

**Home and School Association Meeting**  
**November 30, 2022**  
*virtual*

**Present:**

*Voting members:* Jean Brown, Kara Jessop, Mike Malysewich, Natalia Gonzalez, Lisa Feinberg, Ashley Francis

*Non-voting attendees:* Afroza Sultana, Anna Trikoupis, LEEANNE Smith, Lily Huang, Michael Bianchi, Rosalee van Staallduinen, Joseph Oliver

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Introduction**

Kara gives brief overview of what Home and School is, how it is different from School Council, and the objectives of a Home and School association

**Agenda:**

- Motion to approve: Natalia, seconded: Ashley
- Motion to approve minutes: Natalia, seconded: Ashley

**Fundraising Events:**

- Pumpkin Hike
  - very successful (profit \$1767.34)
  - we covered costs, will vote on how to split remaining proceeds to support the RBG, McMaster Fridge, and class trips
- Spirit Wear also successful, although the proceeds will be small because we set prices low to be accessible
  - we will need volunteers (with vulnerable sector check) to hand out the spirit wear before break

**Festival of Lights (Nov 16)**

- new event
- we have permit for Churchill Park Clubhouse (following success of pumpkin night)
- proceeds to Food4Kids, which supports local community
- also running a sock drive for school, as suggested by school administration
- Volunteers
  - don't need vulnerable sector check
  - anyone who is a voting member has liability insurance through H&S
- Cookies:
  - Jean reports on Weils
  - Natalia suggests requesting donations from school community
  - Rosalee suggest "Planted in Hamilton" on Locke St. for vegan/gluten free cookies
  - Kara suggests Marcy's bakery (Kara to call)
- Decorations
  - Ashley has tree for us 6', some lights, and decorations
  - Lily also looking for lights

- Craft Tables
  - luminaries from paper bags and tea lights
  - bird-friendly outside decorations
  - glass jars and tissue paper lanterns
  - we are asking teachers if they would like to participate by having students make crafts, we will provide materials
- Photo Booth
- Games
  - obstacle course
  - ring toss
  - scavenger hunt
- Mac students are not available to help
  - Natalia will ask Westdale if they have students that can help
- Parent Volunteers:
  - Kara has created a volunteer schedule for helpers to sign up to specific slots

### **Snack Days**

- to help recover lost funds from pizza days
- must follow HWDSB nutrition guidelines
  - popcorn, healthy cookies
- We are looking for someone to volunteer to run this program
- One-two days/month
- School cash, or bringing in money on day of, etc

### **Other Event Ideas:**

- Family Skate and Bake Sale (February)
  - we will hopefully be able to access the skates at Coronation Arena
- Grow2Fast Community Sale (April)
  - participants can rent a table to sell extra clothing/gear
  - collect PJ donations for McMaster Children's Hospital
- Spirit Wear, round 2 (May)
  - will include different spirit wear options
- Silent Auction (May)
  - hopefully can do outdoor
  - to support Hamilton Foundation for Student Success
- Book Swap or Little Library (June)
  - Natalia suggests connecting with tech at Westdale
  - to support Dolly Parton's Imagination Library/Eva Rothwell Centre
- TBD: Move-a-thon or walk-a-thon
  - potentially donate to Ron Joyce
- Movie Night:
  - hopefully can run in spring, potentially inside school gym

### **Secretary's Report: Jean**

- note the many people who have joined us

**Treasurer's Report: Mike**

- Night Hike: \$2455 donations - \$687 (expenses) NET \$1767.34
- Balance in beginning of year: \$25,220. Current anticipated balance (pending Pumpkin Hike deposit): \$27,122.99
- Kara: OFHSA paid our \$100 insurance fee this year. we have covered some of the \$20 voting member fees

**Rosalee van Staalduinien: Nov 15 School Council Meeting Report**

- School Council members did a training
- Created a fundraising subcommittee
- engaged in conversation with admin to discuss how to increase community engagement
  - discussed tone, delivery, and content of messaging between school and parent community
  - clarifying access to school property, such as volunteering
- organizing a staff appreciation event on Tuesday Dec 13th
- Approved motions
  - work with H&S and admin to access resources for enhancing student learning
  - organizing a talent show in New Year
  - draft letter to special education advisory committee with school board requesting further support and educational assistants for students at Cootes. admin agreed
- School Council email: [cootesparadiseSC@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:cootesparadiseSC@hwdsb.on.ca)

**Meeting Dates to Approve:**

- Proposed dates: Jan 25, March 29, May 16, June 21
- Natalia motions to approve, Lisa seconds
- Kara asks Rosalee about possibility of making magnets with meeting dates for both School Council and Home and School

**Budget:**

- last year's H&S exec had approved budget for this year, but we need to approve our revised budget (which reflects loss of expected revenue and new/different events)
- Kara presented the differences between the previous budget and the revised budget
- Rosalee asks: will budget be posted to school website?
  - yes, we are working to update the school website
- Motion to approve: Natalia, second: Ashley
  - Vote passes unanimously
- Rosalee asks about accessing funds to support learning initiative from School Council
  - Kara references budget items: library enhancements, trip subsidies. Natalia: we are also looking to create guidelines for H&S to manage requests for funds
- Budget vote passes unanimously
- Pumpkin Hike Proceeds:
  - we want to vote on how much we want to donate to McMaster Community Fridge
  - Natalia: moves to allocate 30% to Mac and 20% to RBG, Erin seconds
  - vote passes unanimously

- Proceeds allocation:
  - \$250 to RBG
  - \$500 to McMaster Community Fridge
- Future Event Proceeds:
  - Natalia: moves to allocate 30% of proceeds to designated cause of each event, Ashley seconds

#### **Festival of Lights operating costs:**

- want to donate all of proceeds of this event to Food4Kids, as this replaces the in-reach gift card program of previous years
- Vote to use savings for operating costs (likely \$500-600) passes unanimously

#### **Request Items:**

- we will let teachers know how much we are allocating for them to access
- we also entertain other requests
- we did have a request item:
  - movie theater rental (\$241.70 x2)
  - vote passes unanimously to grant request
- Churchill Park Skating rinks:
  - run by volunteers
  - consider donating to help pay for tarps
  - Natalia move to donate some funds from savings to help rinks (\$800)
  - Vote passes unanimously

#### **Home and School Executive Council Meetings**

- meet every other month
- they represent all of the H&S associations across the Board
- school has new snow clearing policy:
  - Board has voted on hiring outside contractors for snow removal

#### **Motion to Adjourn:**

- Natalia moving to adjourn, Erin seconds