



February 2024 Meeting Minutes

7:19: Land acknowledgement (Midori)

7:20: Alfredo introduces the agenda

7:21: Roll call (Alfredo)

Present:

Executive: Alfredo, Mallory, Midori, Sarah

Parent representatives: Jennifer, Paul, Shauna, Alice, Yvonne

Community representative: None

School: Lovenia Gorman, Nicole Maitland

7:21: Approval of Minutes – no changes

7:21: Principal's update (Lovenia)

- Intramural activities at Howard:
 - Rainbow club has made posters throughout the school and in the music room windows
 - Earth buddies are beginning a recycling campaign for all Howard Hawks with support from caretakers. The learning can be supported by parents at home
 - Thank you to parents who have supported Mme Maitland with Gr 5/6 volleyball
 - Playground Pals program arrived 1.5 weeks ago, and will be run by Mme Durrant and Mme Trusler, open to Gr 4 and 5 students to benefit all Howard Hawks. The pals will learn games in phys ed classes to lead during recess
- Mme Maitland and Ms Casey have asked teachers for ideas for parent involvement. This information will be shared with the executive at a later time
- SHAC will be participating in a possibilities fair at Runnymede PS on March 1, centered around leadership and wellness for female students. Attending w Ms Ringler and Ms Simanic
- Common Compass came to last staff meeting in Jan to discuss validating student feelings and emotional regulation. There will be a parent workshop next Wednesday at the school (the event will be hybrid. See Friday updates for further information
- Dr. Ed's webinar was last night, and went very well. Howard community was one of many communities invited to the webinar. Included many examples and strategies for cultivating awareness as caretakers for supporting fears and building resiliency.

- At Feb staff meeting, staff is focusing on neurodivergent learners. Dr. Ed will be partnering with the school psych and SLP for this learner.
- Dr. Ed also provides free webinars and could talk about topics of interest to the council
- Ms. Gorman attended a math workshop today with Mme Desilets and Mme Alanna. The meeting focused on student understanding of what they are doing in math, going beyond memorization. Aim is to build problem solvers and thinkers. Strategies for setting up a math classroom so all students can be successful. Ms. Gorman will be sending out the TDSB math info for families so families can continue this work at home
- Learning buddies have gotten off to a great start
- HAWKS values have been shared around the school and will be featured at the February assembly next week
- Tomorrow night is the kindergarten/primary concert. K begins at 5:30 and P begins at 6:15. Please see messages shared by Mr Willer in last week's update and any info shared by the classroom teacher. If your child is in daycare, it is the parents' responsibility to collect the child and bring them to their classroom.
- March 4 is photo retake day for grade 6 grads
- April 24 the FI classes and English 4-6 classes will be going to a Greg LeRock concert. Ms. Gorman is looking at another performer to bring in for Grades 1-3 and kindergarten on the same day.
- There is a bake sale tomorrow run by the grade 6 students in Area 37 to raise money for Red Cross Emergency Preparedness for Indigenous communities

7:34: Financial Update (Sarah)

- No major updates from last month. Very little spending is happening
- There is still some money in the account that was going towards the playground (17,000\$). Some discussion last year about painting the court with this money. Council should connect with Lee Greenberg, who headed the playground project. The money has to be used for the playground
- Discussion on large speaker purchase for multiple classes. Will reach out to Arturo to identify correct items.
- Holiday Hamper money was spent.
- Some items were purchased for the Hawks's nest and classroom sensory items

7:41: Committee Updates (Various)

- Hawk's Nest: The Hawk's nest was recently replenished with the support of the special education teachers and Ivana Simanic about which supplies are required, purchased, and room stocked and updated. The case study draft was shared with Lovenia and Ivana and is awaiting their data inclusion
- In-class calming spaces: received survey responses from each teacher/classroom and have a meeting with Ivana and Lovenia about this next week
- Sensory pathways in hallways: waiting on images from Howard. Vendor is ready to create sticker decals
- Soccer nets: No progress yet. Considering purchasing easy fold-up and light nets (spring purchase)
- Scooter rack: No purchase yet – looking into costs and discounts

- Social: The social is scheduled for May 10th at St Casimir's on Roncesvalles. The social committee is still in need of someone to run the silent auction. This person would receive a lot of guidance from the committee. Interested people can reach out to Taralyn at taralyn@taralynfodor.com. The committee is also calling out for donations to the silent auction. Have a cottage you can let out for a weekend? Sports tickets? Special services? Reach out to Taralyn if you have something to donate
- Parent Council Innovation Grant: Mallory and Midori had a meeting with Lovenia to discuss workshops. Will be approaching Alter Eden to do a parent and caregiver workshop on treaty responsibilities.
- Garden: Alter Eden will be coming back to do more work on the garden. An additional planter is being incorporated into the orange flower memorial garden.
- Equity: Additional expenses coming in from the book buy and the workshops above, as well as funding for pride
- School is working with task force on PA speaker quality

7:50: Other Business (Various)

- Idea to bring in some speakers in spring council meetings to increase parent engagement
- Idea for a more casual meet-up like a potluck or a movie night, and a social meeting rather than a formal meeting
- For any gym event, the gym would need to be permitted, and supervision would need to be sorted
- For a movie, the school would need a movie license
- Idea for bingo night at the school
- Idea for drawing in new families with cultural potluck. Possibly integrate into June potluck?
- Need a better rain plan for potluck this year
- Speaker ideas: Dr. Ed, SLP (bringing in tools and resources for use at home)
- Idea to bring back STEM night. Alice will talk to Alfredo offline
- Idea for math night, this would need to be staff-led

8:16: Meeting Adjourned

Contact school council through: **Howardpublicschool.com** and **SC.HowardJuniorPublicSchool@tdsb.on.ca**

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is TBD - Either March or April