

Cootes Paradise Home & School and School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, November 29th, 2017 7:00-9:00pm

Location: Library

Chair: Heather Harvey, Home & School President

School Representatives: Denise Minardi, Principal

Teacher Representative: Katherine Tiringier

Present: Veronica Riemer, David Rittberg, Bobbi Duncan, Meredith Lou-Hin, Allison Henderson, Basma Ahmed, Elsa Marques, Ricardo Lozano, Joanne Tansley, Marissa Sawatzky, Lynda Brewer, Erin Lepischak, Radwa Magdy, Amira Au, Michelle Balcers

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

Meeting was called to order at 7:05.

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: Basma Ahmed

2.0 Review of Agenda

2.1 Additions to the agenda

2.2 Approval of the agenda

Motion to approve agenda: Joanne Tansley

Second: Allison Henderson

Motion carried.

3.0 Approval of May 31, 2017 Minutes

Motion to approve agenda: Lynda Brewer

Second: Erin Lepischak

Motion carried.

4.0 Approval of September 27th, 2017 Minutes (As amended after adding the attendance)

Motion to approve agenda: Joanne Tansley

Second: Basma Ahmed

Motion carried.

5.0 School Report presented by Denise Minardi, Principal and is attached (Appendix A).

There was a question regarding a teacher that has been fired and the principal confirmed that this is not true. She mentioned that the vice-principle will be leaving, and the school expects to have a new vice-principle by January. This is a full-time position and but if HWDSB does not have an available qualified person in the vice principal pool they will post somebody to the position on a temporary basis. We have now had two temporary Vice Principals this year. We are hoping that we will have a permanent person soon.

6.0 Home and school Report

6.1 Treasure report presented by Lynda Brewer and attached (Appendix B)

6.2 Home and school membership: Presented by Heather Harvey

- i. Voting member: If people would still like to purchase Home & School memberships, they are being sold tonight for \$15, which gives voting privileges.
- ii. Executive Positions filled, Basma Ahmed (Secretary) and Radwa Magdy (Communications Coordinator).

6.3 Night Hike: Presented by Heather Harvey

The event was financially a success, as the final amount raised for the Pumpkin Night Hike was \$7333 after expenses. From this, \$500 donated to Royal Botanical Gardens and Smiles Over Sickness (organized the games). There were some other successes aside from the amount raised – we had a large number of pumpkins, more than in recent years, the games organized by Smiles Over Sickness were very well done and glowstick sales were very strong. We did the same promotion as in previous years (Facebook event on our Facebook page, ads home with students), but numbers were significantly more than in previous years. We don't have an estimate on how many people were there.

There were some issues due to overwhelming response, helped by good weather, changes to how Facebook promotes events and the similar RBG event selling out quickly. These issues were around crowds on the trail, having to wait to do the hike, parking, lines in the washroom and running out of tissues. However, no official complaints were brought to RBG or the school to our knowledge.

The goal moving forward is to balance our communities' enjoyment of the hike with raising money. An ad hoc committee will be meeting to put together a proposal of how to deal with this next year. Bobbi Duncan and Allison Henderson have volunteered to join. Other volunteers are welcome. This group will meet 2-3 times between January and April.

There was a discussion about the estimate for number of people who attended. Heather suggested that based on the money collected and the length of the event, there might be 1500 persons.

There was also a question regarding where the pumpkins go for the event, Heather mentioned that they are picked up by the City waste collection that night. People who are interested can take their own pumpkins home. There was mention of coordinating with a local farm that collects pumpkins to feed their pigs, which can be explored in future years. It is key that the pumpkins are picked up that night or they end up smashed by the next morning.

6.4 Lunch Clubs: Presented by Erin Lepischak

Thanks to Andrea Ara and Haley Weber for sorting the lunch club forms and creating club lists. There were 13 clubs to choose from. We have 138 students participating in the clubs, plus many additional students participating in the school choirs.

We would like to run more clubs in the spring.

6.5 Magazine fundraiser: Presented by Erin Lepischak

Thanks to Sharon Kang for running this fundraiser. Total sales were \$6135.00, and our profit is \$1840.50. Parents can still purchase magazine subscriptions online.

6.6 Upcoming events:

- i. Holiday Concert Bake Sale: Presented by Lynda Brewer
Scheduled for December 14th, 2017. We need bakers, so we are calling for volunteers. We essentially accept nut free bakery, but you can always mark if it has nuts.
- ii. Silent Auction: Presented by Michelle Balcers
Tentatively titled Cootes After Dark, this new fundraiser is being proposed for April 6th or 20th 2018. We are looking for volunteers who can help with finding entertainment, food and drink, soliciting donations, and marketing the event. It would be a semi-formal or casual gathering with figure food offered and drinks (juice, soda, beer and alcohol). It will take place in the gym of the school and there will be a police officer for security. We must look at the capacity of the gym for chairs and tables. Denise Minardi noted that Prince Philip School used to do similar event on annual basis. While we will try to have most items donated, there will still be some expenses which will need a budget. Lynda confirmed that Home & School can put \$500 as this event wasn't approved earlier.
Motion to give \$500 to Silent Auction for expenses:
Second:
Motion carried

For volunteering please contact Michelle by email at Michelle.balcers@gmail.com.
Denise Minardi will also put a cell for volunteers on the school website.

- iii. Dance-a-thon: Presented by Erin Lepischak
A volunteer coordinator is needed to run this year's event. The role of the volunteer would be to coordinate donations, lead the dance, help in the school-cash online, make a playlist for songs. Contact Home & School if you can help. Suggested donation is \$25. The event will take place in the school gym during the school day. Principal noted that the gym capacity is 60 kids.
- iv. Cootes clothing: Presented by Erin Lepischak
There is interest in ordering Cootes Paradise branded clothing such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants etc. Kelly Hargreaves has volunteered to coordinate this and is working with Mrs. Mackenzie to determine the best clothing styles. T-shirts would be sold at cost so that students who need these for track or cross country can purchase them at cost. Other items would have a slight mark up so that this would be a fundraiser. This will likely happen in the late winter or spring.
- v. Read-a-thon: Presented by Heather Harvey
The Read-a-thon will be held Jan 22-Feb 2, 2018 (a week surrounding the literacy day). Thank you to Veronica Riemer who has stepped up to help coordinate this event again. We have \$100 for prizes, one per grade level (kindergarten, primary, junior). Last year the pizza party didn't happen, but this is because there was a problem with the forms. Agreed to try for a pizza party this year and ensure that forms have child's name and classroom on them.

6.7 Home & School Logo: Presented by Michelle Balcers

Two logos were presented for Home & School. Please see attached (Appendix C). Voting by Home & School members occurred. Option 1 was chosen (CP like tree). We can use the school colors (yellow and green).

6.8 Arts Council Update: Update from Lara Borys (but she didn't attend that meeting)

The Arts Council has artists that are interested in Artist in the Classroom for Grades 2 and 5. Specifics such as a project and cost are being worked out. New artwork is on display in the main hallway. Next Arts Council meeting is December 14th at 3:45pm in the library.

6.9 Outdoor Space: Presented by Heather Harvey

Thank you to everyone who came out to move mulch. It wasn't a warm day, but we got a lot done and the playground is in better shape because of it. Moving forward a committee needs to be established to coordinate 2 work days (spring, fall), keep up to date on what work needs to be done, communicate with the school, replace greenery and equipment as needed. There was a recommendation that this group fall under the School Council. Home & School should also put aside \$1000-2000 annually for upkeep and other purchases. No volunteers stepped forward to lead this.

There was a discussion regarding any regulations or legality for parents to show up and do some of the outdoor work needed over weekends and holidays. Principal mentioned that the school is a public space after school hours and in holidays, so it should be fine if it is more flexible for working parents. Principal confirmed that there are contractors to shovel the snow for the school.

6.10 Passive fundraising: Presented by Heather Harvey

Passive fundraising is fundraising that can happen just by shopping at certain retailers where a portion of the sales comes back to the school. A flyer went home this week with a list of places we can receive a % of sales from. These are FlipGive (online sales), Fortinos (Main St. W), Holland Park Garden Gallery and Mabel's Label's and Boston Pizza (Main St. W).

7.0 School council report: Presented by Marissa Sawatzky

7.1 Dalewood update: Attached (Appendix D). There was a discussion if these updates are important for the audience. It was decided most of these are not needed any longer. Only pertinent updates will be shared.

7.2 PRO grant update: Volunteers are needed for workshops for child education.

Principal noted that this will be a chance for parents to know information that they might not be aware of.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Winter Clothing Donations

There was a discussing regarding donation for winter clothing. The principal mentioned that the school dose not have a storage for collecting clothes however a mitten tree was suggested to be held up during the Christmas party to collect mittens. Also, the school can support families in need by offering purchasing clothing to the kids.

8.2 Class Pen Pals

There was an opportunity brought forward for classes to sign up to have international pen pals. Denise suggested that parents who are interested discuss this opportunity directly with their child's teachers.

9.0 Meeting Adjourned at 9:00

STAY UPDATED!

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” in Facebook and click Join.

Appendix A: Principal's Report – Nov 29, 2017

Current population is 646 (211 kindergarten and 353 boys; 293 girls)

*Note - CP is the West end accessible school

Staffing changes - English –grade 1/2 class – Welcome to Ian Johnston and Nicole L'Abbe

Kindergarten prep – Darren Leanage, Education Assistant Laura Reglisyn

ESL staff – Mrs Booth & Mrs Puric (Mrs Doghri is the CP SWIS worker)

Special Education LRT staff – Mrs Morgan and Mme Trepanier

Welcome to Mrs Hoskins, our new VP on December 1

Thank you to Mrs Scime for all of her work with staff and students this fall

School and school yard are in good shape and well used – thank you to Heather Harey and Lara Borys for their work organizing a team and spreading mulch, weeding and pruning the shrubs

Meet-the-staff on October 5 – Well attended (Open House will be May 15, 2018 and the barbecue will be hosted by the Greensville Optimist Club)

To Be Determined Theatre Company performance-October 6 K-2 Jillian Jiggs / 3-5 The Tree Boy was enjoyed by all students.

Student Council activities are ongoing (Remembrance Day) Food Drive– Mme Titian / Mrs. O'Breza

Cross-country runners and Swim Team members all performed very well in the finals

Lunch Clubs started in November – thank you to all of our parent and staff volunteers

Block Party with City of Hamilton and McMaster around active living and sustainable transportation Nov 13

Blank Canvas Gallery is displaying grade 2 art work – posted on the school site

Addam's Family at Westdale Secondary (3-5) and grade 4 & 5 students invited to Dalewood on Dec 19

Holiday Concert is December 14 at 6:30PM

December 1 PA Day focus on mathematics and student well-being.

CP School Annual Plan 2017-2018

SCHOOL LEVEL STUDENT WELL-BEING & ACHIEVEMENT TARGETS		
POSITIVE CULTURE & WELL-BEING	STUDENT LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT	
	READING	MATHEMATICS
Every student can identify a caring adult at CP	Intervention groups and target student tracking and report card data	Target student tracking and report card data in grades 2-5. Growth to close the gap in mathematics.
Every student will show growth in their ability to (independently) self-regulate.	English – move 25% of students below grade level to grade level based on Report Card data	EQAO - move from 52% achieving provincial standard on the 2016-2017 Primary Assessment, to 60% achieving at or above provincial standard as measured by 2017-2018 EQAO
Positive School Climate grade 4/5 survey spring 2018	Move 50% of target student in grade 1 to grade 1 level benchmark	
School PSC survey – Grades 1-3	French immersion – move 25% of students below grade level to grade level based on Report Card data	
Focus on 'I feel accepted by students at school'	Move 50% of target student in grade 1 to grade 1 level benchmark	
	Mandarin – N/A	

Programs that are used at Cootes Paradise include: Zones of Regulation – www.zonesofregulation.com, Collaborative Proactive Solutions – <http://www.livesinthebalance.org/> or the parent information link <http://www.livesinthebalance.org/walking-tour-parents>, MindUP™ - <https://mindup.org/mindup-mindful-classroom-framework-schools/>

EQAO Follow-up:

We will desegregate by interval data – how many students are at 2.1 / 2.3 – 23%; 2.5 – 18%; 2.7 / 2.9 – 59%

We will also look at strands to determine if there is a relative weakness in math – no relative weakness

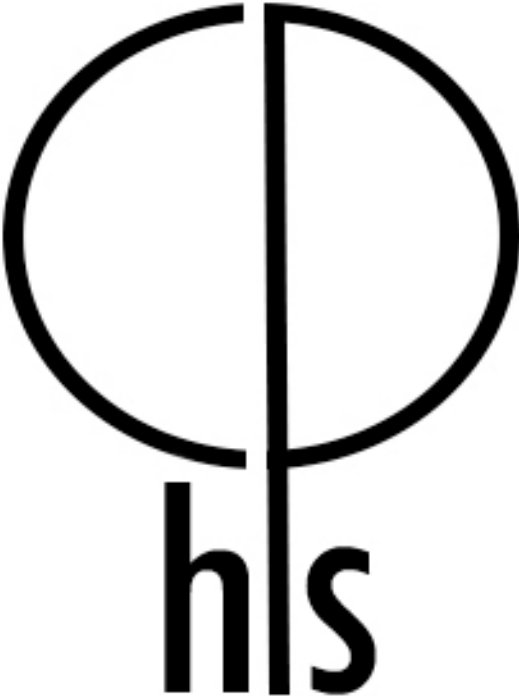
Number of students	School	Board	Province
% of students responding sometimes or most of the time			
I like mathematics	94%	87%	89%
I like to read	96%	93%	95%
I like to write	93%	87%	90%
1-3 times a week or every / almost every day			
I participate in art, music or drama activities	48%	42%	44%
I participate in sports or other physical activities	65%	64%	68%

CP has a very strong staff of teachers, DECEs, EAs, caretaking and OAs. We aim for excellence in public education and welcome all community members to join us to make our school community even stronger. Please subscribe to the CP website - <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/cootesparadise/>

Appendix B:

Appendix C: Home and school logos

Option 1



Option 2



Appendix D: Dalewood Update for Cootes Paradise Elementary School (November 29, 2017)

PRO Grant Presentation – Family Math Events – held the PRO Grant event and presentation on November 22nd featuring Ron Lancaster, Associate Professor in the Teaching Stream (Math specialisation). Ron led a (very cold!) math walk in the afternoon to show parents/students opportunities to see and explore math all around (e.g. fire hydrants (water pressure), slope of roofs, braking distances, volume of garbage bins etc.). He also led an enjoyable evening presentation/discussion with ideas for different books to read, movies/plays to see that have a math theme in them. He also introduced us to different simple games and exercises that use math, but are fun. For example, using the digits 1, 9, 9, and 4 and mathematical operators (exponents, +, -, X, ÷, exponents) to come up with all the numbers from 1 to 100 (e.g. $1 + (9-9) \times 4 = 1$ etc.)

Good Shepherd Clothing/Gift Card Drive – Dalewood is currently running a clothing/gift card drive in support of the Good Shepherd. We are collecting underwear, socks, hats, mitts, gloves and gift cards for families in need. Collection period ends December 15th.

Pizza Days – Pizza lunch has started at Dalewood – students seem to like it and enjoy having pizza lunch from Pizza Nova as they did at Cootes!

Facilities – gym floor has been refinished and is operational once again. A few more items are planned for updates/changes (e.g. change heavy office door to a lighter one, keyless card entry on doors at northeast corner of school by driveway on Haddon side of school).

Lunch Time permission – The school is testing a new strategy for signing students out over the lunch break. Parents can provide permission for the child to leave the school grounds any day at lunch time during the fall (they provide blanket permission for a few months at a time). The student's name is added to a list posted by the front door of the school and, if the student is leaving the school during the lunch hour, s/he signs out and signs back in. The process is working well and has cut down on the number of notes each day as well as students "sneaking out" over the lunch hour.

There are students who go out to lunch occasionally and their parents can provide a note to enable them to leave the school grounds on a specific day, rather than any day.

Parents who are uncomfortable with the blanket permission still have the option to provide the notes and parents whose children often leave the school grounds at lunch time do not have to provide notes all the time – so far, it is a good balance and the students like it and are respecting the rules and signing out.