participate in committees, contribute to discussions, solicit views from other parents/community members, observe council code of ethics
 - Parent reps can participate fully, including vote, either in person or virtually
 - Call to additional parent reps. People who stepped forward: Arturo, Sarah Terpstra, Yvonne, Amara. All accepted
 - The three executive roles and responsibilities are described.

- Alfredo puts out calls for chairs/co-chairs. Steps forward for another year. Midori steps forward as co-chair. Both approved. **2023/2024 Co-chairs: Alfredo Cabeza and Midori Miyamoto**
- Call for secretary. Mallory steps forward – approved. **2023/2024 Secretary: Mallory Drysdale**
- Call for treasurer. Sarah steps forward – approved. **2023/2024 Treasurer: Sarah Terpstra**

7:28: Principal's Update (Lovenia)

- Today was photo day, it was very successful, on time
- Cross country teams recently did well at the Centennial Park meets this and last week
- Girls soccer team had a great tournament on Monday
- Other clubs/extracurriculars are coming up based on student and family interest
- Staff has partnered with Common Compass. Big focus of the school improvement plan is to focus on teaching students how to self regulate and how staff can support by co-regulating with students. Common Compass gave staff great strategies this month, and will be returning in Jan for more work. Training was aimed at supporting all students, with some focus on neurodivergent students. Common Compass has offered to conduct some parent training (~90 mins)
- EQAO results are now public and can be found on the EQAO website in search "Howard Jr PS". Overall, all grade 3 and 6 students participated. 71% of grade 3 students were at board levels for math, writing and reading were at 85%. For grade 6, math 76%, writing 95% and reading at 100%. Results are similar to previous years. However, the test changes year to year, and so does the curriculum. Can make inter-year comparisons challenging. EQAO is one piece of the puzzle that schools and boards use to identify next steps, what does it tell us about students/teaching at the school, what resources are needed. Kids are also given a survey to share their thoughts on math/reading etc. EQAO scores do not impact child report cards. The test is done digitally on the computer.
- Grade 3s will be doing CCAT next week – the cognitive ability skills standardized test. These include verbal, non-verbal and quantitative sections. The kids are not taught prepped for this exam. This test can identify children who require further testing for giftedness or who have learning differences.

7:52: Committees (Alfredo)

- According to Ontario Regs: The purpose of council is to improve student achievement and enhance accountability of education system to parents
- To join or run a committee, you do not need to be on council
- Required Committees:
 - Caring and Safe Schools (looks at safety of school and community for all students. Creating a safe, welcoming and inclusive space): Mallory and Midori
 - Staffing (At beginning of year and end of year, this committee can provide comments on staffing allocations from parents' point of view): Alfredo and Midori

- School Improvement Plan (Looking at improvements to student achievement and supports for well-being for students, putting action plans in place. E.g. Science of Reading, Common Compass): Currently no parent rep
- Some committees school council usually has: Equity, mental health/wellbeing, music, arts, sport, technology
 - Laura volunteers to run music committee
 - Alfredo volunteers to run sports committee
- Some committees to consider: Literacy, communication/engagement, fundraising
 - Literacy could be nested under other existing committees (mental health and wellbeing, equity)
 - Amara volunteers to run communications
- Important to know which committees exist, because budget requests will come at the next meeting
- Alfredo suggests moving internally council communications off of Slack. The group chooses WhatsApp
- Alfredo shows list of committees operating at the board level, including PIAC, SEAC, and community advisory committees
- Contact school council through: **Howardpublicschool.com and SC.HowardJuniorPublicSchool@tdsb.on.ca**

8:30: Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is Nov 15