

# **Minutes: Cootes Paradise Home & School Association**

November 8, 2023  
prepared by Jean Brown

**Present:** Kara Jessop, Mike Malysewich, Nikol Piskuric, Meghan Newton, Anne Guzman, Amanda Crossley, Mike Bianchi, Matt Lindo, A, Heather Ricks, Kristina Cote, Lisa Leoni, Caitlin Burgess, Hillary, Stacey Brown, Soumendra

## **Land Acknowledgement**

### **President Report:**

- Overview of Executive:
  - President: Kara Jessop
  - Vice-President: Natalia Gonzalez
  - Secretary: Jean Brown
  - Treasurer: Mike Malysewich
  - School Counsel rep: Matt Lindo
- Brief overview of Home and School

### **Night Hike Review**

- Pumpkins were pricey this year, so we had to source from multiple grocery stores, bought 150 pumpkins total
- City of Hamilton was difficult with outdoor space rental and presented an unanticipated fee
- Accessible entrance did get some use and was appreciated, primarily by families with strollers
- Volunteers were much appreciated
- Tap for donations was successful
- Collected: \$2851 and some food donations
- Expenses: \$761 (pizza, candy, etc)
- Profit: \$1390
- Feedback:
  - very enjoyable event
  - always a favourite with kids

### **Spirit Wear**

- We will use same vendor, but adjust process to avoid some of the challenges we faced last year
- Will provide one paper copy of order form per class and some at office
- Emails to be send to place online order or via email through Rachel Roper
- We would appreciate having a parent liaison to work with Rachel Roper to help organize orders
  - Stacey Brown volunteers to be Spirit Wear liaison

### **Food4Kids Fundraiser:**

- Last year our Festival of Lights supported Food4Kids, a local organization that helps fill hunger gap with local families, including Cootes families
  - it did not raise as much as hoped; looking to create a new initiative to support Food4Kids
- Feedback: we should emphasize what Food4Kids is and does as many people may not be familiar with the organization
  - agenda stickers, food4kids presentation at meeting, etc...?
- Smiling Over Sickness group from McMaster, which runs Night Hike activities, is interested in helping with another event, so this may be a way to use them
  - potentially a Valentine's Day event with cookie decorating, music, etc, family event after school in gym
  - Other ideas: Winter Carnival Quebec-style
    - Suggested to make sure it's not too heavily focussed on French
    - candy grams
- November 28th: Giving Tuesday
  - Considering setting a goal which Home and School can match
  - can provide gift cards to families that are supported by Food4Kids

### **Family Skate & Bake**

- Last Year:
  - at Wentworth Arena, with equipment borrowed from Coronation to lend
  - Bake Sale to benefit grade 5 grad trip
- For this Year:
  - would appreciate a Grade 5 parent to help organize and be present for bake sale
  - Could we include a soccer rental as well for people who don't want to skate?

### **Toonie Tuesday (or Fun Friday)?**

- Last Year:
  - Kernels was provider—too expensive and logistically difficult
- Westdale theatre can provide popcorn at \$1/bag
  - theatre staff will bag and seal with tape or staple
  - allergen-free
- How often?
  - maybe every other week, as getting volunteers for every week is a challenge
- Could there be a way to pre-order (maybe not pay, but to get a sense of numbers)?
- We need to have a solid roster of volunteers
- Volunteers:
  - Meghan Newton

### **Staff Appreciation Lunch (morning of June 6th):**

- Would appreciate a parent to organize:
  - Involves:
    - emailing out for donations
    - organizing on the day of
- Nikol and Amanda volunteer to organize

**Book Swap and Bake Sale:**

- Last year was a great success with authors, bake sale, raffles, book donations
- Parent Volunteer to help organize: Mike Malysewich
  - Hillary also volunteers to help

**Parent/Class Reps:**

- Class parents will help facilitate communication between teachers and parents, as well as Home and School and rest of school community
- Jean and Natalia to organize

**Free Little Library:**

- Facilities will install
- We will maintain and books can be stored at school
- also have a hat/mitt library
- Gr 4 and 5 students will help keep them stocked
- Library configuration chosen by vote (Larger library without bench)

**Spirit Rock**

- Kristina had introduced idea last year
- Families can rent a boulder on school grounds for a week and paint it however they want (with guidelines)
  - put a price on it
  - families can rent it for birthdays, etc
  - families responsible to paint it
  - use a google form/calendar to keep track of who has rented it
  - maybe have a "leftover" bin of paint to help offset cost of paint

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Need to vote on Budget
- Current assets: \$29,007.53
- Last year we essentially broke even, as it was not our goal to increase bank balance

**School Counsel Report (Matt Lindo):**

- Matt is new Chair for the year
- Working to set priorities for the year and get organized with new executive
- were able to have a table at meet and greet to give out info about meetings
- Counsel is smaller than last year
- Goal is to increase collaboration with Home and School and school admin and prioritize communication
- Next meeting: November 28th (hybrid, although in-person option is uncertain)
- February and April meetings to be confirmed shortly

**Budget Vote:**

- Review of Proposed 2023-24 Budget

- Motion to vote on Budget: Jean, Mike Seconds
- Budget is passed by vote

**Subcommittee on Capital Improvement Projects:**

- Stacey, Nikol, Mike Malysewich

**To Do:**

- Create an event volunteer master list to share from Google doc where people can sign up for events

Motion to end: Kristina

Second: Nikol seconds

**Future Meetings:**

- Thursday Jan 18, 7:30 hybrid
- Tuesday April 9 - 7:30pm
- Wednesday June 5 - 7:30pm