

Cootes Paradise Home & School and School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 27th, 2017 7:00-9:00pm

Location: Library

Chair: Heather Harvey, Home & School President

School Representatives: Denise Minardi, Principal, Mary Scime, Vice-Principal

Teacher Representative: Katherine Tiringier

Present: Veronica Riemer, Michelle Balcers, David Rittberg, Bobbi Duncan, Beth Hawke, Sarah Henderson, Meredith Lou-Hing, Lynne Serviss, Allison Henderson, Sheng Lin, Guo Li, Basma Ahmed, Mamta Gilla, Elaine Jager (YMCA Rep), Elsa Marques, Simon Joshi, Ricardo Lozano, Krysha Dukacz, Ewa Oleksiak, Joanne Tansley, Lara Borys, Marissa Sawatzky, Lynda Brewer, Erin Lepischak

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 7:10.

Introductions of Home & School Executive, staff and parents in attendance occurred.

Home & School Executive:

President: Heather Harvey heharvey@hotmail.com

Vice-President: Erin Lepischak erin.lepischak@gmail.com

Treasurer: Lynda Brewer

Secretary: Vacant

2.0 School Council Elections

Denise read self-nominations from parents not in attendance interested in joining School Council. No limit to the number of Members At Large on School Council. Only one nomination for Chair position was submitted.

ACTION: Marissa Sawatzky was acclaimed as School Council Chair for 2017-18 school year. Marissa will be in touch with parents who are interested in serving as Members At Large on School Council.

3.0 Review of Agenda

EQAO results added under School Report as item 5.6

Motion to approve agenda: Krysha Dukacz

Second: Michelle Balcers

4.0 Approval of June Minutes

Deferred.

5.0 School Report

The School Report was presented by Denise Minardi, Principal and is attached.

There was discussion about the school's changing demographics and how this impacted EQAO results as well as the number of students identified with special needs and whether or not the school had received increased teacher support for this change in student needs. Denise confirmed that the school has not received extra staff, though the school is supporting teachers and students through initiatives such as Zones of Regulation, Mind Up and Collaborative Proactive Solutions.

6.0 School Council Report

ACTION: Parents who are interested in being Members At Large for School Council, please connect with Marissa Sawatzky marissa.sawatzky@gmail.com.

- 6.1 An update from Dalewood School Council President Jennifer Gautrey is attached.
- 6.2 School Council applied for a PRO grant again this year related to K-12 Pathways to Success initiative and should hear whether or not they were successful mid-late October.
- 6.3 Lara Borys provided an update from the Arts Council. The gallery wall will start in October for this school year. Artist in the classroom is again being planned for grades 2 and 5, planning is currently underway. Cootes draws is being planned for next spring. Arts Council next meeting Thursday September 28, 2017 3:30-4:30.
ACTION: Parents who are interested in joining the Arts Council, please attend the meeting or connect with Lara Borys larko@sympatico.ca or Marleen Van den Broek leenbroek@gmail.com

7.0 Home & School Report

Memberships to the Home & School Association for 2017-18 were sold at the start of the meeting. Memberships can also be purchased at Meet the Teacher Open House Oct 5, 2017. Only members of Home & School are able to vote on Home & School items such as budget, by-laws and Executive positions. Memberships are \$15 for an individual or family and cover liability insurance when volunteering at the school and give voting rights. Funds go directly to the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations.

- 7.1 Lynda Brewer – Full financial reports are attached. To wrap up last year’s actual results we had total Revenue of \$16,694 and actual expenses of \$15,623 which gave us a slight surplus of \$1,071 in our operating line. In addition to that we are holding funds for FDK pizza fundraising and Prince Philip H&S funds transferred over when that school closed. These two funds are not included in our operating budget. The total cash on hand at the end of the year was \$31,202 with the following breakdown:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| FDK pizza allocation | \$ 1,532 |
| Prince Philip H&S balance | \$ 636 |
| Budget to be allocated to 2017-18 | \$16,694 |
| GIC – held for future projects | \$ 2,500 |
| Surplus | \$ 9,840 |

It is a suggestion to discuss at a future meeting of perhaps securing an additional GIC for \$2,500 and leaving the balance of \$7,340 in the account for contingencies or special project approvals throughout the year.

The following year’s budget is based on the prior year’s fundraising balance. The requests for current year spending come from the staff requests in the previous year and is approved by that year’s H&S council. Please see the May 2017 minutes for further discussion on the allocation of funds and discussions.

This current year of 2017-18 has an operating budget of \$16,694. Because there has been some massaging of the budget lines due to the final spending amount only confirmed as of Aug 31, 2017 the current budget needs approval. Some spending to date included the Outdoor movie night rentals, the deposit on the school performances and the payment for DPA equipment. This is funded for each year and pays for new outdoor equipment that is destroyed the year before or goes missing (ie balls, skipping ropes, etc.) some clarification on the Playground painting. Last year we paid for the 4 square lines, the basketball keys, etc. This year they paid for all of the T lines on the playground for where the children should line up when the bell goes off.

There was some discussion as to if we would like to have a separate fundraising committee in the in our Association so that the lines for the spending were not so tight. For instance why is Artist in the classroom not available in every grade and limited to only grades 2 and 5. The response was definitely if there is a group of parents and volunteers that would like to create a fundraising committee it would probably receive favourable response by the Association members. There are certain criteria that are set though for the types of fundraising allowed and the OFHSA guidelines should be reviewed and need to be followed.

Motion to approve budget: Joanne Tansley

Second: Ewa Oleksiak

7.2 There is still the outstanding position of Secretary on Home & School Executive. Erin Lepischak will act as the School Council Rep for Home & School.

ACTION: Please contact Heather Harvey heharvey@hotmail.com if you are interested in the Secretary position or have questions.

7.3 Movie Night was a great community event and raised approximately \$200. Will consider doing this again next year. Hiring a company to coordinate the movie and movie screen worked well.

7.4 Deferred

7.5 Upcoming Events

7.5.1 Healthy Snack Program started this week. Healthy Snack runs on Monday and Wednesdays at both Nutrition Breaks. A container with fresh fruit or applesauce and granola bars is distributed to each class. Students can help themselves if they are still hungry or didn't bring a snack or lunch that day. Volunteers have been secured for both days to help distribute snacks. The budget for the 2017-18 school year is \$6000, with \$3000 from Tastebuds. The school gets 1% of receipts from Fortinos (Main St. W). Last year we received \$1176 from Fortinos' receipts last year. **ACTION:** Save receipts from Fortinos Main St. W and send to school with your child or drop off in the folder across the hall from the office.

7.5.2 Pita/Pizza lunch forms were sent out and due back last week. They will start October 6. There was discussion about how to subsidize lunches for students who couldn't afford to participate. It is not possible to subsidize pita days. For the current pizza order, teachers will submit names of students in their class they feel could benefit from subsidized pizza to Denise. The money for these extra pizzas will come from Home & School Inreach funds. Next order a note would be put on the form indicating parents should connect with Denise or their child's teacher if they are in need of a subsidy. An option to donate money for this purpose will be added to the form. The donations will be added to the Inreach budget line.

ACTION: Volunteers are needed to help with pizza, approximately 1 hour every other week, and pita, approximately 20 min every other week. Please contact Heather heharvey@hotmail.com if you can help.

7.5.3 Night Hike is set for Oct 27th. Pumpkins will be provided to the YMCA to carve after school on the 27th. Teachers who want pumpkins will be provided these on the 26th or 27th to carve with their classrooms. A community carving will happen after school at 3:30 Oct 27th in the park with support from Mac students and parent volunteers.

ACTION: Volunteer opportunities will be communicated via the school website/email alerts and Facebook. Sign up for school email alerts by visiting <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/cootesparadise/> and clicking Subscribe on the right hand side. Become a member of Cootes Paradise Home & School group on Facebook. Search “Cootes Paradise Home & School” and click Join.

7.5.4 Magazine fundraiser is set to go. Magazine fundraising forms will go home the first week of November. Please save any subscriptions or renewals until that time.

7.5.5 Lunch Clubs run from Nov 6 – Dec 15 (6 weeks). These are activity clubs run by parents or staff once a week during the 20 minute recess part of Nutrition Break. Past lunch clubs include science, theatre, art, crafts, knitting, floorball, Lego and dodgeball.

ACTION: If you have an idea for a club or time to volunteer (even if you don't have an idea – we can help with that part), contact Erin at erin.lepischak@gmail.com.

7.5.6 Volunteer Needs

Below are a list of volunteer needs. More information is available at <http://signup.com/go/MYOSwDs>. If you have any questions, please contact Heather at heharvey@hotmail.com.

- Home and School Secretary
- Arts Council
- Pizza/Pita Day volunteers
- Night Hike (carving pumpkins, collecting donations, selling glowsticks)
- Lunch Clubs

8.0 New Business

None

9.0 Meeting Adjourned at 9:05

Motion: Ewa Oleksiak

Second: Joanne Tansley

STAY UPDATED!

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2. Become a member of Cootes Paradise Home & School group on Facebook. Search “Cootes Paradise Home & School” in Facebook and click Join.