

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

January 15, 2025

MINUTES

In attendance in person: Sara Alves (Vice Principal) on behalf of herself and Jenn Hogan (Principal), Melanie McPhee (Chair), S.M. (Treasurer), Lisa Feinberg (Secretary), Nicol Piskuric (Home & School Representative), Rosalee van Staalduinen (parent member), Natalia Gonzalez (parent member), Heather Reid, Nicholas Gauthier, Caitlin Burgess, Hillary Peach, Kristina Cote, Mike Malysewich

In attendance via MS Teams: Lisa Feil (teacher representative), Mike B, vpowela, Michala Hornung Zavitz

Regrets: Maria Egwakhide (parent member), Jean Brown (parent member), Renée Massia (parent member), Meredith Shepherd (parent member)

Agenda Item	Comments	Person Responsible
1. Welcome, Introductions, and Land Acknowledgment	School Council meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm. Ms. McPhee read the land acknowledgement.	Melanie McPhee
2. Notice of Minutes from November 12, 2024 Meeting	The minutes from the meeting on November 12, 2024 have been approved by email. They have not yet been posted to the website but will be soon.	Melanie McPhee
3. Review and Approval of Agenda	The agenda was reviewed briefly and the motion to approved was made by Rosalee van Staalduinen, seconded by SM. It was approved unanimously.	Melanie McPhee
4. Chair's Report	Ms. McPhee presented the Chair's report as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">The outgoing Chair is Mitch Orsatti. Mr. Orsatti had to step down due to his scheduling constraints.The new School Council Chair is Melanie McPhee – she has been voted in by email.	Melanie McPhee
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. We still need to put in expenses for reimbursement from the last meeting.	Melanie McPhee presented the Treasurer's report for S.M.

<p>6. Principal's Report and Discussion</p>	<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"> • PRO Grant – the School received approval for the program. It is related to resource toolkits for mental health. • Equity update – the School applied for the CCPI program for teachers to be trained by Dr. Nicole Westwood on cultural pedagogy; 4 educators will be on the staff Equity committee, including DECEs; the School has met with the equity consultant who is supporting us on our vision; Now that the School has a staff equity committee, we are looking to establish school committee; hoping to provide students with a voice, considering a student update/newsletter, will take direction from students • Math – the School is continuing to pursue several initiatives, including “make and take” (projects and bins that you take into classrooms to play with students – a few teachers leading this project – some bins created already); We have release days for grade 3 team provided by the board – supported by EQAO – plan is to roll it out in February or March; For other grades, our board has offered PD sessions at board level – signed seven teachers up for these sessions • Language – the School is pursuing several initiatives in relation to language – it has ordered UFLI manuals (teachers appreciated that to provide students with support for reading); Juniors provided feedback wanted to use a new program, Catching up your Code (similar to UFLI but for older students who have gaps) - two teachers are leading that initiative • School generated funds – related to goals – ordered unlearn posters (media posters that help foster and engage students with critical thinking); purchased some of the sensory packages; Kindergarten play initiatives(sleds); ordered more literary resources; Language manipulatives, such as magnet tiles. • The School is hoping to meet budget goals for grade 5 farewell trip by the end of January, after lunar new year event. • Regarding budgetary – last year the Home and School Association (HSA) donated \$200 for refreshments for Grade 5 Graduation. <p>Following Ms. Alves' presentation, there were a discussion among School Council members about the parents' appreciation for in-school events (such as the holiday concert that took place in Dec. 2024). There was a discussion of how to ensure capacity for open school events and how to ensure representation of all our School's diverse religious and cultural backgrounds. There was a question about the STEM Room – Ms. Alves said that the School was still working on getting the room up and running.</p>	<p>Ms. Alves</p>
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7. New Business	There was a discussion of what to do with the parent engagement fund – there was no final decision, but council members agreed that it should be used to encourage the participation of parents in the school community, e.g. food, stickers, notices, child-minding, etc.	
8. Next Meeting Date	The next meeting is set for March 6, 2025 from 630-730 pm. Meetings will follow the Home and School Association (HSA).	Melanie McPhee
9. Adjournment	Motion made by Melanie McPhee to adjourn the meeting, which was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 was followed by the HSA meeting.	Melanie McPhee