

**SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**  
Cootes Paradise Elementary

November 15, 2022

**MINUTES**

In Attendance in Person: Jennifer Hogan (Principal), Susanna Gojsic (Vice-Principal), Rosalee van Staalduinen (Chair), Anneli Thomson (Treasurer), Kara Jessop (Home & School Representative), Sue Dumitru (Teacher Representative), Kathryn Wiersma (parent member), Anna Trikoupis (parent member), Joumana Salman, and Sara Hamade

In attendance via MS Teams: Lisa Feinberg (Secretary), Heather Ricks (parent member), Natalia Gonzalez (parent member), Lily Huang (parent member), Gehad Elshawarbi, Aaron Jones, Mason, Masoud Ahmadniafeizabadi, Randa, Mohsen Arain, Carlos Vidal, Marianne Chew, Tiyonna Davy, Mariia, and Yara and Ibrahim

Regrets: Stan Visaticki (Vice-Chair), Shao-Pin Chu (parent member), and Ashley Francis (parent member)

Agenda Item	Comments	Person Responsible
1. Welcome, Introductions, and Land Acknowledgment	Called to order at 5:40 p.m.  Ms. Gojsic presented the land acknowledgement.  Ms. Jessop disclosed that she is an employee of the HWDSB.	Ms. van Staalduinen
2. Review and Approval of Minutes	The minutes for the September 29, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Ms. van Staalduinen to approve the minutes, seconded by Anneli Thomson. Motion approved.	Ms. van Staalduinen
3. Review and Approval of Agenda	The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed and approved.	Ms. van Staalduinen
4. Business from Previous Meeting	Congratulations again to the members of School Council: Rosalee van Staalduinen (Chair), Stan Visaticki (Vice-Chair), Lisa Feinberg (Secretary), Anneli Thomson (Treasurer), Kara Jessop (Home & School Representative), Sue Dumitru (Teacher Representative), Heather Ricks (parent member), Natalia Gonzalez (parent member), Kathryn Wiersma (parent member), Anna Trikoupis (parent member), Shao-Pin Chu (parent member), Lily Huang (parent member), Ashley Francis (parent member).	Ms. van Staalduinen

5. Chair's Report	<p>Ms. van Staalduinen reported on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. School Council members attended HWSDDB training session on October 12, 2022.</li> <li>b. School Council struck a Fundraising Subcommittee in conjunction with Administration to support School Fundraising. Subcommittee lead is Ashley Francis. Other members are Lily Huang and Anneli Thomson.</li> <li>c. School Council had a table at Meet the Teacher night, handing out apples (which was a pre-approved expense) and flyers, and entertaining children with colouring activities. School Council connected with parents and students and welcomed comments and suggestions.</li> <li>d. School Council purchased agenda stickers to put in student agendas (this was another pre-approved expense).</li> <li>e. School Council engaged in conversation with Administration regarding how to increase community connection. School Council gathered input from the parent community and presented ideas to Administration.</li> </ol>	Ms. van Staalduinen
6. Treasurer's Report	<p>Ms. Thomson reported on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. School Council has access to the parent engagement fund of \$500 from HWDSB. \$50 was used to purchase apples for Meet the Teacher Night and \$33.90 was used to purchase stickers for student agendas. We welcome feedback on how to engage parents further.</li> <li>b. Pizza Days are ongoing, with some profit expected. Krispy Kreme fundraiser is expected to take place in December. There is parent desire for more nutritional foods. In discussions with Pita Pit for 2023 but want more parent input before launching.</li> <li>c. The Home &amp; School Association runs their own events and has their own finances.</li> </ol>	Ms. Thomson
7. Principal's Report	<p>Ms. Hogan reported on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Secure schools protocol is ongoing – there were three fall fire drills and there will be a lock down drill next Tuesday. Notice was given for all drills.</li> <li>b. Public health nurse Agata Liebrock has joined the school – has a bulletin board in the school on well-being and kindness.</li> <li>c. Remembrance Day Ceremony was a success – Grade 5 students recited "In Flanders Fields" in French, English, and Mandarin and a McMaster student played "The Last Post" on trumpet.</li> <li>d. Pizza Days are a success. Generous donation by parent community to ensure all children can participate in pizza days. HWDSB applications for grant program were accepted for 11 students as well.</li> <li>e. Roots of Empathy Program is ongoing - Kathryn Wiersma is participating.</li> </ol>	Ms. Hogan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f. PD Day on November 25 will focus on staff professional development – in particular, exploring new math resources that align with new curriculum.</li> <li>g. Progress reports will be sent home this Friday. Ongoing communication with teachers is key – parents should reach out to their child’s teacher to discuss the progress report if they would like.</li> </ul>	
8. Fundraising Subcommittee’s Report	<p>Ms. Thomson (on behalf of Ms. Francis) reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Pizza Days will continue as long as there are sufficient volunteers. The second pizza day had more volunteer support than the first, so hopefully volunteer support will continue.</li> <li>b. Subcommittee looking for parent feedback before moving ahead with Pita Pit in the new year.</li> <li>c. One Krispy Kreme fundraiser is expected in December.</li> <li>d. Home &amp; School have their own events coming up.</li> </ul>	Ms. Thomson
9. Teacher Representative’s Report	<p>Ms. Dumitru reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Teachers enjoyed the interactions with students and their families at Meet the Teacher night.</li> <li>b. Classrooms loved carving pumpkins for the night hike. Special thanks to all the parents who volunteered.</li> <li>c. Successful kindergarten trip to the apple orchard.</li> <li>d. Grade 5 students are taking a leadership role, buddying up with kindergarten classes as math or literacy buddies.</li> <li>e. Swim Team, Pizza days are going well.</li> <li>f. Teachers are looking for guidance on what school needs parent community will support and how to request that support.</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion</b> made by Ms. Gonzalez <b>that School Council establish guidelines to support staff in accessing funds from community to enhance learning for students.</b> Ms. Thomson seconded the motion. It was discussed that this initiative would be carried out in consultation with Administration and Home &amp; School Association. Motion approved.</p>	Ms. Dumitru
10. Home and School Association’s Report	<p>Ms. Jessop reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Pumpkin Hike was a success, thanks to several volunteers, including Smiling over Sickness McMaster Smile Squad, McMaster Maroons, Westdale High School Football Team, and parent volunteers. Home and School will be able to cover costs and also make donations to the school, Royal Botanical Gardens, and McMaster Community Fridge. Pumpkins were expensive this year, so costs were higher than usual.</li> <li>b. Home and School met last week. Executive has been formed but voting members can join any time.</li> <li>c. Planning a festival of lights event on December 16, 2022. Waiting to hear back from venue as to availability.</li> </ul>	Ms. Jessop

	<p>d. Spirit wear sales are going well. 100 orders made already. Home and School allowed parents to determine sizing at Meet the Teacher night and at various local parks after school and over the weekend.</p> <p>e. Home and School plans to make it clear that its Facebook page does not belong to HWDSB and rebrand as Home and School.</p>	
<p>11. New Business</p>	<p>Ms. van Staalduin reported on the following:</p> <p>a. Allocation of School Council’s Funds from HWDSB:</p> <p><b>Motion</b> made by Ms. van Staalduin <b>to approve the allocation of School Council Parent Engagement Funds to purchase agenda stickers, childminding services for School Council meetings, and other parent engagement tools within budget.</b> Ms. Wiersma seconded the motion. Motion approved.</p> <p>b. Strengthening Community Involvement:</p> <p>School Council has informally discussed planning an event (e.g., talent show) to welcome school community into the school.</p> <p><b>Motion</b> made by Ms. van Staalduin <b>to strike a subcommittee to head up a “Talent Show” community connection event in cooperation with the school and Home and School.</b> Ms. Trikoupis seconded the motion. Motion approved.</p> <p>c. School Wide Volunteer Activities</p> <p>Ms. Ricks asked if the School could create a school wide calendar to identify days when volunteers are needed to ensure parent awareness. Ms. Ricks also requested that the School remind parents to submit vulnerable sector checks at the end of the school year.</p> <p>Ms. Hogan stated that there is no school wide calendar but that the School can include this information in its newsletter, as well as reminders to parents to complete their vulnerable sector checks.</p> <p>d. Support for Educational Assistants</p> <p>School Council would like to support our student and parent community by requesting more educational assistant resources. Any request will be sent to administration prior to being submitted elsewhere.</p> <p><b>Motion</b> made by Ms. van Staalduin <b>to approve the drafting of a letter by School Council to the Special Education Advisory Council in support of more educational assistants at Cootes Paradise Elementary School.</b> Ms. Ricks seconded the motion. Motion approved.</p>	<p>Ms. van Staalduin</p>

12. Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of School Council is scheduled to take place on January 10, 2023 at 5:30 PM – will be hybrid (School Library/Remote).	Ms. van Staalduinen
13. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.	Ms. van Staalduinen