

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

May 12, 2025

MINUTES

In attendance in person: Sara Alves (Vice Principal) on behalf of herself and Jenn Hogan (Principal), Melanie McPhee (Chair), Kristina Cote, Hilary Peach, Lisa Feinberg (Secretary)

In attendance via MS Teams: Rosalee van Staaldin (parent member), Lisa Feil (Teacher representative),

Regrets: S.M. (Treasurer), Natalia Gonzalez (parent member), Jean Brown (parent member), Maria Egwakhide (parent member), Meredith Shepherd (parent member), Nicol Piskuric (Home & School Representative), Renée Massia (parent member)

Agenda Item	Comments	Person Responsible
1. Welcome, Introductions, and Land Acknowledgment	School Council meeting was called to order before the Home and School Association (“HSA”) meeting, around 6:45 pm. Ms. McPhee read the land acknowledgement. School Council did not have quorum, so meeting was informational only.	Melanie McPhee
2. Notice of Minutes from March 6, 2025 Meeting	The minutes from the meeting on March 6, 2025 were approved on May 8, 2025 with minor changes – the final version will be circulated for final review and approval.	Melanie McPhee
3. Review and Approval of Agenda	The agenda was reviewed and approved.	Melanie McPhee
4. Chair’s Report	Ms. McPhee presented the Chair’s report as follows: • Pro (Parents Reaching Out) Grant Update: Pro Grant Funds are proposed to be used to buy Math Manipulative Kits for Grade 3 students ○ Math Manipulative Kits– hands on tools to give children more tangible way to understand concepts. ○ Examples ▪ Achieve it! Kits – game cards ▪ Pattern block kits – to get engagement buildings – we are getting 6 kits. ▪ Canadian currency exchange – till full of play money to use at home.	Melanie McPhee

	○ Distribution from school to home, with feedback to be solicited from parents • Considering math nights to use the kits early next year as well. • Pro-Grant – used \$739.40 for non-consumables (achieve it! kits, pattern blocks, currency exchanges) and intend to allocate \$160.60 for consumables (worksheets, photocopies, resource sheets)	
5. Treasurer's Report	• Treasurer donated snacks, so the full \$500 of funds is still intact • Funds will not carry over to the next year. • Discussion regarding how to use funds – Discussion about whether to use the funds to buy food for either of Kindergarten orientation or open house to enhance parent engagement	Melanie McPhee on behalf of S.M.
6. Principal's Report and Discussion	Ms. Alves presented the Principal's Report, which is appended in full to these minutes. Of note, she discussed the following: • Equity update ○ Black fire invited to School Board to share the land acknowledgement they created. ○ Every month new EDI topic – Character Assemblies upcoming in May and June • School improvement ○ Parent who is McMaster prof who volunteered for a half day to teach teachers how to use STEM room ○ Have board coding PD ○ Have rolling release PD for specific classrooms with high exceptionalities ○ Culture of Improvement: Using Acadience for teacher intervention. Also provided release for Ggrade 1 students, noting that the biggest gap is from Kindergarten to Grade 2. • Culture of Celebration: Kindergarten orientation on Tuesday May 13th, Open house on Thurs May 15th, EQAO – May 20-30, Library books due – June 9th, Track and Field – June 19th (rain date – June 20th), Grade 5 Trip – June 23, Report Cards – June 25th • There was a question about the painting in the front entrance and first floor. Still in progress – needs another quote. The interactive whiteboard has been posted.	Ms. Alves on behalf Ms. Hogan
7. New Business	The following new business was discussed: • Dates for next year School Council meeting – needs to be canvassed with school administration • School Council attendance at Kindergarten orientation and the School open house	Melanie McPhee
8. Next Meeting Date	The next meeting will be set for late Sept/early Oct in consultation with School administration.	Melanie McPhee

8. Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm and was followed by HSA meeting.	Melanie McPhee