

## Hillcrest High School Council Meeting Minutes

November 24th, 2021

7:00-8:25 PM

### Attendance:

Janet Mark Wallace (Chair), Geordie Walker (Principal), Tricia Jones (Vice Principal), Marilyn McMillan (Staff Rep) Ahmed Yasin (Student Senator), Shom Patel (Co-Chair of Student Council) Akash Karunaharan (Co-Chair of Student Council) Carolyn Kropp, Kate Connolly, Andrew Wigston, Brian Raymond (Past Chair)

### Recording of Meeting

Participants were advised that we intended to record the meeting. Recordings of the meetings are available for viewing by contacting the Principal, Geordie Walker.

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM

### Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledged that we are meeting on unceded and unsurrendered Algonquin territory.

### Welcome and Introductions

Participants introduced themselves.

### Approval of Agenda:

Moved by Janet, seconded by Brian to approve the agenda for the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Carried.

### Approval of Minutes from October 27th 2021:

Moved by Brian, seconded by Carolyn to approve the minutes of October 27th.

Carried.

**Student Report:** Student Rep, Co-President(s) and/or Student Senator

### Morning Entry to School

Shom reported that as the weather gets colder students are increasingly inquiring about gaining access to the school in the morning so as to not stand in the cold. Geordie agreed that huddling in close quarters outdoors might be worse than coming inside and fanning out within the building. Starting next week in fact the doors will be open earlier.

Student Council also fielded some complaints about mid-term marks.

Students were wondering about an announcement from the province that we will be shortly changing over from two periods per week to four periods per day. Geordie responded that the province has given permission for Ottawa Public Health to decide with the OCDSB when to go back to the four-courses-day schedule. Logistically, we would be able to go back to this schedule even before the change of term in February. Fortunately Hillcrest is in the position to make the change quickly due to advance planning for this eventuality.

### **Principal Report:** Geordie Walker and Trish Jones

#### Covid Update

Trish reported that there have been no new cases of Covid reported since our last meeting at the end of October. The Ministry is hoping that the school day will be back to “normal” by February.

#### Report Cards

Report cards will be issued tomorrow, Thursday November 25th, and online Parent-Teacher interviews will take place this Thursday and Friday, and Monday and Tuesday of next week.

#### New Principal

Geordie has announced his retirement at the end of January 2022, and a new principal will be arriving at Hillcrest. We hope to learn who the new principal is at the return to school after Christmas break.

#### Fire Drills

We have completed the necessary fire drills for the first part of the year.

### Equity and Racism at Hillcrest

A survey was circulated to staff to get feedback on the work underway to address Equity and Racism at Hillcrest. The survey was kept anonymous to encourage honest feedback.

An online meeting took place November 17th for the Parent and Community Hillcrest Anti-Racism Committee.

Since September, Hillcrest has had an Every Child Matters memorial display fixed to the fence of the south entrance to the school, to remember the survivors and victims of Aboriginal Residential Schools. In order to not have it succumb to the elements, the display will be taken down this week, under the guidance of our Algonquin Elder, Albert Dumont.

### Grade Eight Day

Usually there is a day set aside at the end of January or beginning of February to welcome into the building the Grade Eight students who are destined for Hillcrest for the following September. This year it will be delayed, in the hopes of being able to do it in person in the spring. The Board is encouraging schools to put together a virtual information night for parents.

### Fall Awards

There will be a Virtual Fall Awards Ceremony this year. One hurdle is that school photos have not been taken for the last two years, so any photos we have are somewhat out of date.

### EQAO Testing

Grade Nine Assessment of Mathematics, Administration January 2022.

### Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

The Grade Elevens and Twelves will write the OSSLT Tuesday and Wednesday next week.

### Questions

What is the population capacity of the school?

Answer: The school can hold a population of 1100 maximum. There used to be much looser rules about attending schools outside of one's catchment area, but rules have gotten much tighter. The school lost half its population in one year, when new boundary rules were introduced. This topic was under review just before the pandemic hit, and will no doubt resume as an issue once things return to normal.

The projection is for the school population to stay between about 550 and 625 for the foreseeable future.

Will the destreaming of the Grade Nine math curriculum lead to difficulties for students in Grade Ten math?

Answer: Hillcrest had actually amalgamated Grade Nine Applied and Academic Math three years prior to this becoming a province-wide policy. This year the curriculum in math is new, so we have not yet seen how this will prepare the students for Grade Ten. An added challenge is that one math block under the current system is 150 minutes long, which is a long time to work on one subject. There is no longer a textbook; all of the resources are online now.

The idea with the new curriculum is to make math learning more about observation and conversation and less about the result. Students must be able to reflect on how they got to the result.

**Staff Report** Marilyn McMillan, Staff Representative

### Tech Shop

Marilyn visited the Tech Shop and took some photos of the work going on there. The teacher is named Paulo Oliveira and he is a qualified mechanic.. The shop is equipped with hydraulic lifts

that allow students to work on cars. They perform oil changes and tire changes on teachers' cars in order to learn by doing. Mr Oliveira is very responsive to student interest, and they can work on motor bikes, regular bikes, lawn mowers and snow blowers. The Grade Ten class can lead to co-op placements in auto businesses.

The Tech Shop is also equipped with saws, woodworking equipment, drafting material and sewing machines. They accept donations of parts for some types of equipment. Those wishing to make a donation, should check directly with Mr Oliveira.

Ceremony for Albert Dumont

Albert Dumont is the Hillcrest Algonquin Elder and has worked with students on various projects in the past. He himself never had the chance to graduate from high school. There are plans to bestow an Ontario Secondary Diploma on Mr Dumont to recognize a life rich with experience, learning and traditional knowledge-keeping. There will be more information on this forthcoming.

Treasurer Report

We are still awaiting a volunteer to fill the School Council Treasurer position. The accounts remain unchanged from October, since no transactions can take place without two signing authorities.

Janet asked Brian to review what he recalls regarding the unsettled expenses for the 2018-19 Parent Engagement Workshop, the Belonging Room, and the White Board Tables. Brian recommended that School Council work with the school administration to settle these accounts before Geordie's departure in January

<b>Treasurer's Financial Report</b>				
<b>Hillcrest High School Year 2021-2022</b>				
<b>Tuesday, November 23, 2021</b>				
		<b>Incom e</b>	<b>Expense s</b>	
<b>BEGINNING BANK BALANCE (September 22, 2021)</b>				<b><u>\$2,410.9</u> <u>0</u></b>

INCOME (Deposits)				
Date	Description			
	TOTAL INCOME (Deposits)			<b>\$0.00</b>
CASH ON HAND				
	Description			
	Float On Hand			\$0.00
	TOTAL CASH ON HAND			<b>\$0.00</b>
EXPENSES				
Date	Description			
	TOTAL EXPENSES			<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>ENDING TOTAL BALANCE (October 25, 2021)</b>				<b><u>\$2,410.90</u></b>
NOTE				
Outstanding Cheques (Have Not Cleared From Bank)				

Date	Description			
	TOTAL OUTSTANDING CHEQUES			<b>\$0.00</b>
Note:	Outstanding budgeted expenses for 2018-19			<b>\$1,000</b>
	(Belonging Room, Parent Engagement Workshop)			
	Dry erase tables to be purchased			<b>\$750</b>

**Chair Report:** Janet Mark Wallace

Greening School Grounds

Janet met with Akash, Shom, and five other members of Hillcrest Student Council on November 2nd, to walk the school grounds and brainstorm ways to encourage more use of the grounds year-round. This initiative is inspired partly in the context of the City of Ottawa’s new Official Plan, which seeks to increase tree cover and walkability across the city. It is also in response to increasing concern about lack of access to green space during a pandemic. The school offers a number of possibilities for increasing tree cover, linking to other pedestrian infrastructure, and providing recreational space for the neighbourhood outside of school hours. The results of the walking tour are summarized in a document entitled “Vision for Greening the Hillcrest School Grounds”. It has been circulated to the School Council email list. Geordie suggested that the superintendent to consult about this at the Board would be Mike Carson.

The deadline for applying for the addition of trees through the Schoolyard Tree Planting Program is June 1st of each year. If we had an application into the STPP by June of 2022, the site inspection would take place in the fall, and the planting would take place in the spring of 2023. Any one school is eligible for up to 20 trees worth \$500 each for a total of \$10 000. The school community is responsible for keeping the trees watered for the first three years while the trees get established. In the new year, we could perhaps survey the students to find out if any are interested in earning their volunteer hours by watering trees over the summer.

Open Questions

The three parents present, Kate Connolly, Andrew Wigston and Carolyn Kropp agreed to further discuss with Janet how they could help fill the vacant roles on School Council. They agreed to further discuss via email.

**Next meeting: Wednesday January 26th 7-8:30 PM**







