

RHPS School Council Meeting Minutes:  
Recorded by A. Twohey November 7, 2019

**6:35 p.m. – Meeting Opened**

- Andy Hall, Co-Chair: Thank yous re: Glow Run
  
- **Introductions**
  
- **Todd Thompson, Principal: School Update**
  - School Learning and Well-Being Plan
    - OCDSB has done something different: looked at schools of a similar size etc., and considered what they deemed “high performing school districts” (i.e., gains above provincial results) and looked at what they were doing differently
    - What used to happen with respect to the plan was we’d look at our data and put a plan in place specific to RHPS.
    - This year, they’ve given every elementary school the exact same goal in terms of making gains
    - Review of plan:
      - 1. Guided math groups
      - 2. Diagnostic tool (Leaps and Bounds)
      - 3. Inclusive classroom
      - 4. Increase involvement of parents
  
  - Staffing
    - Staffed for teachers
    - Still short an ECE

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- Scholastic money: spent remaining in that account
- Big Ask – Budget
  - Levelled books for home reading in French
    - \$8,000 for Grades 1 and 2
    - Todd fully supports
  - Laminator – Council and school to fund
- Progress Reports
  - PVW = progressing very well = student is demonstrating they're exceeding
  - PW = progressing well = not at grade level but progressing towards it
  - PWD = progressing with difficulty = struggling but could still meet grade level
- Parent/Teacher Interviews
  - Emails to be received tomorrow with link to interview schedule
  - Those with multiple children: try to get interviews booked back to back
  - Some teachers have reached out saying they would like to meet with you, some have not
  - Thursday 5-8:00 p.m. and 8-10:00 a.m. Friday
  - If at any time you want to meet with a teacher, your right to request a meeting. Teachers can do a number of accommodations – e.g., FaceTime.
- Questions?
  - Andy: We got a reading assessment a couple days ago for French reading level. Who was that done by?
    - Jaime McCallum, Fundraising Committee Chair: someone came in for Grade 4/5.
    - Louise Hutchinson, Vice-Principal to look into.

- Andy: It was helpful.
- Maria Blahoianu: It was informative.
- Tamara Taub: This is a positive thing.
  
- **Teachers' Report: Mme Stephanie Simonelli**
  - Field trips: Agriculture Museum etc.
  
  - Thank yous for Take Me Outside Day
  
  - End of Ontario Treaties Recognition Week – locally made kit: We Are All Treaty People
    - More details for older grades about where territories sit
    - Created from an Anishinabek perspective
    - Learning about why we do land recognitions
  
  - Mme Beatriz' last day. Teacher from Spain. Here for 3 weeks to observe our culture.
    - What she found interesting was the use of flexible seating.
    - What I found interesting was she was impressed to see all the fruits and veggies commonly found in lunch boxes here.
    - Also gave short presentations in classrooms about her region of Spain.
  
  - Sports:
    - Triple ball practices – builds volleyball skills
      - Todd:
        - Reason: at a very early age, children were being put in specific positions and weren't learning the whole game
        - At a young age, a good server could basically win the entire game, which isn't teaching anybody anything
        - Explanation of game

- Every child has to play every position
  - Used K-6; Grade 7-8 Tier 2 and 3
  
- Student Vote: Grade 5s
  
- **Committee Updates**
  - Fundraising Committee Update: Jamie McCallum, Fundraising Committee Chair
    - Don't have to go through Minutes; see attached report [Appendix A]
    - Reviewed plan Margaret Rose, Treasurer and Jamie made in September so could get started
    - Events should be affordable and accessible for our school and, wherever possible, leave a small carbon footprint and provide healthy food alternatives. We've heard Council on that. Doesn't mean we can always put them into practice. E.g., Glow Run – last minute, and there's a cost. E.g., spaghetti dinner – plastic forks and knives. There are reasons we can't do everything all the time, but the Committee is on board.
    - Tried to formalize a fundraising process:
      - Have official meetings. We will have three – September (after Council meeting, i.e., after Committee elected), March, and June. Mentioned at School Council meetings.
      - Hope this way to catch everything. Everyone will have their say and we'll have a more organized process. I hope that will meet the need for conversation.
      - September: make plan
      - March: focus on Fun Fair and Silent Auction; debrief on events to date
      - June: Debrief of events January to June and plan Fall events



- Andy: Just because first meeting is already done and there's nothing again until March, if there are any concerns you want to relay, can always come to Co-Chairs.
  - Jamie: Or to me directly. Can always email the Fundraising account.
- Fresh from the Farm
  - Gives delivery dates/times
  - Last year, we had a lot of produce – we just can't do that. If you can't get it, arrange for someone to.
  - If anyone is available to bundle veggies or hand them out, email the Fundraising Committee. Sometime between 10-1. An hour for two people.
  - Made \$80 less than last year.
    - Had talked about opening it to the community but have to sort out School Cash Online first.
- Glow Run
- Spaghetti Dinner (Margaret Rose)
  - Large change: East Side Mario's not available because of staffing shortage. Hope to come back next year.
  - Eventually found Doreen from cafeteria at Colonel By to cook for us.
  - Tim Tierney will cover costs.
  - Considered doing it ourselves but we don't have the kitchens for it.
  - Doreen found chafing dishes to borrow.
  - We'll have maybe \$150 in costs over what Tim Tierney is sponsoring. About the same level as last year, maybe \$100 less.
  - Registration open in School Cash Online.
  - Need volunteers: at least three more servers. Could use some help in the kitchen. We're doing the salad ourselves – more prep – need to

wash it all. Definitely need more baked goods. Volunteer sheet to be passed around.

- Anyone have a large pasta insert? Pasta comes cooked but cold. Otherwise I'll buy one.
- Everything will be compostable. Cost of wooden cutlery has come down. Cut costs in a bunch of other ways to splurge on this. Important to show leadership on these issues. We don't need Green Team.
  - Gillian Lamoureux: suggest parents bring their own cutlery and plates if you can?
  - Margaret: We've been suggesting water bottles for years.
- Dave Handelman is out of town so can't read. If anyone has an idea of what we can do...tables will be covered in craft paper and crayons. Additional ideas for entertaining children that cost \$0.
- Tara McNally: Just Dance?
  - Margaret: last year a dance floor formed, and we can formalize that.
- Book Fair (Leslie Gregory)
  - Review of dates and times
  - Had hoped Ms. Venner could help out, but she's doing Book Fair at another school, so have some spots available
    - Maria: Can we get Colonel By students to help?
  - Any news on library furniture?
    - Louise: Not yet. Original date was end of October.
- Jamie: Anyone want to get involved? Trying to share the load. Anyone could take over Fresh from the Farm in Sept? Or not do it. If you know anyone, let me know. Margaret has done spaghetti dinner and is looking to be relieved of it in the next year or two. It's a big one - \$1,000 per year – don't want to let it go.



- Margaret: we can go back to East Sides or find a new way to do it. If you have ideas about changing what event is...
- Silent Auction (Jancey Harper)
  - Talked about it at the fundraising meeting.
  - Going to take on a certain portion of finding the auction items. Looking for other people to take on a certain portion. Last year, we had 170 items. It made \$7,000. If we want to do that again, we're going to have to have many people involved.
    - Jamie: It involved contacting 250 companies.
    - Jancey: Now paired down. Certain places don't volunteer. Certain items people weren't interested in. In December, volunteer what you can do and where you can pick up.
      - Jamie: Contacting is in January; pick ups are March-April.
- Treasury Report: Margaret Rose, Treasurer
  - At about level for this month
  - See attached report. [Appendix B]
  - Plan for Scholastic credits – give to Carson Grove? But, if we already have plans for it here, that's moot. Could do that with this year's credit.
    - Jamie: that came up when it looked like Fundraising wouldn't make as much this year.
  - Andy: question re: Carson Grove donations – should we make one now?
    - Margaret: Yes.
  - Jamie: Kinder Yard – any objection to locked storage?
    - Margaret: you have \$137 left.
  - Stephanie: purchase order finally went in for picnic tables. Don't recall cost.
    - Margaret: Has everything for outdoor learning been ordered?
      - Stephanie: As far as I know, only outstanding was picnic tables.



- Todd confirms cost for 3 tables.
  - Margaret: will bill be higher than expected?
    - Stephanie: Had estimated \$4,500.
    - Todd: Told Paul Seif to put in order and school will cover the rest.
  - We have \$4,000 to cover big asks now if we want.
- Andy: The Big Ask (for Fun Fair)
  - Teachers raised “levelled readers”. Anything else? I had identified need for a new tent. Keep on our list.
    - Jamie do you have cash for that [tent]?
      - Todd: Yes.
  - Vote: In favour of French levelled books?
    - Jamie: For core French or immersion or both?
      - Stephanie: Not aware if Core French sends books home.
      - Jamie: Issue last time – Core French not benefited.
        - Stephanie: Additional lower level books?
        - Louise: 40 mins class, so no take home books. Wouldn't be inequitable.
  - Todd: Other ask is the laminator. Used extensively.
    - Jancey: Colonel By may be getting rid of theirs
  - Tamara: Wording for French book ask for Fun Fair?
    - Todd: Last time was guided readers. This is different.
  - Tina Drotar: All grades K-5?





- Stephanie: Typically in the earlier grades. Kinder classes are packed. For the next two years, classes will get bigger and resources spread more thin. What we had in mind was Grade 1-2 books. We mean that level. Everyone reads at their own pace. Could be perfectly fine fits for kids in older classes.
- Louise: We have a lot of the older readers; we don't have a lot for the younger readers.
- Stephanie: Ideally, to give each child three books per week, there would need to be a good variety.
  
- Margaret: We have \$4,000 in budget right now. Could we break it up and do some now?
  - Danielle Armengaud: Could you do \$2,000 for each grade now and same next year?
    - Stephanie: Typically you buy them in groups of six of the same title or sets of ten of different titles, making sure it doesn't duplicate that often. Currently, this year, the need is at Grade 1. Next year the need will be at Grade 2.
  
- Andy: If there's a need for Core French, we could assign another fundraiser...
  - Louise: The issue is we're English heavy with books.
  - Donna Kind, Communications Chair: Gov't funding is English-heavy; this just corrects an imbalance.
  
- Andy: ask meets criteria – large enough number, etc.
  
- Alanna Twohey, Secretary, moves in favour; Donna seconds.
  - Voting members present: all in favour. None opposed. Motion carried.



- Roundtable:
  - Brunella Buscicchio: Question re: Globe and Mail article re: divide between French Immersion and English programs in Ottawa
    - Todd: Difficult question to answer. Ottawa is a unique environment. Most places in Ontario, core French doesn't start in some areas until Grade 4. Ottawa is a bilingual city, so French immersion originally started in Kinder. Originally more students enrolled in English than in French Immersion. Over time, this has switched. The problem with the report is it doesn't come up with any solutions or answers. We as an educational team have been working at length to try to combat this. If we look to students whose families have enrolled them in French Immersion, they're on average of a higher socioeconomic background, which tends to come from educational background. So, what we've seen in our English program is certain students may have more behavioural or learning needs and may not be able to tap into the language of instruction in French Immersion. What the report doesn't say is, we're all meeting the same grade level of expectation. Standards are the same. Actually have less support in terms of educators in French Immersion. It's a more homogenous group of students. English has a wider gap of learning abilities. Former practice was students struggling in French Immersion were asked to move to English. Abolished for 4-5 years. Philosophy now is if you struggle in French, you'll struggle in English. It's not a two-tier system. Far greater challenges with some of students' backgrounds in English, but we're trying our best to break down barriers. We have a luxury situation where we have both English and French programs. Trying to overlap cohorts. Board is looking for ways to combat this. Would've liked to try all students having English and Math in English, with all students intermixed. Would parents go for this? It was the English teachers that said no – those are "their" kids; they worked hard to build them up. We have big numbers, and we can provide a solid English program. We can do more, and I'd like to do more...if anything, the report has brought



- to the forefront something we've been saying for years. What to do, I don't know. It's a big question with not a lot of answers.
- Danielle: Wasn't an answer to educate newcomers on the French Immersion program?
  - Todd: What's come out of this is people think it's two streams: high academic achievers in French and less in English; but we have high achievers in English, we just also have students who may have challenges. French Immersion loses the immersion aspect in high school...what was missed in the report is, there are sometimes other factors, socioeconomic being the biggest. Those students are going to struggle, no matter what program they're in. Socioeconomics should not be a precursor to academic success. We fight that barrier every day. Great report to come forward. Wish it had more answers.
- Louise: Maeve did the reading assessments for Grade 4/5.
  - Janet Hare: Question re: water quality results. Said RHPS was 30% higher than stated acceptable average
    - Todd: Several sinks are just for hand washing. All fountains tested for lead levels. We did not receive data as administrators.
    - Louise: Data not current. All schools at level. Per OCDSB website.
    - Janet: BLC was at 0%.
    - Andy: clarifies sources of lead in neighbourhood buildings.
  - Danielle: Remembrance Day ceremony 10:45 Monday?
    - Todd: Yes.
  - Andy: A number of new people, welcome. This is my fifth year. What I noticed the first year: sometimes conversations happen amongst people who've been here a long time. If something happens that you didn't follow, feel welcome to ask. Thank you for coming.



Robert Hopkins  
School Council

## Record of Discussion, Nov. 7, 2019

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Twitter: [@rhopcouncil](https://twitter.com/rhopcouncil)

**8:05 Meeting adjourned**

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## Appendix A

### Fundraising Committee Report to Robert Hopkins School Council November 7th, 2019

**Members:** Margaret Rose, Stephanie Reid, Jamie McCallum, Leslie Gregory, Lama Chami, Tara McNally, Jancey Wallace, Maria Yasin, Tamara Taub, Jennifer Lowe, Sarah MacGregor, Emily Damiani, Annalee Rice, Tina Drotar, Janet Hare, Danielle Armengaud

**Email Contact:** [rhopcfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:rhopcfundraising@gmail.com)

#### Important Dates:

November 22nd - Popcorn Day  
November 12th - 15th - Scholastic Book Fair  
November 14th - Spaghetti Dinner

#### Fundraising Team Meeting

The fundraising team met on Tuesday, October 29th. Meeting minutes can be found at the end of the November Fundraising Report. 8 out of 16 members were in attendance.

Noteworthy points:

#### Goals of Fundraising Committee

- Raise funds
- Host affordable and accessible events for our school community
- Whenever possible to ensure our events leave a small carbon footprint
- Offer nutritious food alternatives at all events

#### Formalized Fundraising Planning

The committee has developed a more formal and organized system for event planning in order to allow any interested council members to have input in a timely manner.

Annually we will have a minimum of 3 fundraising committee meetings, more if necessary. Co-chairs will be welcome to attend any fundraising meetings they would like to as well as anyone else who would like to contribute to planning. Meeting dates will be communicated at council meetings prior to fundraising committee meetings in order to allow all input to be received via email or in person. All input will be discussed and recorded in committee meeting minutes which

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will be distributed to all school council members. With this more formalized process we hope to capture all information, suggestions, opinions etc. in enough time to make use of them. This will also alleviate the amount of time each event needs to be discussed at school council meetings. Fundraising committee will determine what can be incorporated reasonably to meet our goals and what cannot.

September Meeting (week after first council meeting)

- Create fundraising plan from January to June

March

- Plan details of Fun Fair and Silent Auction
- Debrief fall events

June

- Create fundraising plan from September to December for upcoming year
- Debrief spring and summer events

### **Fresh From the Farm**

Our Fresh From the Farm campaign is now closed. We earned \$313 in profit which is \$77 less than our projected profit.

We are awaiting our delivery date and will find out 1 to 2 weeks ahead of time, between now and December 6th. When we know what date produce is being delivered we will send an email call out for volunteers to help bag produce and hand out orders before, during and after school.

Please spread the word that any produce not picked up on pick up day will be donated to the Gloucester Food Cupboard as we cannot store it at school.

### **Glow Run - Friday October 25th**

Glow Run was a great success once again. Huge thanks to the Stephanie Reid and family for organizing such a fun event and huge thanks to DJ Dan and the Coldrey family for DJing the best post run dance party! Thanks also to our local City Councillor Tim Tierney who attended and handed out glow gear courtesy of his office.

Glow Run earned a total of \$950 which is \$30 less than our projected profits.

### **Spaghetti Dinner and Book Fair**

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Scholastic Book Fair will run from November 12th to 15th. If you are available to help with set-up, clean-up, sales or tidying, please email Leslie Nola at [rhopcfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:rhopcfundraising@gmail.com).

\*Spaghetti Dinner change

Unfortunately East Side Mario's has decided not to cook and provide food for spaghetti dinner this year. However, Margaret has managed to secure a caterer through Colonel By high school who will prepare spaghetti sauce from scratch and pasta which will be delivered in oven ready trays to Robert Hopkins for just \$200. Additionally, our local City Councillor has offered to donate \$500 to cover most of the cost of the food and caterer. Because of the changes this year, additional parent volunteers will be required for purchasing food, cutting bread, preparing butter into single servings and washing greens for salad. If you have some time to give during the day on November 14th, please see Margaret tonight.

Spaghetti Dinner will be on the evening of Thursday November 14th during parent teacher interviews. Volunteers are needed to help with set up, clean up and buffet service, shopping and food prep, as well as donations of baked goods and fresh fruit for dessert. Please contact Margaret Rose if you are able to help with this fun event at [rhopcfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:rhopcfundraising@gmail.com).

**Silent Auction**

Silent Auction happens at the end of May at our Annual Fun Fair. It is our largest fundraiser of the year and requires many hours from January to May to make it run successfully. Jancey Wallace will coordinate the silent auction again this year and will require assistance with reaching out to companies for donations in order to make our auction a big success. Normally Jancey and her team secure approximately 170 donations. Jancey has committed to reaching out to 35 companies and will need a team of volunteers willing to contact the remaining 120 companies beginning in January. If you are able to commit some time to contacting 5, 10 or more companies, please sign up tonight or contact Jancey at [rhopcfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:rhopcfundraising@gmail.com)

**Event Coordinators Needed!**

Interested in helping with fundraising in a bigger way? The fundraising team is looking for volunteers to take on the role of popcorn coordinator, Fresh From Farm coordinator for fall 2020 and Spaghetti Dinner 2020. Please see Jamie if you are interested.



## Appendix B

Treasury Report  
4 Nov 2019

October Statement - Interim  
October 1 Balance: \$11,834.96

Deposits: \$1,896.49  
    \$158 - Popcorn  
    \$430.95 - Fresh from the Farm  
    \$51.54 - Mabel's Labels  
    \$1,159 - Glow Run  
    \$97 - Donations (at Welcome BBQ and Glow Run)

Withdrawals: \$2,240.59?  
    \$237.30 - Popcorn  
    \$771.76 - Welcome BBQ  
    \$82.83 - Kinder Yard  
    \$200 - Glow Run Float  
    \$474 - Fresh from the Farm  
    \$139.42 - Cash Boxes!  
    \$335.28? - Outdoor Learning

October 31 Balance: \$11,490.86

November so far: Nothing

Current Balance: \$11,490.86

Upcoming:  
Colourful Chameleon (fun fair face painter 2019) \$530 - still pending.  
Book Fair, Spaghetti Dinner.

Note:

If we want to free up some cash. We may wish to amend the budget to make half of our donation to Carson Grove in the form of Scholastic Credits, so \$1000 cash, and \$1000 in Scholastic merchandise (unless our school has already planned out spending the credits). (WE Have)

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