

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

September 19, 2024

MINUTES

In attendance in person: Jenn Hogan (Principal), Sara Alves (Vice Principal), Matt Lindo (Chair), Rosalee van Staalduinen (parent member), Lily Huang (parent member), Nicol Piskuric (Home & School Representative), S.M., Mitch Orsatti, Michaela Hornung-Zavitz, Nicholas Gauthier, Natalia Gonzalez, Kristina Cote, Natalia Gonzalez, Heather Reid, Caitlin Burgess, Maria Egwakhide, Ben Garder, Hillary Peach, Mike Malysewich, Laura Malysewich, Andrea Ara, Chanti Babi, Meredith Shepherd, Hong Jiang Yu, Bill Killorn, Jesse Tomes, Jean Brown, Emma Battiston

In attendance via MS Teams: No one.

Regrets: Anneli Thomson (Treasurer), Lisa Feinberg (Secretary), Heather Ricks (parent member)

Agenda Item	Comments	Person Responsible
1. Welcome, Introductions, and Land Acknowledgment	Called to order at 6:09 p.m. Mr. Lindo presented the land acknowledgement.	Mr. Lindo
2. Notice of Minutes from April 11, 2024 Meeting	The minutes from the meeting on April 11, 2024 have been approved by email and were posted online.	Mr. Lindo
3. Review and Approval of Agenda	Ms. van Staalduinen moved to approve the agenda. Ms. Huang seconded the motion. Motion was carried and the agenda was approved.	Mr. Lindo
4. Chair's Report	Mr. Lindo presented the Chair's report. Mr. Lindo reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you's to 2023-2024 School Council (SC) members and Admin. • What is a school council? It is required by Ontario legislation (Education Act Regulation 612). The role is to: advise Admin and the school board, encourage community and parent involvement, put student interests first, provide input to the School Improvement Plan, and provide input to the school's annual fundraising plan. SC works with Home and School Association (HSA) and Administration. The SC start-up event is October 15, 2024, hosted by HWDSB. • Since our last meeting: 	Mr. Lindo

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Resource Fair wasn't able to run, due to lack of volunteer support in organizing the event. ○ Youth Mental Health Workshop, led by Sheryl Boswell, took place as a result of the awarded Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant. The focus was on the importance of mental health and strategies for creating a mental health plan as a family. Please contact Mr. Lindo if you would like access to the resources shared by Sheryl. ● Upcoming things to know: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ PRO Grant deadline is November 22nd. 	
5. Treasurer's Report	SC receives \$500 each year for the purpose of parent outreach. SC has \$204.38 remaining in the parent engagement fund from last year and will receive \$500 for 2024-2025.	Mr. Lindo for Ms. Thomson
6. Home and School Association's Report	<p>Ms. Piskuric presented the HSA report. She noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HSA compliments SC and Admin. ● The goal of HSA is for students to have fun and build community. As such, HSA runs events and raises money for families in need, and provide funds for school trips and the Grade 5 farewell. ● 2023-2024 Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Outdoor playground improvements: Spent \$14,000 to buy a shed, paid for spray painted games on the pavement, and for purchased equipment. 	Ms. Piskuric
7. 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"> ● School Improvement Plan Updates: Cootes will be focusing on this during the PA Day on September 20th. Cootes's plan is in line with HWDSB's identified goals. Cootes will be focusing on improving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) reading and literacy, b) writing, c) numeracy achievement for every student, d) preparedness for the future of every student, e) engagement for every student, and f) well-being for every student. ● Cootes purchased 40 laptops last year. ● Student Leadership Group has been extended to Grade 4. ● Cootes has an Equity Team. ● Character Assemblies will continue this year, which will be connected to equity themes. ● Upcoming Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Meet the Staff on September 26th b) National Truth and Reconciliation Day on September 30th c) HWDSB Cross Country on October 8th 	Ms. Alves

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fundraising initiatives were not presented during the meeting, but are appended to these Minutes. 	
8. New Business	<p>Mr. Lindo presented the following discussion items:</p> <p>a. School Council Elections 2024-2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominations received in advance for: S.M., Melanie McPhee, Rosalee van Staalduinen, Lisa Feinberg (Secretary), and Renee Massia. No nominations were received in advance for the role of Chair. Mitch Orsatti nominated himself for the role of Chair during the meeting. A vote by taken (by show of hands) and Mitch was voted to the role of Chair. Lisa Feinberg was nominated to be Secretary and she agreed to accept the role in advance. Lisa was voted to the role by majority vote. S.M. agreed to serve in the role of Treasurer and was voted to the role by majority of vote. Parent Members: Rosalee van Staalduinen, Melanie McPhee, Renee Massia, Natalia Gonzolaz, Maria Egwakhide, Jean Brown, and Meredith Shepherd. All Parent Members were voted in by majority vote. Teacher Representative Role: Admin has presented this opportunity to staff and will discuss it further at the PA Day tomorrow. Stay tuned! <p>b. Hopes and Goals for School Council/Parent & Guardian Engagement for 2024-2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Lindo noted that this item will be deferred to the incoming SC. 	Mr. Lindo
9. Next Meeting Date	The next meeting is set for November, TBD.	Mr. Lindo
10. Adjournment	Motion made by Ms. van Staalduinen to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Piskuric seconded the motion. Motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.	Mr. Lindo