

Cootes Paradise Elementary Home & School and School Council Parent Meeting Agenda

Date: Wednesday, November 30th, 2016, 7-9pm

Location: Library

Administration: Denise Minardi (Principal), Terri Trimble (Vice-Principal)

Home & School: Kristen West (President)

School Council: Marissa Sawatzky (Chair)

Item	Description	Presenter	Time
1.	Welcome and Introductions	All	5 mins
2.	Review of Agenda and Approval	Kristen West	5 mins
3.	Open Discussion – Questions/Issues Arising	All	10 mins
4.	School Report Staff report	Denise Minardi Sylvie Francis	25 mins
5.	School Council Updates 5.1 Arts Council 5.2 PRO Grant Event	Marissa Sawatzky	15 mins
6.	Dalewood Report	Jennifer Gautrey	5 mins
7.	Home & School Report 7.1 Treasurer’s Report - update 7.2 Survey Results 7.3 Budget Requests 7.4 Upcoming Events	Home & School Executive	25 mins
8.	New Business	All	10 mins
9.	Adjournment	School Council	

Date of next meeting:

Minutes of the Parent Meeting
Held on September 28, 2016
Cootes Paradise Elementary School

In attendance:

Parents: Carol Bassim, Stephen Tullis, Lesley Campbell, Shamsuddeen Nalakath, Zahiya Abdul Rahman, Marissa Sawatzky, Bobbi Duncan, Sujana Neupane, Stanislav Visticki, Gurpreet Viridi, Eroziya Nuryjne, John Atkinson, Elaine Jager, Ewa Oleksiak, Lara Borys, Lynda Brewer, Kristen West, Jennifer Gautry, Heather Hurst, Meghan Forbes

Staff/Administration: Denise Minardi (Principal), Sylvie Francis (gr 1 FI Teacher), Terri Trimble (Vice-Principal), Elaine Jagr (YMCA)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Spent some time explaining the difference between School Council and Home & School Association: School Council is involved in policies - last year worked with the school on the dress code, sex-ed curriculum. There are committees - arts council, math league, checkers, outdoor space (now wrapped up) etc.

Current Chair of School Council stepping down - asked for names to be put forward for new chair - no volunteers.

Question from parent - as chair, what do you have to do? Current Chair outlined duties.

Marissa Sawatzky volunteered to take on role of Chair.

Call put out for members-at-large, a sign-up sheet was sent around. Must be on the list if you want to be consulted.

Individuals in attendance introduced themselves.

2. Review of Agenda & Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Reviewed of process for the agenda and minutes approval. Change to minutes from June 2016 meeting: \$200 for Food4Kids.

Move to accept minutes: Lynda Brewer

Seconded: Lesley Campbell

No questions.

3. Cootes Paradise Elementary School Report (Principal Denise Minardi)

Current population is 600

Classroom / Staffing changes – French Immersion – fewer students at the primary level so the $\frac{1}{2}$ combined is a straight 2 and the $\frac{3}{4}$ combined is a straight 4.

English – have added a grade 2/3 class

FDK – adding a class of 15 students to bring down the numbers to 28-29 in the other 5 English FDK classes

Changes to school day routine – split recess 1-3 eat first and play second - 4/5 play first and eat second
FDK – 2-3 classes release out to the front FDK play area, the other FDK classes release out the back FDK doors

Volunteer policy/police checks – Vulnerable Sector Screening (available from school or on HWDSB site)
After receiving your police clearance, show the original to the P / VP to review. Keep your original document, which is valid for three years.

- Each year, current volunteers will be asked to complete an Offence Declaration form to declare None / any Criminal Code convictions since the last Vulnerable Sector screening.
- Potential volunteers need to provide two references that you permit the school to contact.
- Once accepted, fill out Appendix a & B and complete an orientation / training session based on placement.

“Parents are welcomed, encouraged, respected, recognized and valued as collaborative partners in their children’s learning and development” (*HWDSB Parent Engagement Policy No. 2.2*).

Meet-the-staff on October 4 – Meet-the-staff barbecue run by the Greenville Optimist Club
 French Language Support and Wesley Community Centre will be in attendance as community partners

Healthy snacks/tastebuds application – we are hoping to continue the program. Thanks to Ewa Oleksiak

2015-2016				
	School	Board	Province	Difference
Reading	77	64	72	5
Writing	68	63	74	-6
Math	59	50	63	-4

8 students who did not write the assessment

We will desegregate by interval data – how many students are at 2.1 vs 2.9

We will also look at strands to determine why there is a relative weakness in math

Be Active Day / cross-country – was a great day for staff and students.

All of Me Day – November 18 – there will be a parent component - thanks to Kara for completing and submitting the Pro Grant for CP

Terry Fox – Toonie for Terry or donate on-line

Student Council activities are ongoing

Cross-country meet – October 11

Choir, Bell choir, Chess club

CPS – Collaborative and Proactive Solutions and is a more compassionate and productive approach to understanding and helping behaviourally challenging students. The basis of the CPS philosophy is that “Kids do well if they can”.

Mind Up – Brain-focused strategies for learning

Teacher rep is Sylvie Francis

Please subscribe to our the CP website - <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/cootesparadise/>

Questions:

1. Students who did not write the EQAO test, do they get 0? A: Yes - students who don't write are still included in the school's results.
2. How do our results compare to the board? What about last year? wrote 2 years ago? A: Significant drop. Prince Philip was lower, combined with G.R. Allan, this year's would still be lower due to the number that did not write. Over the next few weeks, D. Minardi will pull apart the results/reports to determine where/what needs to be addressed to raise scores.

School has 77 more boys than girls - every class has more boys than girls - even French Immersion which is normally girl-heavy. Boys learn differently

Board it putting more focus on math, structure all schools on same timeline (previous) didn't work, looking at new daily plan. Number of minutes has increased to 50 minutes daily in math, it will be 60 minutes next year.

Discussion raised around the website email updates.

A parent noted that the website notices are not as attractive as a newsletter, getting bits and pieces. D. Minardi is open to feedback/suggestions within the platform set by the board. Parents felt that fewer emails with more information would be better. D. Minardi indicated parents have an option when signing up for daily or weekly emails. Parents felt that instead of opening several things to open, and include the details in the title. D. Minardi indicated this is possible, and will ask board to change back to old style that included a description. It was also felt the reminder emails needed to come earlier - too many coming night before. D. Minardi explained it is a system-wide set-up for the emails to be sent at 8pm, but will see if we can get a new time. Emails should be going out the night the events are input in the system, and the night before. Kristen west confirmed daily subscription is the only option.

Parent suggested these meetings be called "Parent Meeting" so it is clearer that it is for parents to attend.

Kristen West asked about the bathroom issue - why students on the 3rd floor can't use the 2nd floor washrooms. D. Minardi explained it is about numbers and timing: Floor 2 use 2nd floor, floor 1 use 1st floor, 3rd floor use 1st floor. This uses less time (no line ups at 2nd floor washrooms), especially at nutrition breaks. However, if a child has a problem with using a bathroom too far away, let teacher know.

Police Checks

- parents need a police check to volunteer in classrooms. if a letter is needed, it can be picked up in the office. Parents can apply for police check online.

Parent asked about the population of the school. Last year was 613, this year slightly less, but just had calls to register 3 more students. Max cap is 700. Cannot accept students from out of catchment, and we are the only school with the same catchment area for english and french immersion. Currently there are a few out-of-catchment students that were grandfathered in, but won't go to Dalewood.

Parent asked about the classroom changes for the FDK kids - have the parents been notified if their child is moving to a new class? D. Minardi - yes, they also told late registrants that they'd likely be moved. We now have 7 FDK classes.

A parent asked about the request for Social Media Consent, how do we know if teachers are honouring those that said no? D. Minardi explained there is a master list, teachers know and supply teachers don't use social media. Mme. Francis also confirmed that parents taking pictures at events are told no FaceBook, Twitter, Instagram etc. for these pics because not everyone is okay with it. Kristen West suggested that if a parent is concerned, they can watch the twitter feed to ensure their child is not in the pictures. D. Minardi indicated twitter is also used for communication updates. A parent was concerned that those that don't use social media wouldn't receive these notices if they were the only method of communication.

Parent asked about school plays - however, there is no stage anymore since the renovation to the school. Parent asked if a talent show is possible - D. Minardi will look into it.

Winter concert is December 15th.

4. School Council Report (Jennifer Gautrey)

4.1 Dalewood update because this school feeds into Dalewood.

- renovations are almost done, took just over a year (was supposed to take 4)
- hardwood floor in gym coming
- auditorium to be finished
- wifi throughout

4.2 PRO Grant

Kara absent to report. Up to \$1000 in funds for engaging parents on child learning (i.e. All of Me Day)

4.3 Arts Council

November - gallery of framed photos to display kids artwork

Spring - outdoor drawing event - each class gets different focus

Musicians come and play

Artists in class - grade 3 and 5 - bring in local Hamilton artists to do special project in class

looking for volunteer members (day of, coordinate before tec).

D. Minardi - kids will love it/notice when gallery changes.

5. Home & School Report (Kristen West)

5.1 Treasurer's Report

Last year \$18,300 was raised - bulk of it was from pita/pizza days, Fortinos receipts, night hike.

Last year we spent approximately \$11,00:

- arts council
- in reach
- theatre program
- phys ed/health - All of Me
- Grade 5 trip
- Volunteer recognition
- lunch clubs
- operations

Surplus at end of August:

\$28,300 in bank

\$1800 in assets

\$1600 dance-a-thon

6.2 Budget for 2016/17

- most fundraising is expected to be the same as previous years
- Plan B Farms gives us a percentage of shares sold
- Mabels Labels also gives us a percentage
- The Night Hike usually brings in \$1000

we are looking to raise approximately \$16,000. We will spend more this year than we raise, but last year was up. expect to have approximately \$5000 left over.

6.3 Fundraising

FDK Pizza Days: option to join the grade 1-5 pizza days for next term (once/month).

Will need volunteers to coordinate forms/ordering.

Call for volunteers

Difficulty with FDK joining gr 1-5 is #s - input, ordering. FDK joining would be constantly changing the order, as they only order once/month and the grades 1-5 order twice per month. Too late to join the grade 1-5 order, but can next term, however, would be smoother if it can be done separately and a parent can do it. Lesley volunteered to run the FDK pizza with Ewa O.

Magazines: this fundraising will start soon. Will need new volunteers for next year.

Cupcake sale at Welcome BBQ: asking for volunteers to bake & sell at the October 4th BBQ: 4-6pm for sale, 5-7pm for BBQ, classroom visits 6-7pm.

Home and School facebook page will have updates, notices etc.

Healthy Snacks: last year volunteers returning (2 for Wednesday, 1 for putting items away. We need 2 volunteers on MOndays to put the snack items out. The nutritious snack program provides fruit and grain snacks - we must offer it twice a week in order to receive funding. Volunteering requires 20 minutes to put the food out just after morning drop-off. We do it on Mondays/Wednesdays because hot lunches are on Fridays and those who don't have food over the weekend will get it at the beginning of the week. In-Reach buys pizza/pita lunches for those that cannot afford it.

Ewa - we have an account with Food Basics to do shopping - we need 4 people as signers (including one school rep - D. Minardi). Will also try Fortinos to shop sales.

Fortinos Receipts: Main West Fortinos - we get a percentage back. If worried, parents can remove their credit card and debit information before submitting the receipts - but total must still be included.

Membership Secretary: we are still looking for a membership secretary

Night Hike: Friday, October 28th. After school carving, McMaster students comes to help carve pumpkins and set up. S.O.S. students do the games and activities on the lawn bowling field. A successful event - RBG even copies the event every year (hopefully not on the same night). Mme Francis asked if Home & School can provide teachers with pumpkins to carve in class. Home & School hesitated as it's been tried in the past, and we didn't get the pumpkins back in time for the hike. Mme Francis and Kristen West will talk about the possibility of a plan to make it work this year. A new volunteer is required to run it after this year. Kristen West has run it for 8 years, and this is her last year doing it. Will need others to take it on in 2017, and she will assist.

Pita/Pizza Days: will need new volunteers for next year - the current volunteers are in their last year.

Lunch Club: We would love for more clubs. Choir counts due to low number of lunch clubs offered. For students who want to do both, they can do choir in term 1 and a lunch club in term 2. Additionally, timing of choir (Day 5 as opposed to specific day of the week) makes participation in lunch club not possible. If interest in the lunch clubs is high, we will use a lottery system for participation. Choir is not limited in numbers.

Budget Surplus: \$5000 surplus - will send a survey for feedback on how to spend it. We cancelled a planned fundraiser last year when we knew there was a surplus. Had school provide a wish list at end of last year - some items were added into the budget for this year. One option - invest for future larger project i.e. outdoor space. Majority of funding for outdoor space came from Home & School association fundraising. The outdoor space was approximately \$200,000 - would be great to do something like that again. D. Minardi - most schools can't afford the cost of the plan for the outdoor space, and need a plan

to get funding for the project. There were a few ideas shelved due to funding - could put aside money for those.

Kristen West - received a request from Westdale fundraiser in-reach for the Christmas baskets for needy families looking for a few hundred dollars (\$200). Motion to provide the requested amount: Jenn, seconded Heather. Carried.

7. Open Discussion – Questions/Issues Arising

None.

8. New Business

None.

9. Adjournment

The next Parent Meeting will be November 30th, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54pm.