

**J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School
School Council Meeting
October 27, 2014**

Present: Andrea Borysiuk , Nancy Ballantyne, Cheryl Tidey,
Jen Sharp, Ann Harrop, Peter Smith, Michelle Dulong,
Linda Boore, Linda Shantz, Angela McGreevy, Kris
Baird, and Judi Paul.

Regrets: Marg Cox

WELCOME AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Peter welcomed council members. The minutes from the previous meeting were approved as read. It was agreed that Cheryl Tidey and Peter Smith will act as co-chairs, Judi Paul and Jen Sharp will be District Reps, and Judi Paul will be secretary.

FINANCIAL REPORT

PARENT ENGAGEMENT GRANT

Peter reported that the \$500 parent engagement grant has been received. Council will start thinking of ideas on how we see fit to spend the money.

PARENTS REACHING OUT GRANT

This will be discussed at the next meeting, giving members an opportunity for thoughts.

OPEN HOUSE

Peter stated that the Open House went well and represented a good partnership between J.D. Hodgson and Stuart Baker

Elementary. There was good community cooperation with involvement from the OPP, Point in Time, etc.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

STUDENT LEARNING

- **Andrea stated that after consideration of the school's E.Q.A.O. results, a School Improvement Plan is being developed with math as a focus.**
- **Andrea informed council that students will have less transitions this year, with more staff ownership, and less rotary.**
- **Andrea shared a new initiative where students from JDH are partnered with students from SBES. The students will be doing activities throughout the year. To date, they have started relationship building by meeting the other students in their 'house' and have built flags for their 'houses'.**

STAFF LEARNING

- **Andrea indicated that staff are involved with the 'Minds Up' curriculum (See teacher representative report)**
- **Andrea is now on Twitter and can be found at [followme@jdhes](https://twitter.com/followme@jdhes)**

SAFE AND CARING SCHOOLS

Andrea stated that the Bullying Prevention Plan was updated and can be found at <http://jdh.tidsb.on.ca/bullying-prevention-plan/>

Linda stated that a walking trail has been painted. Buses are being encouraged to park in the morning similarly to how they park at the end of the day to increase safety.

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Linda spoke to Council about the 'Minds Up' curriculum which has a key focus on self-regulation. Information about this curriculum will be available to parents at Parents' Night on November 20. Linda has been delivering lessons to each of the classes (there are 15 lessons in total). Linda will deliver the first three lessons, and teachers will cover the last twelve. Some of the concepts covered in this curriculum include:

- **Through controlled breathing, can control amygdala**
- **Can grow your brain (fail – try again – fail try again – grows dendrites)**
- **Uses controlled breathing**
- **If you work harder, find a different strategy, you can get smarter**

Prefrontal Cortex (Wise Old Owl)

Computing, reading, writing

Amygdala (Guard Dog)

If it perceives a threat, puts body into flight, fight, or freeze

Hippocampus (Storage)

If comfortable you have a higher chance of learning and retaining information

OTHER BUSINESS

COMMUNITY NEWS

Nancy informed Council on behalf on the Canadian Parents for French that Jeudi will start again this year. This is a fun night that provides an opportunity to speak French for core and extended French students. Upcoming plans include bringing in a performer for a concert. Nancy also presented the 'French Options in Haliburton County' brochure.

DISTRICT SCHOOL COUNCIL

Judi informed council that a meeting of the District School Council is scheduled for October 30.

JOINT MEETING WITH STUART BAKER

It was decided that Stuart Baker Council will meet from 5:00 to 6:00 and JD Hodgson Council will meet from 6:00 to 7:00. Meetings will be held at Stuart Baker School. JD Hodgson will pick up the cost for child care during the second half of the meeting.

PRO GRANTS

Both schools received a \$1,000.00 grant. These grants could possibly be combined if both councils are open to the idea. The funds must be spent by June 15.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

It was decided that Council members should act as ambassadors to bring any informal items back to the table. There is a need to avoid disengaging parents who don't feel that their concerns are given consideration.

USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

There will be further discussion on the use of social media in the classroom.

NUTRITION MODELLING

Aisha Mallick will come and speak on healthy eating guidelines at a future meeting. We will get a pamphlet on the Health Unit and the Board's guidelines beforehand and then be prepared to ask questions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.