

Half Moon Bay Public School Council – Meeting Minutes

Half Moon Bay Public School
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Date: November 16, 2022

Item	Minutes
1.	<p>Welcome by Chair.</p> <p>No formal agenda tonight as the bulk of the meeting will be our guest speakers. After that we will use remaining time for updates and to discuss the upcoming movie night. Welcome to Karyn Ostafichuk (planner with the board), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), and Donna Blackburn (Trustee).</p>
2.	<p>Update on New School (Half Moon Bay 2)</p> <p>Karyn Ostafichuk:</p> <p>Funding was secured in July 2020 for 2nd HMB school. Originally it was hoped that the opening of the new school would be Sept 2022. This was very quickly revised to be Sept 2023.</p> <p>The current HMB school very crowded and there is strong need for this new school. We are at the point where we can't sustain any more students at current HMB. We have twenty one portables and around 1200 students for a school built for half of that.</p> <p>Current projection is that we will be well over 1300 students next year with 24 portables. This is too many students for the current HMB school. Staff agree we are at the tipping point and can't have any more students.</p> <p>There have been unavoidable delays to HMB 2 construction. It has been very difficult getting structural steel. There are considerable concerns that the school will not be ready for September 2023. While they still hope for a September opening, realistically it will be January 2024. The planners feel strongly that it is still worth it to form classes and staff the new school so that the new school community can begin to be built. They would need to open the school at a different site for Sept-December and then</p>

they would move to the new school over the December break. Different options for an alternate site were considered such as Century Public School and the former D.A. Moodie School. It was decided that D.A. Moodie is the best option because it is easier and safer to get to.

The new school would still open as a K-5 school during the 2023-24 year. Grade 6's would stay at the current HMB school. HMBPS likely will be left with about 710 students next year. HMB2 will open with 570 students K-5 the first year. OSTA knows that busing would be a priority in this scenario as busing would be needed for every student. The Extended Day Program will be offered at the new school (both in D.A. Moodie and in the new building when they move in).

The Extended Day Program (EDP) will be offered at the new school (both in the temporary D.A. Moodie location and when the new school opens).

Questions/Concerns from parents:

- Parents expressed frustration that the new school will likely not be ready for September.

The response is that they have been doing everything they can to keep the project on time. Unfortunately, structural steel has been hard to get and is needed to move forward with other parts of the construction. They will try everything they can to finish this in 10 months, but if it doesn't happen, the best thing they can think of for this temporary period of time is to use D.A. Moodie school.

- Why couldn't the growing population be predicted and planned for? It is frustrating that the community is growing so quickly and the government wants more housing but they can't accommodate everyone in the schools that are in these communities.

They have been trying to get the funding for this school for a long time from the province. There are problems with the process for securing funding from the province. In addition, schools are funding for the mean population 20 years out, not for the peak population of a new subdivision. This is why new schools end up with portables right away.

- Why can't HMB absorb the additional 100 students again next year? We are already over-populated and have been for several years, so why not one more? Wouldn't this be better than busing students to D.A. Moodie?

The issue is that HMB is already at a tipping point. It simply cannot sustain any more students than it already has. There are problems associated with having more portables than we already have (washrooms, space on yard, need for additional fire hydrant, change existing pathways which is expensive especially for a short period in time). Also, although they project another 100 students

for next year, the reality is that it could be many more. Half Moon Bay has had 70 new enrolments just since September this year!

- **Can younger siblings stay at HMB if they have a sibling in Grade 6 at HMB so that they can stay at the same school?**

Parents can apply for a cross boundary transfer in this scenario but there would need to be extenuating circumstances for this to be approved.

- **Will there be a bus that can take children to EDP at the D.A. Moodie location as it will be very difficult for parents to drop-off there?**

There is no plan to have a bus for EDP but they can confirm that EDP will be offered 7am-6pm. They understand that it will be hard for parents to drop-off/pick up at D.A. Moodie.

- **What time will the new school start and end each day?**

This has not been confirmed yet. It depends on busing. They will try to maintain the same timings for the whole year. It could change for the following year though (this is always a possibility at any school).

- **Will they consider St. Benedict's start/end times when they set the bell times for the new school? It is already horrible for traffic around St. Benedict's in the morning and this is without adding additional traffic going to HMB 2 at the same time.**

The response was that the start and end times for the new school depend entirely on busing. However, this is a very good point and Karyn will pass it on to OSTA for consideration.

- **Could construction be delayed beyond the end of 2023?**

They are very confident that the January 2024 deadline will be met.

- **How can they guarantee busing when it is already so hard to staff existing bus routes?**

Busing to the new school site (D.A. Moodie) would be listed as a priority so it will happen.

- **What other sites and options were considered besides D.A. Moodie?**

They must use a school space while we wait for construction to be finished. This means that we can't use Minto Rec Centre or any other building that is not a school. They have to use a building that is secure and built to accommodate kids. The only options in the OCDSB were Century Public School and D.A. Moodie School. They did ask other school boards if they have any school buildings that could be used and they did not.

	<p>Tiffany Chant (HMB teacher) echoed that we are at the tipping point already. We already can't use the gym, have different times to use the yard, etc. We have had 70 registrations since Sept this year so the projection of 100 new registrations for next year is an underestimate. It will be more like 300 like it was this year. She said they absolutely can't handle any more students. This option allows them to start building the new HMB2 community right away in September 2023 which needs to happen.</p> <p>Principal Chris Toivonen thanked the guest speakers and Tiffany for explaining the teacher perspective.</p> <p>Gabe thanked the guest speakers and asked if they would come give an update in the spring. Karyn said that Dan Bradley (manager of facilities) would be able to give construction update.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Donna Blackburn:</p> <p>Thanked us for allowing her to come this evening. She was sworn in as Barrhaven East and West trustee last night. Has been to HMB twice since the election. Communicates regularly with Gabe and the principals of the school. Naming of new school – you will be asked for feedback on that. Donna was elected chair of budget last night. She is honoured to be selected for this. The OCDSB Director of Education has resigned and will leave Jan 8th. The board will appoint an interim director as it takes time to find a new director. Sadly she cannot attend our first movie night but hopes to come when she can. Donna attended the Remembrance Day Assembly and it was a powerful assembly for all. Please call or email her (call preferred) any time with questions. Thank you to everyone for coming and all the hardworking staff.</p> <p>Chris thanked Donna and it is great to have her so involved in the school. Thank you for helping to get Karyn and superintendent here tonight.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Regular Items (Principal, VP updates, Teacher, Treasurer, Communications reports)</p> <p>Teacher Update (Stephanie Poulton): Lots of fun clubs going on right now – Games club in January for Grades 4 and 5, bordenball intermural right now grades 3-6, chess club Grade 4-6 starting next week</p> <p>Toy Drive and Snowsuit drive – parents will be able to give permission for students to take a star from the tree with the age of a child. They take it home and purchase a little present with the child. Snowsuits will also be collected. More info to follow.</p>

	<p>Volunteers needed for book fair to help event run smoothly. Both in-person and virtual options for shopping.</p> <p>Field trips are going on – Virtual Ventures visits from Carleton, Dairy farmers of Ont came to Grade 3.</p> <p>We are hosting a teacher from Spain Nov 14-Dec 2. She will observe classrooms and we look forward to welcoming her.</p> <p>Mme Poulton also wanted to reassure people that the kids will be okay even if they have to move HMB2 to a different site. She lived this with her son when he was young. They built an awesome community and it helped to gel everyone together and it ended up being a positive experience.</p> <p>Principal Update: First snowfall brought excitement and fun to the yard.</p> <p>Progress reports emailed tomorrow. Need your child’s Ontario Education Number (OEN). Kinders will get their OEN’s sent home.</p> <p>Picture retake day is Friday and movie night is Friday. A few people were disappointed that they couldn’t buy tickets but they wanted to run a good, safe event so the number of tickets sold had to be limited. Popcorn and treats will be sold. Email will go out on Friday with those details so that people know prices, etc.</p> <p>Parent teacher interviews – Thurs evening and Fri morning next week. As of tomorrow you can book interviews and a notice will go out tomorrow.</p> <p>Book fair Nov 28-Dec 2.</p> <p>Amazing, moving Remembrance Day assembly. One of the best he has attended at an elementary school.</p> <p>Another new portable coming. Our growth is astronomical so new portable is coming next week. Some classes getting into the 30s! They aren’t sure yet what grade will be impacted. It will be in the English program. Things are ever changing at HMB!</p> <p>EQAO results came in. He will share with Gabe to be shared with council. Results were pretty positive in Reading and Writing. Math was good in relation to province and board, but still some work to do.</p>
6.	Items for Discussion

	<p>Movie night: All financials require two of us (cheques, cash, etc). Two cheques will be ready for pizza and popcorn Friday. Paula explained pizza has been ordered and popcorn being picked up tomorrow. She will pick up float beforehand. Hopefully it is a successful event. Thank you to Paula for taking this on!</p>
7.	<p>Round Table</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No additional items discussed.
8.	<p>Adjournment Meeting adjourned 7:50pm.</p>