

**SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**  
 Cootes Paradise Elementary  
 (Hybrid Meeting – School Library/Remote)

January 10, 2023

**MINUTES**

In Attendance in Person: Jennifer Hogan (Principal), Susanna Gojsic (Vice-Principal), Rosalee van Staalduinen (Chair), Anneli Thomson (Treasurer), Sue Dumitru (Teacher Representative), Natalia Gonzalez (parent member), Shao-Pin Chu (parent member), Tahir Kazim, Thi Vazin, and Salam Mousa.

In attendance via MS Teams: Anna Trikoupis (parent member), Kara Jessop (Home & School Representative), Lisa Feinberg (Secretary), Heather Ricks (parent member), Christian Marcella, Kathryn Wiersma (parent member), Proud Gerald Wiberensa, and Lily Huang (parent member).

Regrets: Stan Visaticki (Vice-Chair) and Ashley Francis (parent member).

Agenda Item	Comments	Person Responsible
1. Welcome, Introductions, and Land Acknowledgment	Called to order at 5:32 p.m.  Ms. Gojsic presented the land acknowledgement.  Ms. van Staalduinen notes that we have 7 School Council members, which is quorum. Three more members joined late, raising the number to 10.  Ms. Jessop has an ongoing disclosure that she is an employee of the HWDSB.	Ms. van Staalduinen
2. Review and Approval of Minutes	The minutes for the November 15, 2022 meeting were reviewed via email. Motion was made by Ms. van Staalduinen via email to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Trikoupis. Motion was approved November 22, 2022.	Ms. van Staalduinen
3. Review and Approval of Agenda	The agenda for today's meeting was reviewed. Motion made by Ms. van Staalduinen to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Gonzalez. Motion approved.	Ms. van Staalduinen
4. Business from Previous Meeting		Ms. van Staalduinen
	<b>a. Approved motion to create staff guidelines for funding requests</b>	Ms. van Staalduinen

	<p>School Council drafted an “Idea for Funding Process and Forms Discussion” document that was shared with Home and School Association (HSA) and Administration. Thank you to Ms. Trikoupis and Ms. Feinberg for their diligent and considered work on this document. HSA is drafting a letter to teachers to provide guidance on this issue. School Council looks forward to seeing the draft and providing additional support, as needed.</p>	
	<p><b>b. Approved motion to allocate School Council Parent Engagement Funds to purchase agenda stickers and childminding services</b></p> <p>School Council was able to purchase stickers for this meeting and will do this again in March. School Council has engaged two educational assistants for childminding services tonight and will do this again for the March and May 2023 meetings. Please spread the word that if childcare is an issue for parents, they may bring their children and childminding is available.</p>	Ms. van Staalduinen
	<p><b>c. Approved motion to draft a letter to SEAC in support of more EA support at Cootes Paradise Elementary School</b></p> <p>Ms. Feinberg led the initiative to research the issue, engage with parents, and draft a letter – the letter is in the process of being reviewed and revised. It will be sent out to PIC and SEAC once finalized and approved.</p>	Ms. van Staalduinen
	<p><b>d. Approved motion to strike a sub-committee to organize a Talent Show at the school in collaboration with HSA and Admin</b></p> <p>Ms. Francis has already volunteered to join this subcommittee. At the School Council meeting, Ms. Wiersma, Ms. Thomas, and Ms. Huang volunteered to join the subcommittee as well. To ensure staff and HSA representation, Ms. Gonzalez (who is a member of HSA as well as School Council) and Ms. Dumitru (staff) also volunteered. Ms. van Staalduinen will send an email to the sub-committee to get things started.</p>	Ms. van Staalduinen
5. Chair’s Report	<p>Ms. van Staalduinen reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A thank you to Ms. Wiersma and Ms. Trikoupis for organizing and decorating the School Council bulletin board.</li> <li>b. School Council approved a motion via email (seconded by Ms. Francis, motion approved December 8, 2022) to purchase a one-month subscription to <i>SurveyMonkey</i> using the parent engagement fund. However, this was later withdrawn because the amount turned out to be higher than previously thought.</li> </ul>	Ms. van Staalduinen

	<p>School Council did collect 40 free responses. No funds were used for <i>SurveyMonkey</i> in the end. The Treasurer will provide further details in her report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. School Council previously discussed larger agenda stickers that would provide descriptions of the functions of School Council and HSA and dates of their meetings. Together with HSA, School Council has moved forward with this purchase, splitting the cost 50/50. We are hopeful that this will increase awareness of School Council and HSA within the parent community.</li> <li>d. On December 13, 2022, School Council hosted a “Staff Cookie Break” for all staff. The parent community contributed baked goods, a fruit tray and hot drinks. The event was well-attended and staff expressed their appreciation. A big thank you to all supporters of the event.</li> </ul>	
6. Treasurer’s Report	<p>Ms. Thomson reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Parent Engagement Funds were used for childminding and agenda stickers.</li> <li>b. We were able to get all the data from the Pita Pit surveys without using Parent Engagement Funds.</li> <li>c. School Council is working on compiling the data regarding the success of the fundraising initiatives.</li> </ul>	Ms. Thomson
7. Principal’s Report	<p>Ms. Hogan reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Staff appreciated the “Staff Cookie Break” event.</li> <li>b. There will be a PD day on January 27<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>c. The School will be making up two missed pizza days.</li> <li>d. Fundraising from pizza days was used to support school trips.</li> <li>e. Family literacy day is on January 27<sup>th</sup>, but the School will celebrate on the 26<sup>th</sup>, due to the PD day. Stay tuned.</li> <li>f. EQAO results have been sent home with individual students. Administration was asked about the School’s overall EQAO results. Our literacy skills are rich. We will be working on math going forward. The EQAO website has limited reading, writing, and math results posted per school. Administration will send out the link for parent review in the January newsletter.</li> <li>g. Administration was asked about vandalism on school property. Vandalism that occurred prior to the winter break on the back wall of the School was immediately addressed by janitorial staff. Most recent vandalism on the front electronic sign will be addressed shortly. Administration was asked about surveillance on school property. There is no surveillance equipment at the School.</li> </ul>	Ms. Hogan
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 day is a great success – will be continued.</li> </ul>	Ms. Thomson

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. Re: Pita Pit – Most parents preferred Fridays. The subcommittee is looking into whether it will be offered biweekly or weekly.</li> <li>c. Parent ideas regarding next year’s fundraisers are welcome.</li> <li>d. HSA has wonderful events coming up – stay tuned.</li> </ul>	
9. Teacher Representative’s Report	<p>Ms. Dumitru reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Children in the Kinder-pen are helping each other.</li> <li>b. Grade 1’s went to the library today.</li> <li>c. Most Kindergarten classes are going to library, if they have the support. This ties in with our literacy initiatives.</li> <li>d. Staff are working on involvement with parent community.</li> <li>e. Mme Titian’s and Ms. Dumitru’s classes won the holiday door decorating contest.</li> <li>f. Classrooms have been enjoying visits from the principals.</li> <li>g. The outdoor Sing Alongs went very well. Kindergarten students performed separately from Grades 1-5 due to logistical considerations.</li> <li>h. Buddies are happening in support of math and reading.</li> <li>i. Ms. Dumitru purchased the “Secret Stories” program to support literacy.</li> </ul>	Ms. Dumitru
10. Home and School Association’s Report	<p>Ms. Jessop reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Festival of Lights was well attended. Kindergarten students and their Grade 5 buddies provided lanterns. Plenty of parent support and donations. The event didn’t raise as many funds as anticipated.</li> <li>b. HSA meeting was held on November 20, 2022.</li> <li>c. Spirit Wear initiative has encountered supply issues. If there are any outstanding Spirit Wear orders, Mike at <i>West End Sports</i> will refund.</li> <li>d. The next event is skating. It was going to be outside, now looking to rent indoor arena due to the weather. Hoping to offer free rental equipment.</li> <li>e. Working with Grade 5 teachers Re: Graduation.</li> <li>f. HSA is looking into a popcorn fundraiser.</li> <li>g. Budget has been approved with a lot of expenditures going to support class trips. HSA provided funds for the rental of the Westdale movie theater for field trips. HSA is interested in knowing the School’s generated funds plan.</li> <li>h. Next meeting will be held virtually on January 25, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.</li> </ul>	Ms. Jessop
11. New Business	<p>Ms. van Staaldhuizen invited attendees to suggest any topics for new business.</p> <p>A question was asked if there are regular monthly meetings with the teachers and administration at the School. Ms. van Staaldhuizen explained</p>	Ms. van Staaldhuizen

	<p>that School Council is the venue for this connection with teachers and administration.</p> <p>Ms. Weirsma highlighted that the PRO grant for parent/community engagement is due on January 27, 2023, and that opportunity is there for School Council. Ms. Jessop volunteered to work with Ms. Weirsma on the proposal.</p>	
12. Next Meeting Date	The next meeting of School Council is scheduled to take place on March 21, 2023, at 5:30 PM – it will be hybrid (School Library/Remote).	Ms. van Staalduin
13. Adjournment	Motion made by Ms. van Staalduin to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Gonzalez seconded the motion. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.	Ms. van Staalduin