

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Cootes Paradise Elementary
(Hybrid – Remote and in Gym)

November 12, 2024

MINUTES

In attendance in person: Sara Alves (Vice Principal) on behalf of herself and Jenn Hogan (Principal), Mitch Orsatti (Chair), S.M. (Treasurer), Lisa Feinberg (Secretary), Nicol Piskuric (Home & School Representative), Renée Massia (parent member), Rosalee van Staaldunin (parent member), Melanie McPhee (parent member), Meredith Shepherd (parent member), Ryan Belowitz, Heather Reid, Michaela Hornung-Zavitz, Nicholas Gauthier, Kristina Cote, Caitlin Burgess, Hillary Peach, Mike Malysewich, Amanda Crossley, Ben Garden

In attendance via MS Teams: Natalia Gonzalez (parent member), Jean Brown (parent member)

Regrets: Maria Egwakhide (parent member)

Agenda Item	Comments	Person Responsible
1. Welcome, Introductions, and Land Acknowledgment	Home and School Association ("HSA") meeting took place from 6:30 pm to 7:10 pm. School Council meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m.	Mr. Orsatti
2. Notice of Minutes from September 19, 2024 Meeting	The minutes from the meeting on September 19, 2024 have been approved by email and were posted online at https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/cootesparadise/files/2024/10/School-Council-Minutes_September-2024.pdf	Mr. Orsatti
3. Review and Approval of Agenda	The agenda was reviewed briefly and approved unanimously.	Mr. Orsatti
4. Chair's Report	Mr. Orsatti presented the Chair's report as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The School Council has committed to assist with volunteering at school programs. There is a current call for volunteers at Math Club and at Movie Day.School Council is participating in the School's Winter Clothing Drive over a two-week period, dates to be determined.School Council is looking at various Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant application options, potentially with other schools. The deadline is November 22, 2024.	Mr. Orsatti

5. Treasurer's Report	The total amount remaining in the parent engagement fund is \$441.30. We started off with \$500 but have spent \$58.70 on refreshments for the November 2024 meeting.	Mr. Orsatti presented the Treasurer's report for S.M.
6. Principal's Report and Discussion	<p>Ms. Alves presented the Principal's Report, which is appended in full to these minutes. Parents are encouraged to review the report for details. Of note, Ms. Alves discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The School is celebrating an improvement in EQAO results – the biggest improvement is in math (22 percent), followed by reading (10 percent), and writing (3 percent). There is still room for continued improvement. The School wants to build on this momentum by having a math club and by purchasing more resources, such as Mathup. The School is also engaging in a school-wide math initiative called "Crack the Code." • To continue improvements in reading, all teachers have now completed Acadience training, which helps to diagnose what intervention method is needed. The School is also continuing with Lexia training for the staff and have sent three junior leads to Professional Development. • The Stem room is up and running. The technology lead teacher is on location, creating a schedule for teachers to come into the room and sign it out. We are training junior students to support younger students in the space. • To support well-being, the School is starting a games club, which models social interactions (e.g. how to lose). • With school generated funds, the School has purchased Mathup licenses, calming supports for kindergarten and children with additional needs, and kindergarten sensory bins. • The School is planning the Lunar New Year and solidifying a date for end of Jan – there was a discussion about ensuring the accessibility of this event. • The School is still working on getting a teacher representative for School Council. • There was a discussion about strategies in place to address behavioural issues. The AIM Program is new this year. CYCP child and youth counsellor – Nick – has been working with eight students with higher needs and supporting the School. 	Ms. Alves
7. Next Meeting Date	The next meeting is set for January 15, 2025 from 6:30-7:30. Meetings will follow HAS.	Mr. Orsatti
8. Adjournment	Motion made by Mr. Orsatti to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Piskuric seconded the motion. Motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.	Mr. Orsatti

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