



Robert Hopkins School Council

Meeting Agenda
Thursday, March 24, 2022
6:30-8:00 p.m.

- 1) Welcome, introductions and land acknowledgement
 - Alanna Twohey
 - Danielle Armengaud
 - Heather Forsyth
 - Jamie McCallum
 - Jennifer Grimsey
 - Kim Rebenchuk
 - Kristin Bowden
 - Leslie King Gregory
 - Margaret Rose
 - Maria Blahoianu
 - Nathalie Sharma
 - Tara Downton McNally
 - Margaret Rose
 - Sarah MacGregor
 - Kallyan Kanti Das
 - Suraya Gilani
 - Donna Kind
 - Charles Zhang

- Jamie: Reminder that some COVID protocol changes are mandated and cannot be impacted by Council

- 2) School Update (Nathalie)
 - Restarted Land Acknowledgements and O Canada
 - Kiss and Ride going much better
 - Most COVID protocols removed today
 - Students have choices re: wearing masks, moving desks close to each other
 - Have encouraged students to listen to what their parents want
 - Encouraging mutual respect
 - “Mud rescues” required this week
 - Staffing:
 - Enrollment for next year similar to this year
 - Teacher preference sheets sent to teachers

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Robert Hopkins School Council

- EQAO
 - Online
 - Volunteering
 - Similar to pre-COVID
 - Aquarium maintenance
 - Breakfast program
 - No longer requirement for vaccination or masking, but masking still strongly encouraged, especially when cannot maintain distance
 - Will send out a message from the office
 - For individual classes, teachers will send out their own requests
 - Library is back
 - School Leaving Ceremony
 - “Hopeful “
 - Fun Fair
 - “Hopeful”
 - Milk and pizza
 - Helps to buy equipment for the school
 - Danielle: Not everyone is aware that it’s a fundraiser; should be clearly communicated
- 3) Teacher Update (Jennifer)
- Photo presentation
- 4) Questions
- Danielle: Update on VP?
 - Nathalie: No update. Not back until April. Ms. Keyes and Ms. Grimsey assisting in office this week, then a retired principal will assist.
- 5) Fundraising Update (Margaret)
- RHOP Rocks / Nonna’s pizzas was successful
 - Hopeful to have Monkey Rock in person in future
 - Thank yous to volunteers
 - Netted \$573.84
 - Plantables.ca
 - Code “GROWHOPPERS”
 - On now @ plantables.ca/store
 - Started plants to be delivered to your door on the week you choose – order in lots of six to get the best shipping rates

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- Spring Virtual Scholastic Book Fair
 - Proposed dates: April 20-30
 - Thank you to Leslie
- Spring BBQ/Fun Fair?
 - Don't have permission yet
 - Will start organizing in the background
 - Maria: Something outdoors only. Tim Tierney has offered supplies. Keep it really simple.
 - Margaret: Concern is numbers and space, even outside. Fun and safe are the priorities.
 - Jamie: Will be different this year. Change focus from fundraising to community inclusion. Maybe only for school community. Make it representative of who is in our community.
- Need to tell people that we have a Twitter feed, how to find info. Need to get people to read weekly update. Especially new families to the school.
 - Jamie: Teachers open to us giving summaries for them to include in their weekly newsletters to parents?
 - Nathalie: And to post on their Google Classroom.
 - Suraya: Flyers in backpacks?
 - Nathalie: Happy to do for big things, but trying to reduce environmental impact.
 - Suraya: Not every parent speaks French or English
 - Nathalie: Need people to translate/answer questions. May be a language barrier to new families coming to Council.
 - Jamie: Challenge is finding out what languages we need and who can translate.
 - Suraya: Can do Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi
 - Nathalie: Have staff that speak Arabic. Students could help.
 - Suraya: Video update?
 - Kim: Kinder students were unaware of Monkey Rock; parents struggling with volume of information.
- Danielle: Kinder intro evenings?
 - Nathalie: Happened in February.
 - Danielle: Volunteers to come and share what Council does
- Jamie: Pre-COVID, Council tried to create a year-long plan for fundraising, and put everything in a calendar ahead of time. Then families know there is a monthly event, when it is, and where to find information.

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- Suraya: Increase learning about diverse holidays.
 - Nathalie: We do those things in school, but might be beneficial to share with community. E.g., World Epilepsy Day tomorrow. Try to focus on topics that we have representation in our school.
 - Suraya: Is there a prayer room at school?
 - Nathalie: We have one for staff. If a student or parent wants one, we will make one. We haven't had any requests. We don't have a lot of private rooms in the building.
 - Suraya: People may feel they cannot pray because there is not a room.
 - Nathalie: Can consider in discussions around Ramadan/Eid.
 - Jamie: Discussion to be continued during roundtable.
- 6) Financial Update (Kallyan)
- Current Balance \$2,653.10
 - Maria: BBQ is usually \$1,000
 - Kallyan/Jamie: Can people make donations in lieu of fundraising on School Cash Online?
 - Nathalie: Can be a school or Council-initiative.
 - Danielle: Best to fundraise for something specific.
 - Margaret: We were raising money for Scientists in the Schools; focus on that and then see about BBQ. Advertising was focused on that initiative. Can also try a gift card fundraiser.
 - Maria: Can Scientists in the Schools be done as an assembly?
 - Margaret: \$1,500 for juniors
 - Nathalie: No cheaper if they come in person – material costs.
 - Maria: Outdoor classroom?
 - Jamie: What do we need money for, and do we need a new fundraising plan?
 - Nathalie: No one has a clear request re: the outdoor classroom. Picnic tables? Need to be anchored. Always need outdoor play equipment. Students can now bring in their own items so hopefully that will help for this year.
 - Jamie: Not an ask right now? So, just need money in the bank for a Spring event. Fundraising may be difficult – i.e., “We’re raising money to throw a big party.” If cash is required, we should figure it out this meeting. Running out of fundraising time.

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- Maria: Will have about \$1,200 after Scientists in the School.
- Margaret: Most things can be paid for with the entry fees.
- Jamie: There are things to be paid for in advance. It's a risk.
- Danielle: We voted to have a buffer; we'd have to agree to diminish that.
- Jamie: Scientists in Schools to be scheduled and paid for in the Fall (\$1,500 for Juniors).
- Kristin: Aware of Let's Talk Science volunteer program. University students.
 - Nathalie: Still have costs for materials. Can check out a variety of programs.

7) Roundtable and Closing

- Jamie: Idea to create committee for inclusion, diversity and cultural awareness. What we've tried to date hasn't been working. Have reached out to school board re: training for school councils.
 - Maria: Put it in the weekly updates?
 - Suraya: Will help.
 - Maria: Consider changing location of meeting; different times of week.
 - Nathalie: Offering older student to babysit. During school day is not likely.
- Jamie: In person council meetings?
 - Nathalie: "Hopeful"
- Suraya: Fundraising idea – discount at local restaurant.

Next Meeting Thursday, April 21, 2022



Robert Hopkins School Council

Appendix A – Chat Log

Shahid Qaisrani

6:38 PM

Mrs.Natie and Ms.Grimsey love the hair !!

:)

Maria Blahoianu

6:38 PM

I wanna hear about the mud rescues

Shahid Qaisrani

6:43 PM

Thank you for asking about kids spring break ,kids went to martial arts spring camp .

Jamie McCallum

6:45 PM

Fun Soraya! I bet they loved that! Glad you made it to the meeting.

Shahid Qaisrani

6:46 PM

the boots always get stuck in the mud ,lol

Donna Kind

6:46 PM

I heard about that. Dylan said someone was "stuck 4 feet deep in mud"! :-D

Jennifer Grimsey

6:46 PM

It was an adventure! :)

Maria Blahoianu

6:46 PM

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Potable mud is precious mud

*portable

Shahid Qaisrani

6:46 PM

Ms.Grimsey is one of the kindest teacher and favourite with all the kids

Donna that is some fun

lol

volunteering ???

Shahid Qaisrani

6:51 PM

fun day

Jamie McCallum

6:52 PM

we can pull it off last minute. no worries!

Shahid Qaisrani

6:52 PM

:)

Maria Blahoianu

6:53 PM

already done

Shahid Qaisrani

6:53 PM

there should be a favourite teachers award !!

and achievement awards for kids

Donna Kind

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Robert Hopkins School Council

6:53 PM

WooHoo! Milk and pizza!!! :-D

Maria Blahoianu

6:53 PM

good point

Shahid Qaisrani

6:55 PM

Ramadan is coming

Nathalie Sharma

6:55 PM

Thank you for all of your kind words Suraya!

Shahid Qaisrani

6:55 PM

Some of the kids and most parents will be fasting

Great idea

Shahid Qaisrani

6:57 PM

What about Eid Celebration

Great idea about mock trial

WDSB <3

Shahid Qaisrani

7:00 PM

i see mt Mehmet

*my

Nathalie Sharma

7:00 PM

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Beautiful red hair!

Maria Blahoianu

7:00 PM

Yay!

Donna Kind

7:00 PM

Love that! Great way to celebrate the end of co-horting!

Nathalie Sharma

7:01 PM

Happy he' so proud of it

Shahid Qaisrani

7:01 PM

Thank you Ms.Sharma

Ms.Grimsy great slides

tara downtonmcnally

7:02 PM

yes the boys loved the dancing line playing with each other on the yard

Shahid Qaisrani

7:04 PM

,

Shahid Qaisrani

7:05 PM

Ali is saying Hi,to everyone

You

7:05 PM

Hi Ali!

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Jamie McCallum

7:05 PM

Hi Ali! :)

Donna Kind

7:05 PM

John did a great job - he was great at interacting with the kids by name all through his concert, which was fun!

Hi Ali!

Maria Blahoianu

7:06 PM

Good job everyone!

Nathalie Sharma

7:06 PM

The student announcers did a fabulous job!

Jennifer Grimsey

7:07 PM

Hello to Ali!

Shahid Qaisrani

7:07 PM

s

Shahid Qaisrani

7:08 PM

m

Donna Kind

7:08 PM

Plantables.ca

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Robert Hopkins School Council

Code: GROWHOPPERS

We were really happy with our plants too

Donna Kind

7:09 PM

April 20-30 tentative dates for online Spring Book Fair

Jamie McCallum

7:10 PM

Leslie, do you need some help?

Donna Kind

7:10 PM

Yikes! Poor Leslie! Thank you so much Leslie for all your hard work to navigate multiple ordering systems for the teachers; orders from Scholastic! We appreciate you!

Nathalie Sharma

7:12 PM

I completely agree Donna!

Donna Kind

7:13 PM

A Spring BBQ or Picnic...? With a few outdoor games, music...

You

7:13 PM

Agree Jamie.

Shahid Qaisrani

7:14 PM

bbq would have to also have kosher and halal option and vegetarian options

Maria Blahoianu

7:14 PM

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as long as the sponge throw is still here

we always have those options

Donna Kind

7:14 PM

We can always do our brainstorming ahead of time... so we can hit the ground running if we get a YES from the Board.

Shahid Qaisrani

7:14 PM

great

You

7:14 PM

Me too - availability will be garbage but I can get things done after hours!

Nathalie Sharma

7:14 PM

I agree Suraya

Maria Blahoianu

7:14 PM

good job Margaret

Donna Kind

7:14 PM

Agreed on kosher, hallal, vegetarian options, Suraya.

Nathalie Sharma

7:15 PM

Yes, thank you Margaret!

Shahid Qaisrani

7:15 PM

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Robert Hopkins School Council

Thanks Jamie for the wonderful ideas

Donna Kind

7:16 PM

As Maria said, we always have all those food options available. It's important for our community! <3

Shahid Qaisrani

7:16 PM

In person council meetings

It will be a nice change

Shahid Qaisrani

7:17 PM

A lot of parents don't have twitter

Or they don't check e.mails

flyers in the kids school backpacks for the parents would be great

Shahid Qaisrani

7:18 PM

Yeah google classroom is a great idea

but a lot of parents cant understand english or french

Jamie McCallum

7:19 PM

Yes Suraya. We have been thinking about what languages we need to be translating into and how to do that.

You

7:19 PM

I think in previous years we had parents volunteer to translate weekly updates into different languages..? Does anyone remember?

Shahid Qaisrani

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7:20 PM

Great `idea Alanna

Donna Kind

7:21 PM

I believe text that is in the body of the emails through School Messenger can be automatically translated if people signed up to receive communications in their language. Am I remembering right? I don't know how you sign up for a language though - OCDSB website?

And I don't think it translates pdf attachments...?

Maria Blahoianu

7:21 PM

you are right, donna. it's through OCDSB

that's a good idea

Nathalie Sharma

7:22 PM

I do translate the main body into a variety of languages each week

We also have students who speak multiple languages - Ms Grimsey is the expert on this!

Donna Kind

7:22 PM

We would need volunteers to translate and speak on video for those. It's a great idea.

Maria Blahoianu

7:22 PM

urdu hindi and punjabi

Nathalie Sharma

7:22 PM

We have staff who speak Arabic as well

Jennifer Grimsey

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Robert Hopkins School Council

7:22 PM

I have a list of all the languages spoken by students in our schools. If there was a short text to have translated, I could ask our MLOs to translate.

Jamie McCallum

7:23 PM

That would be great Jenn.

Shahid Qaisrani

7:23 PM

the videos could also have subtitles

Hindi,Urdu and Punjabi ,i can do those along with the subtitles

Donna Kind

7:25 PM

Not that I'm aware of Alanna, unless Todd did that independently (i.e. I don't think Council was involved in anything like that). I think it's a great idea though.

Nathalie Sharma

7:25 PM

I think teachers posting on the Google Classroom could help

Shahid Qaisrani

7:26 PM

google classroom videos should be in english and french also

Donna Kind

7:27 PM

Agreed, Nathalie & Suraya. Google Classroom postings of videos in Fr, Eng and maybe other languages too if we can get translators.

Shahid Qaisrani

7:27 PM

great idea Jamie a digital calendar would be great

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Shahid Qaisrani

7:28 PM

I always open google classroom !My husband is the e.mail guy

Donna Kind

7:29 PM

We need a car driving around the neighbourhood with a loudspeaker out the window to broadcast news. LOL

Leslie King Gregory

7:29 PM

I agree Margaret

Jamie McCallum

7:29 PM

lol donna. maybe we could borrow the garlic king van.

Donna Kind

7:29 PM

I agree Margaret. It's something we can count on and we know we can look there if we have questions.

tara downtonmcnally

7:30 PM

yes donna lol

Danielle Armengaud

7:30 PM

Fully agree about the weekly updates. Keep them coming. Don't "punish" us eagers because others don't read them ;)

tara downtonmcnally

7:30 PM

i love all the news i just am slow and not a tech fan lol

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Kim Rebenchuk

7:30 PM

I agree the weekly email is great and wasn't suggesting less.

Maria Blahoianu

7:30 PM

i read them :)

Donna Kind

7:31 PM

I do too, Maria... but I'm a word geek. :-D

Danielle Armengaud

7:31 PM

It is my experience that that happens quite consistently at Robert Hopkins

Shahid Qaisrani

7:31 PM

googleclassroom would be a great place to put the calendar and allergy info

tara downtonmcnally

7:32 PM

i read it too i am just slow

Donna Kind

7:33 PM

Dylan loves learning about all the different holidays and celebrations and traditions. <3

Donna Kind

7:34 PM

Maybe including the offer in the announcements so people know they can ask for that?

Jennifer Grimsey

7:35 PM

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One of the staff members who celebrates Ramadan and Eid has put together a slide show and will be speaking to classes and sharing.

Maria Blahoianu

7:36 PM

I think there was a slideshow last year too

Shahid Qaisrani

7:36 PM

Sorry took to o much time !

:)

tara downtonmcnally

7:37 PM

awe hi sam and violet

Donna Kind

7:37 PM

That sounds great, Jen Grimsey!

You

7:37 PM

Hi Manny and family :)

Shahid Qaisrani

7:38 PM

A few buddy benches would be a great initiative

Donna Kind

7:38 PM

Great to have money in the bank! Thanks for update Kalllyan!

Shahid Qaisrani

7:39 PM

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Thanks for the update Kallayan

Great idea Kallayan

Danielle Armengaud

7:40 PM

If you donate to the school directly there's a tax receipt

Margaret Rose

7:40 PM

Council is technically the school money-wise, so there can be a tax receipt for council donations too.

Shahid Qaisrani

7:40 PM

It can be both

Video clip on google could raise some money

*google classroom

What all is required for the bbq

Danielle Armengaud

7:41 PM

We can fundraise in whatever way we want, including just asking for donations - but best to ask for \$ for specific items (like scientist in the school)

Leslie King Gregory

7:42 PM

I have to drop off, my apologies. Thanks everyone.

Shahid Qaisrani

7:42 PM

Bye Leslie

tara downtonmcnally

7:42 PM

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they are doing that at henry munro

the gift card thing

Donna Kind

7:43 PM

Henry Munro runs a fundscript (sp?) campaign - we might be able to find out from them more info on how it works, although I know the person there who was running it just left (moved away) so not sure if there is a new "expert".

Danielle Armengaud

7:43 PM

it's super easy

tara downtonmcnally

7:43 PM

thats right donna

Shahid Qaisrani

7:46 PM

Why don't us all council members raise some money ,you guys can let us know how much each person should contribute and then we can do the stores thing (like Loblaws etc for the spring bbq)

Shahid Qaisrani

7:48 PM

for the outdoor play equipment good idea

spring bbq to raise money for outdoor equipment

Donna Kind

7:48 PM

It continually needs to be replenished

Shahid Qaisrani

7:49 PM

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what kind of items are kids allowed to bring

examples please

Danielle Armengaud

7:49 PM

Anyone can always make a donation (anonymous or not) to the school

Donna Kind

7:51 PM

Burger in the grass, LOL

Maria Blahoianu

7:51 PM

:(

I just miss the school community

Donna Kind

7:51 PM

Me too, Maria!

tara downtonmncally

7:51 PM

daANCE OUTSIDE

Shahid Qaisrani

7:52 PM

An entry fee

every little bit counts

Nathalie Sharma

7:53 PM

A dietary inclusive BBQ and an outdoor dance with music from various cultures? Would that be doable/simple?

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Danielle Armengaud

7:54 PM

yes

Donna Kind

7:54 PM

We've never done any event with alcohol that I know off, other than a wine raffle at the fun fair sometimes

Shahid Qaisrani

7:54 PM

touifj

fh

Donna Kind

7:55 PM

Thank you Suraya and Margaret

Suraya, can you mute your mic?

Shahid Qaisrani

7:56 PM

Sorry i didnt know

Donna Kind

7:56 PM

No worries.

Shahid Qaisrani

7:56 PM

Ali turned it on

rjt

e

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Donna Kind

7:56 PM

LOL, Ali wants to talk to us! Hi Ali!

Shahid Qaisrani

7:57 PM

Donna ,lol

yeah true

Donna Kind

7:58 PM

That sounds good.

Maria Blahoianu

7:58 PM

Let's talk science is a great program too

Jennifer Grimsey

7:58 PM

I have had Let's Talk Science come before.

Nathalie Sharma

7:58 PM

They do have it here as well. We can look into the price comparison

Danielle Armengaud

8:00 PM

Gotta run, good night!

Jennifer Grimsey

8:01 PM

They have a lot of resources for free online and it does mention that you can book a free workshop - <https://letstalkscience.ca/educational-resources/STEM-at-school>

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Donna Kind

8:01 PM

I agree, we've been trying but it hasn't been working very well. Ideas welcome!

And making them feel welcome and included when they do come.

Kristin Bowden

8:02 PM

Gotta run.. Thanks everyone!

Margaret Rose

8:03 PM

Sorry guys, I've got to run! Thanks everyone!

Maria Blahoianu

8:05 PM

bye margaret

Donna Kind

8:06 PM

I hear what you're saying Suraya and it makes a lot of sense, but we have struggled to know what to do about that - how can we fix that and make them feel welcome, included, and how to ensure they can follow the discussions and understand what's going on in the meetings.

I love the idea of a committee to work on these issues.

Shahid Qaisrani

8:07 PM

Right Maria

Well said

Could it be that parents could be nominated

From every grade

Nathalie Sharma

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8:07 PM

I can reach out to staff to see if anyone can be part of the committee as well if you'd like.

Shahid Qaisrani

8:08 PM

Or if 3 parents from every grade should be in the council a compulsion

Maria Blahoianu

8:08 PM

not my kids

Jennifer Grimsey

8:09 PM

Maybe a google form at the beginning of the year to see what time/day is best for the majority?

You

8:09 PM

Good idea Jenn - though I think the risk would be that you'd just hear from the same old people

Maria Blahoianu

8:09 PM

lovely to see everyone, i have to jet

Donna Kind

8:10 PM

That is a good idea, Jenn. And maybe a checkbox on the form to say if they are interested in participating in Council, so we know better who to reach out to.

Maybe also a question asking how they would like us to communicate with them?

Shahid Qaisrani

8:11 PM

Yes Donna and that is a good idea

Kim Rebenchuk

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8:11 PM

Jamie - I need to go put my son to bed. But happy to take part in a diversity committee. Kim

Jamie McCallum

8:11 PM

Thanks Kim! I'll send you an email.

Donna Kind

8:12 PM

But Maria doesn't want to do it anymore! LOL

You

8:13 PM

Sam used to be very popular in kindergarten classrooms :)

tara downtonmcnally

8:15 PM

awe sam!!

Donna Kind

8:15 PM

The after-Council outings was one of the best parts about Council Meeting night!

You

8:16 PM

Agreed! I learned so much about the school and neighbourhood that way.

Shahid Qaisrani

8:16 PM

Donna it would be nice if we could do that meet up

Guys i have to go .

tara downtonmcnally

8:16 PM

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yes so true really helped build our group stronger

Donna Kind

8:16 PM

Teachers probably have some great ideas to pass along - either by joining committee, or just sending info / ideas to committee

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