

Harris Mill School Council Meeting June 8, 2021 (Virtual)

In attendance (council): Jen Tulloch, Amanda Samms, Marylynn Sabbagh, Jen McLeod, Angie Mochrie, Charlotte Kerby, Vanessa Ireson, Martha Turner, Laura White (New parent)

In attendance (school): Madame Shashana Hare

Regrets: Madame Ashley Mulhern

Meeting commenced: 7:05pm

1. Welcome: Amanda and Jen welcomed the council to our final council meeting of the year.

2. Attendance/Introductions: The attendees did a round table introduction to Laura White, whose children will be joining the Harris Mill family in September. Welcome Laura!

3. Approval of April Meeting Minutes: motioned by Angie Mochrie, Seconded by Charlotte Kerby

4. Committee Updates

A. Snack Program (Amanda Samms)

- Obviously on hold due to remote learning measures
- Leftover dry (non-perishable) food will be able to be used next year
- Surplus funds are available due to not spending during remote learning
- Looking forward to next year!

B. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) (Martha Turner)

- Please consider getting involved in the PIC family! New members are always welcome and there's a lot of energy in this wonderful group. Check out all things PIC here: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/pic/> including all minutes and presentations referenced in the following.
- Last meeting was held on May 31, 2021
- **Guest: Carlos Zen & Melissa McDowall** (VP Secondary School in remote school) gave an updated on **"de-streaming" of in UGDSB**
 - Math is current focus and curriculum will be coming any time now
 - A Guide to De-Streaming for Board Leaders from the Ministry of Education
 - The Why of De-streaming: Research has shown equity differences with applied and later continuing education
 - As we move forward: "All students can succeed, success comes in many forms and there are many pathways to success"
 - Goals of De-streaming include culture shifts in school and boards, Increased Educator Capacity, increased student engagement, achievement and well-being
 - Monitoring, evaluation and reporting is an expectation of the Ministry of Education in place by 2023. Boards will be monitoring data to ensure outcomes are met.
 - Questions: please see presentation posted on the UGDSB website as well as the De-streaming Guide which may be found on the Ministry of Education.

- De-streaming (mix abilities) has shown lots of evidence that doing this helps all students and does no harm. There are many things in school to support those who have an interest and strength in math.
- Help teachers create a community of learning, which has students supporting the others in the class and environment.
- **Board and Ministry Report was given by Brent McDonald;** please contact Brent (Brent.McDonald@ugdsb.on.ca) if you have any questions. The PIC website contains all minutes and presentations referenced.
 - New Director update Peter Sovran
 - Mental Health & Well-being Summary from Jenny Marino:
<https://sites.google.com/ugcloud.ca/mhugparents>
 - Elementary in person learning next fall, the COVID precautions we have now
 - Elementary remote learning next fall - closes on Thursday 4300 at the highest; right now, registration is in the high 500s; our board continues to have a separate school for remote learning. Always work with individual cases with family situations if needs change.
 - Secondary Remote Model for next Fall: interest survey registration later this August; Quadmester because of mixing and limits the contact. The Ministry of Education wanted to play it safe, can change this in January 2022.
 - PRO Grant Update: 2396.43 (want to spend this money) remaining from a total of \$20600.00. Looking at Equity resources for parents. Working with the whole community on how we work with students to thrive. PIC confirmed the purchase of a book to provide to each school with the remainder of the funds from PRO.
 - Expecting to double around 38000. Start thinking about how this money could be spent.
 - No mandate of vaccines, however, will encourage vaccinations and work with Public Health to make them as accessible as possible.
 - Grade 9 tour of the schools, last year virtual welcome and guides related to in person contacts. Transition planning to Secondary will look similar to last year for now unless restrictions change.
 - Remote schools: French immersion will look for numbers to determine if FI can be offered.
 - Remote school funding affected? Some additional funding is guaranteed for half the school year, supported from the Ministry of Education. We will be informed in the fall if we can access or receive the second half of the funding.
 - Guiding principles of the annual UGDSB budget were reviewed
 - Key items from the Ministry of Education funding for COVID and Mental Health Well-being and technology.
 - Extra funds still available for what occurred this year. Yes, there are some extra funds, however the Ministry requires secondary to be at school every day all day, but to be prepared for the variant challenges and ready to 'pivot' if required.
- **Treasurer's Report**
 - \$ PRO Grant \$20 660.81 Opening Balance of September 2020
 - Had the three presentations.
 - Equity books
 - Money for schools
 - Resources for Math resources and Resilience
 - Printing cost for flyers for Parent Engagement and what PIC does.

- Newspaper advertisements to share first meeting with PIC
- **Chairs' Report**
 - Reviewed third event about special education presentations; Thanks to all that volunteered.
 - Lessons learned from the PIC chairs around Ontario (4-page report)
 - Plan for next school year, what our questions are: what topics ideas, suggestions, we can set up a planning committee.
 - Please email Brent if you are interested in supporting the planning committee.
 - Please bring ideas beyond the bigger events to encourage parent engagement and school council engagement!
 - If anyone is interested in the PIC co-chair, communication officer & secretary please let Brent know.
- **New and Other Business**
 - Acknowledging Dr. Martha Rogers' Retirement and dedication to the UGDSB for more than 25 years as Director of Education and many more years before that as other roles including teaching.
- **The next PIC meeting** will be on **Monday, September 27, 2021 at 7:00 PM** – location TBD

C. School Yard Committee (Jen McLeod)

- Jason is available over the summer to assist with the outdoor play places we discussed in last meeting (shade sails, outdoor seating)
- It was agreed that the first week of July or last week of August is the best timing for Jason to do the work, since someone will be at the school in those times
- **Action:** Jen to check with Jason for availability and confirm with Madame Hare
- Laura asked to understand how much time the children had with the playground before remote learning/shutdown. Madame Hare confirmed that there was roughly a week of access (prior to break) with classroom sign-up procedures and timetables in place
- Everyone is looking forward to September, especially with the new aforementioned additions

5. Treasurer Update (Angie Mochrie)

- Fundraising General account has \$3307.42 (some Mabel's Label's funds came in on June 1, 2021)
- General School Council account has \$343.27 as of June 3
- Playground account has \$15604.02
 - This amount does not include the reserve of \$6200 which has been transferred from this category (Cat 6000) and moved to its own category, (Cat 1250) April 8, 2021.

6. Looking ahead to 2021-22 Council and School Year (Jen Tulloch and Amanda Samms)

- Everyone is hoping for a more "normal" council and school experience next year
- Two current council members will not be returning: Jen McLeod (Playground – and so much more) and Martha Turner (Secretary, Parent Involvement Committee)
- These open positions, along with others - e.g., Equity and Diversity (discussed last council) & Grant Writing – leave the council in significant need of increased parental involvement
- **Action:** Jen has spoken to most existing council members but asked that returning members email her to confirm decision to remain, take on other roles etc.

- Ideas were discussed to increase awareness in the parent community for these open positions and how important their engagement is. One option discussed was to send a communication home by including it with the paperwork that goes home during the first week of school in September
- **Action:** Jen and/or Charlotte to draft communication and ensure that Madame Hare has this during the last week of August 2021 for inclusion in the packages
- Laura raised the fact that through remote learning, especially in the younger grades, parents are very engaged through google classroom (owing to needing to monitor child progress). **Action:** If Jen can prepare the communication and send to Madame Hare asap, she can coordinate with the teachers to ensure sending through Google Classroom

7 & 8: Combined Principal and Teacher Update: (Madame Hare)

- Continued with the Unlearn posters for International Women’s Day (March 8) with lots of ongoing discussion around the theme of a ballerina who at the same time is also imagining herself as a martial artist
- Some Scientist in the School programs were able to go ahead but others needed to be rebooked and will take place next year
- There were a number of spirit days: Green Day, beach day, comfy cozy days
- There are surplus funds in the nutrition program and the school also applied for funding for next year so the program can continue; many of the packaged dry goods items are still usable for next year
- June 15th is Jump Rope for Heart day as a virtual event; check teacher communications for more information or donate [here](#).
- Madame Hare arranged for some outdoor painting to be added to the outdoor play space while the children have been in remote learning, this will give more play options as well as assisting with socially distanced line ups (see paws, bottom right). Looks great, thank you!



- T-shirts have been purchased for the Grade 5 children being promoted to Grade 6; they are grey with the husky logo. Parents were asked to contribute what they felt they could afford, and the school picked up the remaining costs. Thank you!
- Staff have been reading “The Skin We’re In” by Desmond Cole as part of a book study group meeting during recess. Copies are available from the parent library if anyone is interested in reading also.

- The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) gave each school \$500 this year; since it was not spendable on events as normal, the school will be buying books for the parent resource section of the library. In addition, the school will be purchasing drawstring bags with the husky logo to welcome new arrivals next year (containing all the leaflets, information etc). An action has already been noted for school council information being included in these bags.
- Jen Tulloch asked about school size and number of classrooms for next year, but Madame Hare does not have the required information at this time. It is expected by mid-June to know how many registrations have been made for the 2021-22 school year, which is a key factor in determining class sizes.
- Madame Hare also confirmed that the number of people continuing remote learning for next year is less than 10.
- An event was discussed in recognition of how difficult the year has been for everyone – let's keep this in mind for this year or early next, as efforts to increase parent involvement are critical to ongoing success for everyone

9: Thank you Volunteers (Madame Hare, Jen Tulloch, Amanda Samms)

- Madame Hare and the Council thanked the departing council members Martha Turner and Jen McLeod.
- Martha has been with the council for three years as PIC, Volunteer Coordinator, and Secretary.
- Jen has been with the school 7+ years, leading the playground development and so many other projects benefitting the school and the community!



- Thank you to ALL volunteers supporting the Harris Mill family. Parents, please consider getting involved and being part of these rewarding volunteering opportunities! Reach out to sc.harrismill@ugdsb.on.ca or jen@jentulloch.com to learn more about School Council, or check out our page here: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/harrismill/school-council/>

5. New Business

- A question was raised about yearbooks from 2019-2020 school year and Jen Tulloch confirmed that they would be available for distribution during the week of June 7-11
- It was confirmed that there would be no yearbooks for the 2020-2021 school year
- A question was raised about the process for returning Chrome Books and Madame Hare; parents will receive email instructions
- Report cards will be sent electronically this year, please watch for sign up guidance from Brent Mackenzie as you will need to create an account on the parent portal
- Children with IEPs (individual education plans) will receive their report cards by mail
- September 7, 2021 is the first day back for the 2021-2022 school year
- Proposed date for next council is **September 14, 2021** (one week after school begins) and then resuming regular meetings on the first Tuesday of each month after that, e.g., **October 5, 2021**.
- Harris Mill will continue to coordinate with Rockwood Centennial to avoid duplicating time slots where possible

5. Wrap Up

- **Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm**
- **Next meeting September 14, 2021, 7:00pm**

Ongoing Summary of Action Items

	Item	Owner	Date Captured	Status	Comment
1	Solicit more localized quotes for paving option of Parkinson Crescent to School Parking lot path	Jen MacLeod and Abi Coote	November 3, 2020	Ongoing	
2	Confirm set up/take down of shade sails at Brisbane, how often do they do this?	Madame Hare	November 3, 2020	Closed	Update provided November 30, 2020
3	Follow up with Danielle McLeod to confirm if any interest in lunch program ownership → Jen Tulloch and Amanda Samms	Amanda Samms	November 3, 2020	Ongoing	
4	Ensure links to PIC webinars are publicized to parent community	Martha Turner and Charlotte Kerby	November 3, 2020	Closed	New PIC representative needed
5	Follow up on Pro Grant of \$500 from PIC as this has not yet been received	Martha Turner / Madame Hare	November 3, 2020 and discussed again on December 1, 2020	Closed	

	Item	Owner	Date Captured	Status	Comment
6	Review previous minutes to confirm the desired split of danceathon funds and how the UGLF funds were to be allocated	Angie Mochrie and Jen Tulloch	November 3, 2020	Closed	
7	Ask Madame Graetz to request the UGLF funds and provide clarification on which account to move them to	Angie Mochrie	November 3, 2020	Closed	
8	Procure Mr. Embrey Wish List items	Jen Tulloch and Madame Graetz	November 3, 2020	Closed	Arrived
9	Procure Disc Golf items	Jen Tulloch and Madame Graetz	November 3, 2020	Closed	Arrived
10	Confirm tax rebate opportunities for when we purchase Chromebooks from board	Angie Mochrie and Madame Hare	November 3, 2020	Closed	Update Dec 4 via email from Jen Tulloch: I believe council will not pay HST, so won't be getting it back. This is an order that is placed through the board. When they send us an invoice and we then reimburse, they do not charge us the HST. I imagine that keeps things much simpler as then the board pays the HST and gets it back.
11	Put together a tree/outdoor classroom plan working with an estimate of \$15,000; consider engaging Wayne Cochrane	Jen MacLeod	November 3, 2020	Ongoing	Shade sails, outdoor seating to be discussed
12	Publish link to UGDSB Policy 503 Safe Schools which is open for feedback	Martha Turner	December 1, 2020	Closed	Shared on FB

	Item	Owner	Date Captured	Status	Comment
13	Revisit planned playground expenditures and projects in 1-2 weeks after there is more information about whether school closures would remain in place after April break. Discuss Shade Sails, Logs, and Trees (Jen M has prices).	Jen MacLeod and Jen Tulloch	April 6, 2021	Ongoing	
13	Find the right time to celebrate the playground opening	Madame Hare	April 6, 2021	Ongoing	
13	Review the contents of the playground kindergarten bins and follow up to ensure correct distribution	Madame Mulhern and Jen Tulloch	April 6, 2021	Closed	
14	Secure some photographs of student artwork (with names covered up) so the council could leverage and share this in upcoming communications to all parents.	Madame Hare	April 6, 2021	Ongoing	
15	Increase parent engagement with a communication or update from school council, newsletter, video etc. Need ideas! Leverage this publication to announce the new Equity and Inclusion committee chair opportunity.	Martha Turner, Jen Tulloch, Charlotte Kerby	April 6, 2021	Ongoing	Consider this for start of next school year
16	Check with Jason for availability to work during last week of June/early July or last week of August and confirm with Madame Hare	Jen McLeod	June 8, 2021	Ongoing	
17	Email Jen Tulloch to confirm decision to remain, take on other roles etc for next year	All council	June 8, 2021	Ongoing	
18	Draft communication and ensure that Madame Hare has this during the last week of August 2021 for inclusion in the packages	Jen Tulloch, Charlotte Kerby	June 8, 2021	Closed	Jen has provided

	Item	Owner	Date Captured	Status	Comment
19	Send communication re joining school council to Madame Hare asap, she can coordinate with the teachers to give this update through Google Classroom (where parents are very engaged, especially in younger years)	Jen Tulloch, Charlotte Kerby	June 8, 2021	Closed	Jen has provided and it has been sent

SCHOOL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE, 2020-2021

Co-Chairs: Amanda Samms & Jen Tulloch
 Past Chair: Marylynne Sabbagh
 Communications Coordinator: Charlotte Kerby

Treasurer: Angie Mochrie
 Secretary: Martha Turner
 Volunteer Coordinator: Charlotte Kerby

COMMITTEE CHAIRS, 2020-2021

Community Outreach: Lindsay Williams
 Grant Writing: Wayne Cochrane?
 Lunch Orders: TBD
 Schoolyard: Jen McLeod & TBD

Snack Program: Amanda Samms
 PIC (Parent Involvement Committee): Martha Turner
 Yearbook: Jen Tulloch