

minutes

Monthly School Council Meeting – Nov 26 th 2014	
Meeting	Chairs, Scott Tabachnick and Lisa Kahn
Note taker	Annie Salsberg
Attendees	Mr. Costa, Lisa, Kelci, Jeanette, Scott, Robin, John, Annie, Seema
Minutes from October Meeting/Consent Agenda	
Facilitator	Scott
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John brought up concerns regarding diversity committee funds - allotted \$2000 this year versus \$4000 from last year. • Mr. Costa addressed this by noting that speaker for Black History month subsidized and not coming out of council budget. • Another initiative that supports diversity is with Ontario Arts Council; will have 5 artists come in for Asian Heritage month. • John would like more than \$2000 bcc needs likely exceed this.
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget removed from consent agenda. • Equity and Budget committees to meet up to assess needs and allocate more realistic amount.
Principal Update	
Facilitator	Norbert Costa
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing Update: Hillcrest approved for extra .5 teacher - to support our grades 4,5, and 6. Looking for person for new year. • Mr Lam will be leaving at end of Dec, Ms Lee will be back in Jan. Mr Lam spearheaded slo-pitch, hockey and has done a tremendous amount to support sports at Hillcrest. • Upcoming meeting with Ontario Arts Council to try to bring 5 artists into school. Will try to tie into a theme. Maybe Asian heritage month. May cost about \$1000. • Mental health newsletter to come out through PEN • Winter concert is Dec 11: at 6:30. • Kindergarten concert is Dec 18 – time varies depending on class. • Team up for green initiative through Toronto Hydro: encouraging families to sign up for green initiatives at home. This can benefit the TDSB! The board can get \$250000 for new bike racks. Low numbers of people signing up in our family of schools. • Still working on parking situation in neighborhood. If parents getting tickets bc of volunteering should tell counselor Joe Mihevic (which will back up concerns of others).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caring and safe schools: just finished working on evacuation plan - in event of imminent danger. First point of meeting is turf. Evacuation to west is McMurrich, to east is Brown, to north is Wychwood library (but that would only hold kinders, day care), to south is Toronto Grace Hospital. Need to find a strategy for rest of students to north. This info would be shared with staff. • Strollers: bc of issue with weather - can't have them come into school. Can't block exit ways; will also leave wet floors behind so it's a safety issue. • The nightingale play: got it for \$300. Talked about empathy and forgiveness. Was seen by Kinders-grade 3s. Very successful. • Lots happening in/around school: next Tuesday is basketball tournament for grade 5 girls; we have a hockey team - first time in 8 years! Team will play at Bill Bolton - for grades 4-6. January is junior swim meet. Choir will be singing at queen' spark legislature, as well as at hospital on Dec 12. Eukalele club is running on Wednesdays. Chess club ongoing and hoping go continue into January.
Conclusions	N/A
Agenda Topic: Grant Applications	
Facilitator	Robin F.
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future Shop: \$120,000 for all of Canada. Will go in next Friday. Working with Ms Booker. To develop computer lab. It is a two-phase proposal: Phase 1: smart board, projectors, laptops Phase 2: multi media component - scanner, speakers, • Parents reaching out grant: we already have the money and have to use by school year end. Specifically for a speaker.
Conclusions	N/A
Agenda Topic: Time for Kids	
Facilitator	Lisa
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched online site - took a while to gain traction. Now at \$6,500 to date. • Principal for a day seems to be appealing. • Unsure why numbers not as strong as last year. • Will send out a notice reminding people that almost done with appeal. • Will ask people to check with their employer bc some companies will do donation matching. • Last year was an anomaly bc raised \$14000!
Conclusions	Will stay open until calendar year end. Will send out one last appeal to parents. To be revisited next year (ie name of drive).

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Agenda Topic: Report/Update on Committees	
Facilitator	Robin
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology Committee – R. Fribance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Survey of teachers is complete, done by Mr Salerno. Response rate was about 50%. Strong need in: high functioning computer lab (where all kids in class can go in at once and do a lesson together), smart boards, iPads. -Ahead of schedule for wifi for school - anticipated for spring 2015 -To be purchased by Jan: Mac book, Wireless microphone, speakers, scoreboard for phyd ed as well as in class instruction, 5 iPads. -New tdsb policy which is 'bring your own devices': may be helpful for doing research in school. Mr Costa would like to have one device per child. Will have to be rolled out strategically. More info will come from board and we'll have further discussions to see how Hillcrest wants to manage. • Diversity – J Campbell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Goal is to create an experience where kids are comfortable with mosaic of Toronto. Real need to experience various types of people and communities. -Examples of groups where we can foster longer term, meaningful relationships to engage in ongoing dialogue with school: First Nation, African cdn, lgtb, Asian, Latino, individuals with disabilities - would like to have a speaker or experience with each of these groups annually. -Experiential learning very valuable, ie last year did International foods at holiday concert. -Likes idea of having commitment year over year - to establish tradition and connection for school with various groups. -Goal: to foster relationships with community groups. • Apparel/e-payment – S. Omar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Finalized what will be offered. Decided to narrow options. Bathing suits will be done separately. Samples for sizing did not come in as yet. Will follow up with muncha lunch to be able to do online. -Good to put in PEN so that people could consider for holiday gifts.
Conclusions	John will spearhead food initiative for holiday concert. Health & Safety committee: not explicitly discussed – came up during principal report (committee to be comprised of Mr Costa, two teachers and parent volunteer). Meeting tbd.
Agenda Topic: Clothing Drive	
Facilitator	Mr. Costa

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Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Clothing went to a school in east York. Principal of that school will send thank you letter. And hopefully we can continue this next year. We received many items to donate.▪ Just received a letter from Shelley Laskin (trustee): call to support northern communities. Clothing and furniture drive for First Nation Ojibwe. Info to be forwarded on PEN.▪ Planning to do food drive - may do alongside with winter concert on Dec 11. Food item may be 'price' of admission.
Conclusions	BIG thanks to Mr Costa for going above and beyond in personally delivering donated items!
Agenda Topic: Other Business	
Facilitator	Various
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Kinder survey - top 3 things came back as feedback to Jeanette 1-communication: feels inconsistent – could there be a calendar that encompasses all of the events? 2-lunch time supervision - can grade 6s come in to help out?? 3-meeting needs of all kids, ie tired in afternoon – it is a ministry decision for no naps 4- anything we can do to get extra help into classrooms?
Conclusions	N/A

Next meeting is Dec 10.