

High Park School Council

Minutes - February 18, 2025

In attendance – Nicole Marcinkevics, Melissa Dallinger, Trustee Paul McCann, Lois Radbourne, Kimberly Shim, Korina Parent, Rebecca Vishloff, Pam Armitage, Shelby Williams, Catrin Thomson, Sarah Klimochko, Jenn Reid, Ms. Roy, Ashley Skopyk, Pam Russ, Leanne Rafuse

Agenda Items

1. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

2. Approval of Agenda

- a. Kim motions to approve agenda. Korina seconds. Agenda approved.

3. Approval of November 2024 Minutes

- a. Korina motions to approve November Minutes. Kim seconds. Minutes approved.

4. Math Presentation

- a. Ms. Roy was in attendance to give parents a presentation on “New Math” and how math is taught in classrooms.
- b. There has been a move away from rote memorization towards “Big Thinking Classrooms”. Teachers use different strategies to help the students understand how numbers can be broken down and work together.
- c. Ms. Roy gave an example activity of something she might use in her classroom to get students thinking critically about numbers.
- d. **Activity – Under the Banner**
 - i. Answers 56, 54, 1, 2, 3 were given. Group was broken up into smaller groups. Have to make equations to get each answer using numbers 1-10 once each. You must use each operation (+, -, x, /) once each and can use one operation twice.
 - ii. $8 \times 7 = 56$, $9 \times 6 = 54$, $10 / 5 = 2$, $4 - 3 = 1$, $1 + 2 = 3$

5. Trustees Report

- a. Trustee Paul McCann was in a board meeting today from 9am to 6:12 PM. He attended our school council meeting directly after the board meeting was adjourned.
- b. CUPE strike vote
 - i. CUPE support staff went work to rule starting this morning.
 - ii. Bargaining meetings are set for Thursday February 20 and Friday February 21. The division bargaining committee is planning on attending these meetings and is hoping CUPE attends as well.
 - iii. Trustee McCann said the board has limitations from the provincial government and there is a significant gap between the two bargaining parties.
 - iv. Trustee McCann let us know that during the board meeting today the board voted in favour of lock out of employees that they can utilize if they deem it necessary.
 - 1. This was in response to the CUPE vote in favour of strike action
- c. Trustee McCann opened the floor to parent questions
 - i. It was asked what a Lockout is and what that would look like
 - 1. Lock out is the employee version of a strike. Division would need to give 72 hour notice if they plan to initiate this action.
 - 2. At this point CUPE does not have to give 72 hours notice to implement a full walk out as they have already given notice for work to rule action.
 - ii. Which staff does this affect?
 - 1. EAs, secretaries, library staff, other support staff such as speech therapists and speech assistants.
 - iii. Could new people be hired to take on positions if lock out is used?
 - 1. Could be an option. Trustee McCann reiterated that this is a tool they have to use if necessary.
 - iv. Will this affect bussing?
 - 1. Bus drivers are not union members. However, strike action may affect things like transfer station supervision and the transportation office. There wont be as many people available to answer phones in the transportation office although Trustee McCann did say that communication about bus cancellations would be prioritized.
 - v. How can parents be supportive?
 - 1. Admin have a plan ready to go if and when it is needed.

2. Parents can call and email school trustees – keep in mind that they are limited in what they can say
 3. Call and email MLAs and CUPE
 4. Be kind and give everyone extra grace during this time. Admin does not make any decisions regarding wages. Not all community members are aware of this.
- vi. Is it a conflict of interest for Chair Thomson (Cat) to be at school council?
1. Cat works casual as an EA and is not a member of the union. Cat makes sure she keeps her different roles very separate. For example, when volunteering for crosswalk duty as a parent volunteer she signs in and out.
- vii. What will parents of children with medical needs do if there is a walk out?
1. School administration has been asked to identify students who may not be able to attend school without support staff. There are 190 out of 12000 students in the division who can not be supported without support staff.
 2. It was suggested that parents who will be impacted by this share their story with MLAs and local news
- viii. Can parent volunteers with medical experience help support kids with medical needs?
1. Nicole will need to check with the division to see what can be done
 2. Cat suggested checking with their own union and licensing to see if that would be allowed.
- ix. Trustee McCann received an email from a High Park parent asking why busses are not run in the afternoon when they are cancelled in the morning for weather but it has warmed up by afternoon.
1. Trustee McCann brought this up at the board meeting today and it will be looked into if half day bussing is a possibility. Trustee McCann did say that some divisions are able to run urban busses but not rural busses however Parkland Division is unable to do this due to the complexity of the bussing system.
 2. It was mentioned that if it is too cold for students to be outside for recess than it is too cold for them to be outside waiting for buses or walking home from bus stops.

- d. Trustee McCann asked for an update on the traffic calming measures that were put in place earlier in the school year.
 - i. The temporary barriers have been working to slow traffic down however they are placed too wide and it is difficult for busses to make the turn.

6. PAL Update

- a. Will skip PAL update as school council ran late and PAL is occurring immediately after.

7. COSC Update

- a. COSC update was skipped due to meeting running late

8. Next Meeting Date

- a. Next meeting will be held March 18 at 6:00 PM

9. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM