

**SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**  
Cootes Paradise Elementary

April 10<sup>th</sup> 2019

**MINUTES**

In Attendance: Marissa Sawatzky (Chair), Danny Fede (Principal), Louise Vanderput (Vice Principal), Min Wang (Treasurer), Katherine Tiringier (Teacher rep), Angeline Navaruban (secretary), Rae, Deb Denman (community representative), Kate Ottewell, Sue Dumitriu, Elsa Marques, Lisa Mertz, Katalin Podor.

Agenda Item	Comments	Person responsible
1. Welcome	Called to order 6: 34pm	Chair
2. Review of April Agenda and approval	Elsa moved that they be accepted Lisa seconded the motion CARRIED	
Review & approval of December Minutes	Min moved that they be accepted Elsa seconded the motion CARRIED	
3. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Presentation	What is School Council & its role? Please see complete presentation slides located in <a href="http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/cootesparadise/school-council/minutes-agendas/">http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/cootesparadise/school-council/minutes-agendas/</a>  Quorum for voting purposes is 50% of membership plus 1. PIC also reminded us that school councils who have good relationships and foster dialogue between the administration, teachers and parents, are effective with their mandates and achieve goals. A few examples were to try and receive government funding by applying for grants proactively. Use school open houses, fundraisers to also raise awareness about school council and encouraging parents to be involved. Can use flyers, notices, word of mouth, invitations etc. Need to see diversity and ensure that each community has a parent voice. To also encourage non English speaking or physically challenged parents to come out and allow for translators or other accessible needs to be met.	Mike Palma and Amanda Fehrman (PIC Committee)
4. Principals report	<b>EQAO</b> core findings from May 2018 and May 2019 will be formally presented along with the School improvement plan early fall 2019. Of the 3 sections tested in 2018 (knowledge & understanding, thinking, application), Grade 3 Cootes students struggled in thinking and application. During the last few PD days, there has been some intense focus and strategies to combat this gap. There will be a mock EQAO assessment scheduled for this years Grade 3 students arranged internally. The dates for EQAO 2019 testing are May 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup> & May 28 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> . Some parents identified different teaching styles and the gap	Mr. Fede/ Ms Vanderput

	<p>between the dissemination of information between School and home. Some teachers are very informative and use many forms of communication (ie twitter, blog, website, agenda etc) to let parents know what is being taught in class. Not all teachers are doing this. The other is for parents to follow up on what their child is struggling with, starting even from Grade 1. The testing done in Grade 3 is the essence of all the years leading up to that point. A good foundation is critical. Parents can find out Ontario curriculum standards to see if their child is reaching all their academic milestones. Please see below:  <a href="http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/grades.html">http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/grades.html</a></p> <p>-----</p> <p>A subcommittee may need to be formed to address school improvement &amp; sharing of information/educational resources to parents.  Marissa moved for the creation of a School improvement/Information sharing subcommittee  Katalin seconded the motion  CARRIED  Lisa Mertz will head this team with other parents who are interested.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>There was much discussion on the EQAO topic which had to be cut short due to time constraints. The subcommittee will reconvene and have a meeting to address concerns not covered.</p>	
	French immersion - no waiting list at Cootes	
	Reminder of no treats for birthdays unless they are packaged to go home. School nutrition policies need to be followed and some kids have additional allergies other than to nuts.	
	There is a new LTO DECE in kindergarten	
	Kindergarten registration is open now at Cootes. However Cootes is closed to out of catchment registrations.	
	Design the agenda competition – current grade 4’s will design a cover for the 2019-2020 agenda with the students voting on the best one.	
	Outdoors maintenance - Ice accumulating on the back playground was an issue over the past winter and caused multiple indoor recesses. Situation was discussed with site supervisor. Due to the risk of falls and possible injury, parent volunteers are not permitted to clear snow/ice from school grounds. The other option is to have board authorised external contractors but may be costly and lengthy with permission processes. In the meantime indoor recesses will be required when external conditions pose a safety concern for staff or students. The tree that was cut down needs to be replaced and professional pruning required for many plants. There will be a meeting with John Atkinson to discuss natural playground maintenance.	
	The Kindergarten pen seems to have been used out of hours as a dog park. The gate will now be locked to prevent use outside of school hours.	
	Grade 5 farewell – date to be set as JUNE 26 <sup>th</sup> with venue & times TBA	

	Fire alarm activated towards the end of the school day April 8th – custodial team determined it was a false alarm and fire dept had to confirm this was the case before it was safe to re-enter the building.	
5. Teacher's report	<p>International day of pink was a success ( event today)</p> <p>April 1<sup>st</sup> - Big crunch at school assembly also went well</p> <p>April 2<sup>nd</sup> - OPHEA certification</p> <p>April 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> - Dental screening for K-Gr2</p> <p>April 15<sup>th</sup> – Gr1 FI field trip to Fortinos</p> <p>April 17<sup>th</sup> - Kindergarten event Scientists in the school</p> <p>April 22<sup>nd</sup> Earth day (also Easter Monday with schools closed)</p> <p>April 26<sup>th</sup> – The incredible adventures of Mary Jane Mosquito</p> <p>May 1<sup>st</sup> - Grade 3 battlefield trip</p> <p>May 2<sup>nd</sup> – Choirfest</p> <p>May 3<sup>rd</sup> – Paperbag princess</p> <p>May 9<sup>th</sup> – Kindergarten open house</p> <p>May 22<sup>nd</sup> – EQAO starts for grade 3's</p> <p>May 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> Bike to School week</p> <p>May 29<sup>th</sup> – Water festival</p> <p>June 4<sup>th</sup> – Special Olympics</p> <p>June 6<sup>th</sup> – Cootes draws</p> <p>June 24<sup>th</sup> – Reports sent home</p>	Mlle Tiringer
6. School Council report	<p>Pro Grant – Parents voted to have Ann Douglas (author, CBC Radio columnist, parenting advisor, popular Mental health/Education advocate) to give a keynote address titled 'Happy Parents Happy Kids'. For over 2 decades Canadians have turned to Ann Douglas for her reassuring, parent proven strategies. This event will be held Thursday evening <b>June 6<sup>th</sup></b> at Cootes Paradise. More details TBA. For more information on Ann please check out <a href="http://www.anndouglas.ca/">http://www.anndouglas.ca/</a></p> <p>-----</p> <p>Due to time constraints the meeting had to be adjourned and the following items on agenda were not discussed:</p> <p>Math League</p> <p>Landscaping Committee</p> <p>Treasurers report -</p> <p>Arts Council update -</p> <p>Home and school update</p>	Chair
7. Adjournment	<p>Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm</p> <p>Rae motioned for it to be completed</p> <p>Chair seconded the motion</p>	
8. Agenda for next meeting	Recap of agenda that was missed at April meeting & other items as required.	

**Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**