

# Cootes Paradise Home & School and School Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 7-9pm

**Location:** Library

**Chair:** Heather Harvey, Home & School President

**School Representatives:** Denise Minardi, Principal

**Teacher Representative:** Katherine Tiringer

**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, Tim Butler

## 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](mailto:heharvey@hotmail.com)

Vice-President: Erin Lepischak [erin.lepischak@gmail.com](mailto: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: Michelle Balcers

Second: Tim Butler

Motion carried.

## 3.0 Approval of November 2017 Minutes

Deferred to next meeting.

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

**4.1 Loblaws gift cards** presented by Louise vanderPut. Louise suggested that the school collect the free \$25 Loblaws gift cards that are being given out by the company (if you register on the website) as a result of the bread price fixing. These could then be given to Food4Kids and our Healthy Snack Program. Members thought this was a good idea.

**Action:** Louise will look into logistics and coordinate this.

## 5.0 Home and school Report

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

There was a comment that it doesn't seem fair that only members get to vote on budget issues. What if some school community members cannot afford to buy a membership? Home & School Association is a member of the Ontario Federation of Home & Schools and must abide by their overarching guidelines as well as our own By-Laws. We require members to have a quorum for voting purposes.

**Action:** Erin will look into whether or not OFHSA offers subsidies.

### 5.2 Upcoming Fundraising

#### i. School Wear

School Wear is being coordinated by Kelly Hargreaves. Orders will be available via paper

and online. In person opportunities to try on clothes will be available likely in mid-February. A variety of clothing options (hats, shirts, sweatshirts etc. will be available).

**ii. Silent Auction** presented by Michelle Balcers.

Silent Auction is planned for April 6 from 7-10pm. Everything is going as planned, however, the committee requires \$500 to cover costs prior to the event such as rentals, décor, permits and police officers.

Motion to give \$500 to the Silent Auction to cover incidental expenses.

Move: Lynda Brewer

Second: David Rittberg

Motion carried.

**iii. Pita/Pizza Days**

A comment was made that it might not be equitable for kindergarten classes to do their own pizza days, but also benefit from the funds raised at Home & School pizza days.

**Action:** Look into the history of this practice and discuss at the May Home & School meeting looking towards the 2018-19 school year.

### 5.3 Upcoming Events

**i. Lunch Clubs**

Lunch clubs will run following March Break from March 19-April 17. We are looking for volunteers. Please contact Erin Lepischak if you are able to run a lunch club.

**ii. Read-a-thon**

Read-a-thon is underway, and classes are participating. Thank you to Veronica Riemer who volunteered to update the form and count the number of minutes per class. There will be a draw for a pizza party prize for one class from Kindergarten, Primary and Junior.

**iii. Dance-a-thon**

Dance-a-thon is being planned for February 23. There is a parent volunteer (Ashley Francis) that has volunteered to lead it. A motion to change the name of the Dance-a-thon to the Move and Groove-a-Thon was made to make it more inclusive. All were in favour.

**iv. Staff Appreciation Lunch**

Staff Appreciation Lunch is February 13th during Staff Appreciation Week. On this day, we ask parents to donate a dish and provide lunch for the staff at the school as a thank you for all they do. We are looking for volunteers to provide a side dish, salad main dish or dessert. Donations should contain no nuts, pork or shellfish. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten-free options are welcome. Forms to sign up to volunteer will be going out via email and on the Facebook page.

### 5.4 Arts Council Update

Artist in the Classroom for Grade 5s is currently underway. Feedback has been positive. The group has a lead on an artist for the Grade 2s and is currently working through details of the project.

### 5.5 Outdoor Space

We are still looking for someone to lead this group. The commitment would be to coordinate a spring and fall volunteer clean up/work day. In addition, this role would communicate with the school and Home & School about equipment or maintenance needs and help to inform any spending on the outdoor space. If you are interested in this position, please contact Heather.

### 5.6 Healthy Snack Program

The Healthy Snack Program ran out of funding from Tastebuds. More funding has been requested, but will be issued in instalments and not fully issued until later in March. Even with the additional funding, more is needed to see the program through until the end of the year. A motion to give the Healthy Snack Program \$500 from Home & School budget was made.

Move: Heather Harvey

Second: Michelle Balcers

Motion carried.

## **6.0 School council report:** Presented by Marissa Sawatzky

### **6.1 PRO grant update**

We have money for a PRO (Parents Reaching Out) grant. This is to be used for Pathways to Success programming, focusing on how the education system works from K-12. This includes what parents can do in K-8 to help foster success in grades 9-12, along with the different pathways available in high school. Parents in attendance filled out a survey about their interest in this topic to help determine an appropriate speaker/event for the Cootes Paradise Parent community. There was some verbal feedback that focusing on high school pathways was maybe a bit premature for parents of younger students and perhaps something with a younger student focus would be a better fit.

## **7.0 New Business**

### **7.1 Classroom to Parent Communication**

There was a concern about lack of communication between classroom teachers and parents. Denise confirmed that the expectation is a monthly communication. If parents are concerned they should speak directly to the teacher and if nothing is done, to bring it up to Denise and she will address them one to one about it.

### **7.2 Crossing Guard Absenteeism**

There was a concern expressed about the lack of a crossing guard in front of the school across King St., which is a very busy crossing without a light or stop sign. Parents are encouraged to call the City at 905-546-2200 to express their concern.

### **7.3 First Lego League**

An interested parent, Isabelle Ekwa-Ekoko, came forward with interest into starting a First Lego League program at Cootes Paradise School. Isabelle has been in touch with Louise VanderPut about the feasibility of starting a league at Cootes Paradise. There are significant costs involved and only a small number of children can participate, but feedback from Denise, who had a program at Prince Philip, was that the students really enjoyed it. Louise and Isabelle will report back once there is more information to share.

## **8.0 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 – January 31, 2018**

Current population is 654 (213 kindergarten and Grades 1-5 352 boys; 302 girls)

Staffing changes - Welcome to Alison Ostrom in room 307 for grade 4/5 FI

Welcome to Ms vanderPut, our new permanent VP

2 new afternoon caretakers – Peter Ferleyko and Nik Minigan

Thank you to Mrs Hoskin for all of her work with staff and students in December

We have students from Mohawk College, Brock University, Western University on placement at CP

The central joint health and safety inspection was January 15 – we had no infractions

We held our annual Hold and Secure practice on January 24. We will complete a Shelter in Place practice in February

Mrs Rich and Mme Trepanier went book buying January 17 – thank you for supporting this purchase

Lunch Clubs were a great success – thank you to all parents and staff who volunteered to run a club

Student Council, Handbell Choir and Library Helpers continue for students in grades 4-5

Grade 4-5 students are practicing for Choirfest

North Hamilton Community Health Centre food drive, mitten tree, and holiday concert food drive for the Good Shepherd were all very successful

Students participated in the holiday sing-along on Friday – thanks you to Mrs Rudzroga for organizing this event

The grade 5 students participated in the Artist-in-the-Classroom program with Iskwe, learning about the Cree creation story and creating a piece of artwork

Forest of Reading for students in grades 1-3 has begun – 50 students are participating in this 6 week activity

Elf Jr school trip – grades 1-5 took place today and was enjoyed by staff and students alike

Snuggle up and Read will take place in the gym on February 2 – older students will read with younger students EcoSchool initiative – Sweater Day

Chinese (Lunar) New Year celebration – tentative date of March 1

Kindergarten registration begins February 5 – please remind any neighbours with school age children to register them ASAP as this determines our staffing in March

EDI completion for students in SK

Grade 1 French Immersion registration done centrally

Cootes Paradise is closed to out-of-catchment

Report Cards go home February 13 for grades 1-5 and February 16 for kindergarten

Surveys for the HWDSB – Before and After-School Survey 2018-2019 and Parent Voice Survey

School Improvement Plan:

PA Day December 1 focused on mathematics instruction

Follow up release with grade 4 staff January 16, February 9 and March 1

Continuous Learning and Improvement Teams will be released for reading or math support

The February 8 staff meeting will focus on positive school climate progress and provide planning for math and reading support

My last day at Cootes Paradise School will be March 2. We will notify the community of my replacement as soon as this has been decided.

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

## **Appendix B: Treasure Report**

As of Jan 30 2018, YTD Revenue for initiatives is approximately \$15,776. This amount includes:

- \$6,685 from Pita and Pizza lunches, which is overstated as it does not reflect all offsetting expenses yet
- \$6,333 from the Night Hike
- \$40 from prior year's QSP Magazine Sales
- \$1835 from current year's QSP Magazine Sales
- \$69 from Mabels Labels which we didn't receive at all last year
- \$231 Net proceeds from Outdoor Movie Night
- \$186 from Popcorn and juice sales at the Open House
- \$397 from the Winter Concert Bake Sale

As of January 30, YTD expenditures on initiatives total just over \$5536, of which includes \$1,565 for DPA equipment, \$271 for playground line painting, 2 performances for \$1831, IN reach and Healthy Snack program \$354, office expenses for \$88, Lunch Club costs for \$107, Outdoor space \$71 and Artist in the Classroom for the Arts Council of \$1,248.

The Net balance of \$3152 has been collected for FDK Pizza fund but it is independent from our budget.

Bank balance at Jan 30, 2018 is \$42,455.74 and we also have \$200 cash float and \$2500 tucked away in a GIC. Total H&S Assets at November 27th are approximately \$45,156 (= \$42,456 bank balance + \$200 float + \$2500 GIC).

The GIC was invested in February of 2017 and is maturing on May 7, 2018. At that time, we will need to decide if we want to reinvest that amount, add to the principal balance and reinvest or add the proceeds from the fund back to the operational budget for the current year.