

**Cootes Paradise Home and School Meeting Minutes
January 23, 2019**

Present:

Danny Fede (Principal), Katherine Tiringer (Teacher Representative), Veronica Riemer, Rachel Siverns, Elsa Marques, Joanne Tansley, Lara Borys, Michelle Balcers (Class Rep Coordinator), Molly Griffioen (Vice-President), Heather Harvey (President), Steve Lott (Treasurer), Erin Lepischak (Secretary)

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

2.0 Review of Agenda and Previous minutes:

Approved by Elsa, and seconded by Steve

Approval of November minutes - approved by Steve and seconded by Elsa

3.0 Principal's Report:

- Thanks to parents who volunteered for Lunch Clubs
- Staffing update: Marcia (office staff) has moved; Ms. Marone has taken the position.
- Next lock down drill will be posted to the website. Students did an amazing job with the first drill
- Ms O'Breza and Mme Titian led a successful sock and mitten drive. They will be donated to a school in need.
- Thanks to Nancy Tapajna for leading the food drive before Christmas
- Portable is now being used for core French
- Two art performances have been booked Feb 8 (junior) and April 26 (primary), thanks to funding from Home and School Association.
- Reports go home February 12th - good time to discuss and set goals
- School Council Meeting February 13th. Will continue to discuss EQAO results. Will share school plan to move forward.
- Art Gallery of Hamilton will be working with grade 5 students to create murals to represent community on the building at the corner of Bond St. S and Main
- FI lottery programme: online registration, 46 spots available at Cootes Paradise, but more registered. People who did not receive a spot at Cootes were given a spot at Benetto, but transportation was not provided. People with a sibling at the school were given a place, to keep kids in the same family together. Decision was made by Trustees - complaints should be directed to Trustee.
- Student attendance letters will be going home next week - for students who have more than 15 absences, or who are often late.

4.0 Teacher's Report: (Katherine Tiringer)

- Greenpeace presentations are going on in the school
- Library helpers on Mondays
- Grade one teachers are being in-serviced regarding reading

- Lunch and Learns - from Learning Resource for teachers to learn more about guided reading and tools
- Grade 2 classes are going to Field trip to “Festivals of Light”
- PA day Jan 25th
- Forest of Reading groups ongoing
- Feb 4th Kindergarten registration - this is what informs the number of kindergarten classes. Registration is done online
- Artists in the classroom are on-going. Grade ones are doing Mardi Gras masks
- Feb 27th Lunar New Year pot-luck at 4 pm
- Mme Trepanier’s Eco-schools group is looking into “Boomerang” lunches - i.e. students will return home with all lunch materials Feb 4 to 28th.
- Feb 14th Bakesale from Mme Titian’s class

5.0 School Council Update - the following was provided by Marissa Sawatzky (school council chair) and read at the meeting

As SC Chair, I am very thankful to the number of parents that have gotten involved with School Council! It has been a great turn out of parents so far at each meeting.

School Council is happy to have Deborah Denman join the SC Executive as our Community Representative.

PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) members Amanda Fairman (Chair) and Mike Palmer will be attending our June 10th meeting to answer questions about SC, roles and responsibilities, initiative from other schools and more.

At our last meeting held December 5th, Danny Fede gave an in-depth presentation about EQAO.

- Parent Members got the opportunity to learn what it is, how questions are determined, school demographic data and more.

Our next meeting is to be held February 13th. Parents are interested in having a Part Two of EQAO and learning about what the next steps are to improve EQAO Scores and how perhaps SC can help support students and/or Staff with this task. Everyone is always welcome to join us in the discussion.

5.1 Arts Council Update - Lara Borys

- Art gallery is changed periodically - check your kids’ work!
- Print making baskets are being made for each kindergarten class
- Artist in the classroom is moving along - Grade 4 artist is in place, working on dates. Trying to get an indigenous artist for Grade 5.
- Cootes Draws will be June 6 (rain date: June 13th)

6.0 Treasurer's Report -

- Revenue for initiatives to date is approximately \$21000 from this year's fundraising - note that this is total money collected, so it includes expenses (such as purchasing pizza, pumpkins, movie screen rentals, poinsettias)
- Expenditures to date total \$21609 - note that this includes a reimbursement of \$4300 to the school from funds generated by the FDK pizza days which were being held in our account from last year.

7.0 Class Rep Report - Michelle Balcers

- Reps have been sending home information; four classes still need reps (same as last month); getting positive feedback about the initiative.

8.0 Upcoming Fundraising

8.1 Move and Groove-a-thon March 8th (Friday before March Break); students can go down to the gym and Move and Groove, glow sticks are for sale. Classes rotate through during the day.

9.0 Past Events

9.1 Bake Sale: thanks to everyone who donated baked goods, they were all sold and over \$200 was raised.

10.0 Current/Upcoming initiatives

10.1 Tastebud Snack Program: snacks are going well, they are trying to diversify snacks to encourage students to try new foods. Older students help distribute bins

10.2 Read-a-Thon: started Monday

10.3 Family Skate: Sunday Jan 26 at Coronation from 1 to 2 pm. About 76 people have reserved a spot; please reserve a spot

10.4 Paisley Art Exhibit: art has been picked up from Mme Trepanier's class. They are being framed and displayed from Feb 1 to March 15th

10.5 Silent Auction: Friday April 5th. Donations are being collected

10.6 Friday Lunches are going well; new forms will be sent home in February.

Requests for Volunteers:

10.7 Staff Appreciation Lunch will be Feb 26th. Families can donate a dish, we decorate the staff room, and staff can enjoy lunch. No nuts or pork please. Gluten free option/vegetarian option is appreciated

10.8 Diversity/Pride event: Michelle Balcers has expressed an interest in running an event in June. If people are interested please contact Michelle. (michelle.balcers@gmail.com)

11.0 Open discussion - survey results. Home and School have been and will continue to use the feedback when planning events/proposing budgets for fundraising dollars. Here are the most frequent responses:

- What works well: Events, Communication, Fundraising

- Ways to improve: Nothing, Sharing with less privileged schools, Work on parent engagement, Hold joint meetings
- Opportunities: Working to bring community together, Character education, More community events, Connections to Dalewood and Westdale, Diversity of school - great deal of different cultures found in the school.
- Open-ended comments: request for communication as to where the fundraising dollars are spent.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm