

Olympic Heights School Council and Parents Association Meeting
Thursday, October 19 – 6:30 p.m.
Olympic Heights School

Attendance: Principal, Trevor Barkley; Assistant Principal, Adam Eakins; Grade 1 Teaching Team: Ms. Preuss, Ms. Yannitsos and Ms. Khuu; Chair and Treasurer, Anita Roncin; Secretary, Krista Leonty; Treasurer, Katrina Ducs; Council Representatives Jane Radiff, Michelle Herbst, Leslie Hall and Jenna Robertson; and approximately 6 additional parents / community members.

1. Welcome and Introduction (Anita Roncin – Chair)

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Agenda Confirmation** – Motion to approve agenda made by Anita Roncin. Seconded by Michelle Herbst and Katrina Ducs. CARRIED.
- III. **Minutes Approval** - Motion to approve the September minutes made by Jenna Robertson. Seconded by Michelle Herbst. CARRIED.

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

- I. **Grade 1 Team Presentation** (Ms. Preuss, Ms. Yannitsos, and Ms. Khuu)
 - The Grade 1 team discussed the role of the Seven Sacred Teachings in the learning plan. It encourages the students to think about how we can use our gifts to contribute to a positive community.
 - They reviewed the 7 animals and what each animal represents. They have completed work using the Beaver (wisdom) and next will be the Eagle (love).
 - The Seven Sacred Teachings involves learning who we are. The children spent time in nature, made a mini book about themselves, and made a beaver dam using an engineering design process.
 - The next classroom presentation from Kindergarten is on November 16.
- II. **Info Session on Student Services** (Assistant Principal Eakins)
 - A brief overview of the Tiers of Support that is offered by the CBE was presented along with a chart showing each tier.
 - Tier 1 is Universal Instruction. These are things that we should see in every classroom, all children would benefit from this level.
 - Tier 2 is Targeted Intervention. This level represents a situation in which a student may need more support but the teacher can implement this. ie) a fidget tool.
 - Tier 3 is Highly Intensive and these include physio, OT, speech, Children's Services, referrals to external services, referral for a psychology assessment.
 - The goal of the Tiers of Supports is to provide supports that impact student learning. These are available from the CBE (learning pool), some funded by Student Council (technology, rocking chairs).
 - How it works – a teacher would identify the student's needs and work with families to gain an understanding of what may help.
 - Mr. Eakins manages the paperwork involved in getting these supports. In the past there was one person in this role. Mr. Eakins is happy to discuss the Tiers of Support and answer any questions if anyone would like further information.

III. Staffing and Enrollment (Principal Barkley)

- As of Sept. 30 (funding date cut off) our total enrollment number is 486. Mr. Eakins and Mr. Barkley planned for 485. This means there will be no disruption to staffing we currently have. We have 23.6 full time positions and 3 educational assistants.
- OHS was projected to have 530 students. We never received any students from the overflow of West Springs. We will continue to be their overflow school. Last year the total enrollment was 496 with a projection of 510. Projections will come again in the spring. This is called RAM – Resource Allocation Method.
- The enrollment per grade are as follows:
 - Kindergarten: 55
 - Grade 1: 56 (3 classes of about 20)
 - Grade 2: 85 (4 classes of about 21)
 - Grade 3: 65 (classes of about 21)
 - Grade 4: 63 (classes of about 21)
 - Grade 5: 90 (3 classes of about 30)
 - Grade 6: 72 (3 classes of about 24)
- Support staff can be helpful to support students. One person is very targeted at the grade 5 classes. Grade 5 has large numbers but also there are some students needing the higher tiered level supports.
- Total budget is \$38,920. We are currently about \$300 over which is not a lot. However, we do not have the population to fund more staff.
- We are currently applying for additional area support (funding) and we hope to get more support.
- Parent question about kids coming with their own support worker and when would parents be notified if a large incident occurred in a classroom so parents are informed of what is happening / any safety concerns. Mr. Eakins and Mr. Barkley explained a student would not get their own support worker usually. The CBE has a floating support worker and that person was here for about 2 weeks. Messaging to parents about any incidents will come from the leadership team.
- Mr. Barkley is happy to go into this in more detail for anyone who may be interested.

IV. School Development Plan (Principal Barkley and Assistant Principal Eakins)

- Update on PATs
 - Marks are in for Social, Math and Science. The students did not write English / LA because it was early in the new curriculum and the province chose not to do it. Mr. Eakins showed a graph depicting OHS scores, CBE scores, and scores province wide.
 - Scores this year show a significant improvement from last year, especially in Science.
 - The graphs show Acceptable, Excellence, Below Acceptable.
 - OHS is above all the CBE and province wide scores, except the Below Acceptable markers, which is good.
 - Example from the Social graph: OHS score is 84.5%. Last year this number was 74%. 33.8% in Excellence and 15.5% in Below Acceptable.
 - Overall excellent student achievement with a reminder this is a snapshot. It is one day in a grade 6 student life that is meant to represent the whole year.

- Mr. Eakins would be happy to go over the graph in more detail for anyone interested.
- Grade 4 survey results are in. The results are positive and the only things parents' marked as a concern was access to services (to external agencies). Student survey showed students' finding their ability to stay focused was a concern as well as planning to reach goals. We are looking at how we can support them in regard to learning intentions. The idea is how can we make expectations very clear in student language, being specific and detailed. More to come on this next month.

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

- Student Voice – One student is selected from each class and everyone meets in the Atrium along with Mr. Eakins and Mr. Barkley. They talk about 3 things – Word on the Street, Spirit Days and 7 Sacred Teachings. It takes about 30 minutes. Students have a chance to say what is working, what is not, share ideas. It is important for the student to see action from their concerns. For example, in one meeting students shared their concerns with zones outside and this has been addressed and removed for grades 4, 5 and 6.
- Vandalism update – the CBE has had people come out to look at doing a few things. One is Mosquito which is a high frequency noise deterrent and this is apparently very effective. The second is lighting. The third is cladding to help prevent people from being able to get onto the roof. Cameras are not in the near future as CBE is looking into the liability of this.
- Sound System – people have come to look and provide quotes.
- K Garden – cleaned up and students are able to use this to dig, play, etc.
- Residencies – Havana Cuban Dance Studio has been moved from November to March 4 due to their scheduling conflict. The school is looking into getting an Indigenous Elder to interact with the students on a regular basis.
- Remembrance Day Ceremony is on November 8, led by the grade 5 students, and parents are welcome to attend.
- Website changes – volunteer button has been added on the web page and Sign Up Genius is linked. There are many volunteer opportunities. We are looking at asking for volunteers to possibly help with intramurals.
- Halloween – on Tuesday, Oct.31. Looking at how we acknowledge it while also recognizing it is a day for learning. Students will be allowed to wear costumes. We are asking parents not to send candy.

VI. Funding Requests

- None

VII. Parent Q & A

- Question about the funding for soccer nets – the school does have pop up nets that are available. Do the students know they have access to them? There may need to be more communication on this with the students. Funding soccer nets that stay on the field is hard because they do not hold up well.
- Question about timing of recess and lunch – this is on the website and information reviewed. CBE is very specific about minutes for instruction time. The November break came to be as a result of a compromise from the two calendars as we have one calendar now.

3. Council Reports

I. Fundraising (Treasurer, Anita Roncin)

- Apples were a success. We will see if we can do another one in the spring.

II. Special Events (Leslie Hall, Council Representative)

- Update on Parent Teacher Conferences
 - There were 57 entries from the Bingo scavenger hunt.
 - Leslie and Laura drew 8 random cards and will hand out prizes.
 - Leslie / Laura will be in touch with staff regarding dinner for Parent Teacher Conferences on Nov. 23/23. Plan to put anything extra needed into the Sign Up Genius for people to volunteer to provide it ie) drinks, dessert, etc.
- Movie Night
 - Discussion on when the next one could be based on gym availability and schedules. Decision was made to push the next movie night until January 2024.
- Halloween Dance
 - Everything is on track for dance on Oct. 26.
 - Shannon has met with Mr. Barkley and Mr. Eakins to walk through how everything will look / where everything will be set up.

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

- More volunteers are always needed.
- The bus zone is working well.

IV. Fun Lunch (Council Representative, Michelle Herbst)

- Halloween cookies are next week.
- Staggered delivery is going well vs having it all delivered at once. Helping to deliver the items while hot.

V. Playground Capital Fundraising Plan (Council Representatives, Jane Radiff, Katrina Ducs)

- Jane and Katrina met with KJ Street. This is a company in Alberta that writes grants for playgrounds.
- The company would do all the work in terms of writing the grants including paperwork, pictures, walking us through the entire process.
- Quoted cost is \$270,000. We have a large playground. The hope would be to get rid of all the pebbles at once.
- This company thinks we can get the entire cost (\$270,000) in grants.
- This company will charge \$3000 for the first 5 grants to be written.
- If we raise some money, they will match it. For example, if we provide \$75,000 we would give \$75,000 matched.
- Timeline provided – we could have this done in 10 months to 2 years.
- Jane has written letters in order to get letters of support (from the Stathcona Community Association, the Mayor's office) to provide to the companies that we go to for the grants.
- The playground structure has been confirmed as structurally sound and likely will be for many years. The warranty on the turf is 7 years and 20 years for parts of it, as long as it is maintained.

- Motion for \$3000 from Student Council funds to pay the fee to KJ Street to start writing the grants by Michelle Herbst. Seconded by Katrina Ducs. CARRIED.

4. Next Meeting – The next meeting will be at OHS on Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

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