

Olympic Heights School Council and Parents Association Meeting
Thursday, January 18, 2024
Olympic Heights School

Attendance: Principal, Trevor Barkley; Assistant Principal, Adam Eakins; Grade 2 Teaching Team: Ms. Babuik and Ms. Cundall; Chair, Tori Wright; Treasurer, Anita Roncin and Katrina Ducs; Secretary, Krista Leonty; Council Representatives Jane Radiff, Michelle Herbst, Leslie Hall, Susan McInnis and Liana Phoenix; and approximately 5 additional parents / community members.

1. Welcome and Introduction (Tori Wright – Chair)

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Agenda Confirmation** – Motion to approve agenda made by Anita Roncin, **with an amendment to add an agenda item to allow discussion of the tragic event at John Costello School that occurred Jan 16.** Seconded by Michelle Herbst. CARRIED.
- III. **Minutes Approval** - Motion to approve the November minutes made by Tori Wright. Seconded by Michelle Herbst. CARRIED.

2. School Business and Administration Report (Principal Barkley, Assistant Principal Eakins)

- I. **Grade 2 Team Presentation** (Ms. Babuik and Mrs. Cundall)
 - Presentation on the new science curriculum. Their classes are a pilot program.
 - The new grade 2 science curriculum includes 6 topics: Matter, Earth Science, Energy, and Living Systems, taught as individual units and Computer Science and Scientific Method which are integrated throughout the year.
 - Ms. Babuik is field testing resources for Matter, Energy, and Living Systems with a group of teachers from the CBE, CCSD, Edmonton Public, and Edmonton Catholic boards. She meets before and after each unit and is given lesson plans, activities, and new resources for each. This makes science hands-on for the students and lets them demonstrate their understandings in creative ways.
 - They presented an example of the children working on an assignment in Matter.
 - The next classroom presentation from Grade 5.
- II. **Winter Holiday Event Update** (Principal Barkley)
 - Parent Teacher interviews went well. Dinner was very appreciated.
 - The Christmas concert was a great success.
 - The Christmas hampers were fantastic. The school community came together to donate so many needed items for the families and the recipients were very appreciative.
 - Food Bank donations were also incredible. We were able to donate 10 full boxes of food.
 - Feedback from the students was that they really enjoyed the spirit days.
 - Start up from winter break has been successful.
- III. **Acknowledgements from the tragic event at John Costello School on Tuesday, Jan. 16**
(Principal Barkley and Assistant Principal Eakins)

- There was acknowledgment of the devastating event that occurred at our neighbouring school, and the impact and emotion that is felt deeply within our community.
- Mr. Barkley explained that during this incident, and always, the safety and security of the students and staff is of the utmost priority. During the event, OHS was not put into lockdown mode. A large police presence could be seen from OHS but staff didn't know what was going on. Mr. Barkley walked down to talk to CPS to ask if there was any threat to OHS and was told, no. However, the decision was made to keep the students inside that day as a precaution.
- Mr. Barkley and Mr. Eakins went to every class during the day to explain there was a CPS presence, the reason for having to stay inside that day, and to offer help and support.
- Mr. Barkley and Mr. Eakins have visited each class since to check in with students. They offered a safe space to talk, with their first question to students being "have you talked to your parents" as they recognize there are a variety of approaches and responses depending on comfort levels and that parents are in the best position to have those conversations with their children.
- Mr. Barkley reminds parents that if there is any change in how your child is getting home, please let the school know (i.e., if your child normally takes the bus, staff will look for that child and hold the bus if they aren't there.)
- Staff met together as a whole after school on Tuesday, Jan. 16 to debrief. Staff were given some ideas on how to best talk to the students and validation around different emotions, reactions and questions.
- The VAST Program was at the Strathcona Community Centre on Thursday, Jan. 18 to provide support to the community. Some members from the team came to the school along with their support dog to offer support and resources to the school. They provided some additional resources but did not attend classrooms.
- Mr. Barkley and Mr. Eakins extended their thanks to OHS parents for their measured and calm responses during the incident which helped the school be able to maintain normalcy and routine for students.
- A number of questions were asked and answered:
 - Parent question about the lockdown process. Mr. Barkley and Mr. Eakins answered by explaining some of the policies around internal and external threats.
 - Parent question about older students being able to google the information about the event during class time. Mr. Barkley explained this can be hard to control because some kids use their own devices and some sites are not blocked, like news sites.
 - Parent question about communication and if the CBE provides crisis communication and management support to the school during events such as this? Mr. Barkley answered that CBE has a crisis response team to provide general direction and support.
 - Parent question about the decision to not send the students outside. Mr. Barkley explained they were navigating the situation as they got information.
 - Parent question about a potential lockdown situation first thing when everyone is arriving. Mr. Barkley explained the first course of action is to

get into the most secure location. Lockdowns are always notified in advance when they are practiced, unlike fire drills, which are unannounced. Procedure info around lockdowns is not made public.

IV. Staffing and Support (Principal Barkley)

- In grade 5, Ms. Ross has gone on a leave and Ms. Song has joined the team. Mr. Barkley explained they can't say for sure Ms. Song will be with us until the end of the year but they think it could be likely.
- OHS has had 12 new students enroll since January. Many of these students are overflow from West Springs.
- We will continue to apply for funding for support. We were approved for extra funding the last time we applied, as at that time we were able to fund half of the support. We aren't able to do this again at this time. The challenge is there are many schools applying for the same funding and facing the same concerns.
- OHS qualified for learning disruption funding which provided a .5 teacher for 10 weeks. We've received this in the past and have experience with this form of extra, targeted support.

Chair, Tori Wright, raised that School Council received an information package from the Secretary to the Trustees which she will share with parents in attendance.

V. School Development Plan and Survey (Principal Barkley and Assistant Principal Eakins)

- Mr. Eakins showed a graph from the School Improvement Results Survey. It is on the website. This is done by Alberta Education and is given to grade 4 parents and students.
- Results are similar to previous years with the exception of Access to Support and Services. Results show students' perceptions was up, parents' perceptions were up, but teachers' perceptions were significantly down. In meeting with teachers, this could be due to increased complexities in the classroom and less funding availability. We continue to have these conversations.
- OHS maintained in all other areas and we have overall high results.
- Mr. Eakins is happy to talk to anyone interested about further details on this survey.

VI. Information Updates (Principal Barkley and Assistant Principal Eakins)

- Mr. Eakins talked about report cards. Teachers are working on them now. They will be viewable on the CBE website on Jan. 29 for one week. The Board has updated some processes with the report cards like asking teachers to use bullet points and keep the information concise, so they are easily understood. IPPs are being updated and will be sent home this week with the goal of having them back on Jan. 30.
- Mr. Eakins provided an update on Student Voice. The meeting occurred today and they focused on talking about the event at John Costello school, as well as additional ideas for spirit days (i.e., 2024 Day, Math Pi Day, Lunar NY, Canada Day Sports Day). Questions about Movie Night came up. The 7 Sacred Teachings was the Bear which represents courage.
- Mr. Barkley provided an overview on Professional Development Day learning. On Nov. 17 staff attended a session on Brain Based Learning and regulation with

the occupational and physical therapy team. On Dec. 8 staff worked on using the new Ozobots and creating learning intentions using the new curriculum. On Jan. 15 staff looked at the decodable books and how to connect them to learning and teaching.

- The 2024/25 calendar is posted on the CBE website and is very similar to the current year.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Feb. 26: Evergreen Theatre presentation.
 - March 4-8: Havana Cuban Dance, currently working on the contract.
 - April / May sessions: 'Just Like You' disability awareness program about empathy.
 - Also looking at possible dates to book the Indigenous Knowledge Elder.

VII. Funding Requests

- The following requests for funding were made:
 - Request for a new sound system in the gym. Cost is \$9,909.89 and includes LCD Laser projector, audio package, cables and mounting hardware. This equipment purchase was discussed in previous meetings and financial planning discussions.
 - Request for 4 Hokki stools for the older students (larger size). Cost is \$800.00.
 - Motion to approve the funding requests made by Michelle Herbst. Seconded by Liana Phoenix. CARRIED.
- For the next meeting there will likely be a new funding request from Ms. Tran for Breezing Through Music. This is a program that gamifies music theory. Students can work independently or as a whole class. Cost is \$1350 for grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 or \$950.00 for grades 5 and 6.
- Students are planning to present a proposal to renew the Maker Space at the upcoming meeting. This is an area in which students can use materials for building and designing such as LEGO, woodwork, etc.

3. Council Reports

I. Chair Update (Chair, Tori Wright)

- We have the \$500 Alberta School Council Engagement grant. This can be used for a workshop for parents or council, info sessions, or to share resources with parents. The funds are restricted to specific uses and ideas were discussed. A resource for parents or a speaker fee is allowed, whereas food and/or social expenses are not, for example.
- We invite ideas on what to do and how to get parents engaged. Overall, we would like to focus on how to get people involved, new parents to the school community. There are a lot of opportunities for involvement and what are some of the ways we engage?

II. Treasurer Update (Treasurer, Anita Roncin)

- Update on recent funding:
 - Halloween Dance \$1800
 - Teacher Dinners \$645

- Smartboard \$800
- DOCAMS \$875
- Readers \$350
- Update on cash balance:
 - \$26,000 in restricted fund
 - \$31,000 in general account
 - \$59,000 in the casino fund
 - For a total balance of \$116,000.00

III. Volunteer Support Updates (Volunteer Coordinator, Liana Phoenix)

- No updates at this time but planning on connecting with patroller parents to try to gain more volunteers for Kiss and Drop.

IV. Casino Dates and Volunteer Scheduling (Council Representative, Jane Radiff)

- Sign Up Genius is up and running to register to volunteer for the upcoming casino in April. So far 17 people have signed up and 23 more are needed.
- The goal will be to have all volunteer positions filled by the end of March.
- Ideas generated on how to get the information out to the school community such as on social media and in the newsletter.

V. Kiss and Drop (Council Representative, Michelle Herbst)

- Recognition given to the volunteers for helping out during the cold weather.
- Overall, the program is going well.
- Always more volunteers needed.
- Funding request for Safe and Active Travel to be discussed at the February Student Council meeting.

VI. Fun Lunch (Council Representative, Michelle Herbst)

- There have been 8 events so far this year and 11 to go.
- Fun Lunch has made just over \$5000.

VII. Communications Update (Council Representative Susan McInnis and Chair, Tori Wright)

- Updates to social media have been going well.
- A new newsletter will be coming soon.
- Please reach out if you have thoughts or feedback on communications

VIII. Special Events – Movie Night, Read-A-Thon (Council Representative, Leslie Hall)

- The movie night planned for January has to be moved because of the gymnastics equipment that is currently set up in the gym.
- New date set for Thursday, February 29.
- Mr. Eakins will follow up on whether or not we will be able to play 2 movies – one in the atrium and one in the gym.
- Timeframe discussed for Read-A-Thon. It may be a good idea to tie it into the Book Fair date on March 21. This coincides with Spring Break. The idea is to have it from March 18 to April. Leslie Hall to confirm the concept and plan.

4. Next Meeting – The next meeting will be at OHS on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

5. Adjourned - Motion to adjourn meeting by Katrina Ducs at 8:35 p.m. Seconded by Michelle Herbst.