

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Cootes Paradise Elementary

September 29, 2022

MINUTES

In Attendance: Jennifer Hogan (Principal), Susanna Gojsic (Vice-Principal), Kara Jessop and Jean Brown (Home and School Representatives), Rosalee van Staalduinen (Chair), Stan Visaticki (Vice-Chair), Annelie Thomson (Treasurer), Lisa Feinberg (Secretary) and Heather Ricks (parent member), Natalia Gonzalez (parent member), Shao-Pin Chu (parent member), Lily Huang (parent member), Ashley Francis (parent member), Kathryn Weirsma (parent member), Anna Trikoupis (parent member), and other parents and community members

(NOTE: A total of 25 parents and 2 school administrators were in attendance.)

Agenda Item	Comments	Person Responsible
1. Welcome, Introductions, and Land Acknowledgment	Called to order at 5:30 p.m.	Ms. Gojsic
2. Review and Approval of Current Agenda	The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed.	Ms. Gojsic
3. Introductions	Ms. Hogan and Ms. Gojsic introduced themselves to the persons in attendance. It was noted that Ms. Dimetre is this year's Teacher Representative.	Ms. Gojsic
4. Role of School Council	Ms. Gojsic reviewed the role of School Council – namely to advise the principal and the school board and to put students first – and how it differs from that of Home and School.	Ms. Gojsic
5. Nomination Overview	Ms. Gojsic reviewed the different positions available and the nomination process, which allows for nominations already submitted as well as nominations from the floor. If a person was not in attendance, then their nomination did not move forward. Candidates introduced themselves.	Ms. Gojsic
6. Election	The following persons were acclaimed to their positions: Rosalee van Staalduinen (Chair), Stan Visaticki (Vice-Chair), Annelie Thomson (Treasurer), Lisa Feinberg (Secretary).	Ms. Gojsic

	A vote was held to determine the parent members of School Council. After the meeting, the results were emailed out to the school community.	
7. Principal's Report	<p>Ms. Hogan reported on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increase in enrollment this year – During the pandemic, 408 students were enrolled to attend in person. Now, 639 students are enrolled. We are back to pre-pandemic attendance levels. b. School has Mandarin immersion and French immersion programs. Mandarin immersion is unique to Cootes Paradise Elementary. c. Classroom changes – shift from an English grade 2/3 class to a straight grade 2 class; the opening of an additional English grade 3 class; and a shift from a English grade 1/2 class to a full grade 1 class. d. School focus on increasing extracurricular activities and programming, e.g., cross-country meet on September 28, 2022. e. Parent volunteer opportunities – parents need to get their vulnerable sector check from Hamilton Police in order to be able to participate. f. Gates are being installed in open areas of back playground. g. Outdoor natural playground areas need to be updated to ensure safety – wood surfaces were not properly treated – recent slipping incident in Kinderyard. h. Meet the Teacher evening on October 20, 2022 from 5:00-6:00 p.m. 	Ms. Hogan
8. Home and School Report	<p>Ms. Jessop and Ms. Brown reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home and School are looking for parent volunteers and are waiving the \$20 membership fee this year. • Home and School is looking at the outdoor playground, as it is under their purview. • A number of events are being organized for the 2022-2023 year, including the upcoming Pumpkin Hike. 	Ms. Jessop and Ms. Brown
9. Questions	Questions were addressed throughout the meeting.	Mr. Gojsic
10. New Business	Ms. van Staaldunen asked attendees for items for the next agenda. Items were discussed including outdoor play areas, snack bins, safety plan, and volunteering.	Ms. van Staaldunen
11. Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of School Council is scheduled to take place on November 8, 2022.	Mr. Gojsic
12. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.	Ms. Gojsic