

EARL HAIG SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

November 20, 2019

ATTENDEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE			MEMBERS AT LARGE	
Name	Role	In Attendance	Name	In Attendance
Shannon Butcher	Co-Chair	Y	Jen Barnes	Y
Barb Bower	Past Chair	N	Keith Gould	N
Nicole Lambe	Co-Treasurer	Y	Sally Jacquart	N
Stephanie Little	Co-Treasurer	N	Sherry Lin	Y
Cleo Buster	Secretary	N	Tanya Mustachi	Y
Michelle Loney	e-Communications	Y	Rayna Shienfield	N
Karen Simpson	e-Communications	Y	Jade Shulist	Y
Sarah Farrell	Ward 16 Council Co-Representative	Y	Diana Sousa	N
Rosalyn Wise	Ward 16 Council Co-Representative	Y	Anita Tsang	N
Polly Vandenberg	Fundraising Lead	Y	Tuyen Tran	N
Jo Anne Gould	Technology Officer	N	Christopher Vincente	N
Nupur Deonarine	Advocacy Lead	Y		
Pilar Hernandez	Nutrition Lead	N		
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	Principal Jonathan Root			
	VP Richard Ng			

OTHER ATTENDEES David Lovisek, Jeun Lee, Ms Wheeler

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Welcoming Remarks & Introductions

- Mr. Root commented that we need more support for our students with special needs: He recently heard the phrase: "Inclusion without support is abandonment" and thinks this is very true.
- Parent Question: Is there something the parent community can be doing to move support for kids with extra needs forward. Mr. Root is going to let us know.

2. Treasurer Report – Stephanie Little and Nicole Lamb

- Scientists in the Schools
 - Mrs. Wheeler reached out to all the staff/teachers and everyone felt that Sci-Hi is not appropriate for our grade levels. So they would like to go with the same group that we have used in the past
 - School is not able to ask parents for money for this event like we do for other field trips
 - Total needed: \$205/per class room so TOTAL is \$5, 330
 - Question: Does every class get it? YES
 - Council voted unanimously to fund Scientists in the School again.
- Teacher \$100 classroom gifts
 - Council voted unanimously to Proceed with a gift to Teachers of \$100 to spend on what they want for their classrooms.
 - 32-35 classrooms/teachers TOTAL \$3,200 – \$3,500

3. Fundraising Report – Polly Vandenberg

- Technology Fundraising
 - List of what the teachers/staff would like to fund
 - Think of it as a long-term plan
 - The Board has special rates for various items of Technology
 - Question: Is there an IT person that can work on taking care of technology, up-keep, trouble-shooting? Answer: 1 extra prep period a week to work on IT
 - 75 i-pads = 1 per every 9 students
 - Do we want to go for another big goal of \$25,000 + ?
 - Are we going to run into resistance from the parent community?
 - Can tax receipts be issued for donations again? It was noted that it might need to be for a certain amount \$20 or \$25?

- Council agreed to putting efforts towards fundraising for technology
- Goal is to have everything ready for Christmas for kids to take home. Tech is a good driver.
- Nice to have information for parents/caregivers: What we have. What we want and what new tech. will be used for.
- Mr. Root – is going to work on getting this information ready to go home with kids for the Holidays.

4. 2019 Events

- Principal for the day
 - Draw is happening tomorrow. Takes place on Friday.
- Pizza Lunch
 - Is moving along. 1 child that didn't receive lunch but everything got it rectified with the parents.
- Apparel
 - Tukes and T-shirts could be
- Caregiver Information Night – Andrea Szego
 - Public Health Nurse – it is looking like it might be in the New Year
 - Series: Andrea to discuss dates
- Movie Night – Sally Jaquert - (December 5th)
 - Showing Toy Story 4
 - Backpack stuffers going home this week
 - Using Munch-a-lunch for on-line ordering
 - Need more volunteers for during the day
 - Raffle for premium concert seats at Movie Night
- Winter Concert - (December 11 & 19) Shannon Butcher
 - Last year we sold muffins/croissants.
 - It was noted that there is No Food in Auditorium. However, there is an entry area where concessions can be sold.
 - Andrea willing to head up food sales for this.

5. 2020 Events

- Bottle Drive (January 4th)
 - Shannon confirmed that Beer Store on Woodbine confirmed that we can do a bottle drive 4th or 11th of January
 - Has worked well in the past to do it on the 4th move forward with the 4th
 - Shannon will send out another message closer to the time with details and volunteer sign-up
 - The message will be that we are raising money for technology at our school
- Dance-a-Thon (January 16th?)
 - Date to be confirmed.
 - Diane – Dance-a-thon raised +/- 23,000 last year, thinks it is a worth-while goal
- Cup Cake Sale
 - .1 February 13th, 2020
 - .2 Jade is going to lead this event
- Food Around the World Potluck
 - .1 February 25th? Date TBD
 - .2 Is this too close to the cup cake sale date?
- The Marlies Game (TBD)

- Ms. Whaley was trying to find out if the Choir could sing at the Marlies game
- Shannon still thinks we should try to go - Tara has done this in the past. Nicole volunteered to take this on.
- More Ideas for new events are always welcome!

6. Nutrition Report – Pilar Hernandez

- Working with Mrs. Arseneau to put together a monthly report
- Want to make sure our wonderful volunteers are supported because it wouldn't run without them.
- Collection for Christmas Bonus for the volunteer parents that run the snack program. More information to come.

7. Advocacy Report – Nupur Deonarine

- A letter is being issued today.
- Nov. 26th, 2019 at 8:30am there is going to be another walk-in. She will send out some information through Michelle.
- Key ways negotiations happen – trying to split the teacher community from the parent community. Show a unified front.
- How we can show our support: Get red felt cut into squares and put it on your kid's backpack.
- Could we use the display board at the front of the school with parents signatures to show their support
- Data about how cuts are specifically impacting our children and our school.
- Parent Question – will the work action impact the Grade 8 trip?
 - Mr. Root - So far there is nothing noting that Outdoor Ed will be cancelled. They have been told that Outdoor Ed will continue.
 - Teachers will not fill out certain parts of the report cards, or attend staff meetings

8. Ward 16 Council Representative - Rosalyn Wise

- First Meeting tomorrow – will bring up Wi-Fi issue
- A lot of classes pushing the caps this year – it was a high school
- French – we have classes that are over the 20 students
- Rule by the board – 1, 2, or 3 should be capped at 20 students / Mr. Root noted up to 10% percent of the classes they have can go up to 23 students. We are forced to have 3/4 splits.

9. Communication Report – Karen Simpson and Michelle Loney

- We have an email message open rate of 50-58%, which is great!
- Sherry – including more French in school communications – to start it would be great to simply include French in the intro to the news letters: “Welcome”/ “Bienvenue”. Earl Haig School / École Earl Haig.
- Preparing XMAS cards with fake \$100 bills inside for the \$100 gift to teachers to use as they see fit in their classrooms.

10. Tech Stuff – JoAnne

- New domain for Earl Haig – set-up a bunch of new emails for people to use
- Keen to get TSDB Wi-Fi. Still need permission. It was suggested that we ask at the Ward Council meeting – with the Trustee present etc.
- What does that give us in regards to the academic work-space
- Council agreed to Project the minutes vs. printing the minutes for the meetings moving forward.
- JoAnne proposed Facebook streaming of meeting so that people could watch it from home. What does the council think of this idea? There was a positive response. It would be used just for streaming. Not for comments coming in. Could just be sound not necessarily live video. Could also project the agendas and the things we are looking at.

11. Old Business - Shannon

- Previous Meeting Minutes –Shannon to send to Sherry and Tanya for them to read and approve/edit as necessary
- Storage Room still needs to be organized and cleaned. Need several volunteers to do this. Might need to be parents who are available during the day because it needs to be done when the school is open. Tuyen, Polly, Andrea all volunteered to help.
- PALS is done through the public health nurse. Raquel would come in. It is free. Richard is still looking for a teacher at Earl Haig to head this up. A Public Health Nurse would come in and teach one of the Earl Haig staff, who would then teach several older students.

PRINCIPAL AND TEACHER REMARKS - Mr. Root, Mr. Ng, Ms. Wheeler

1. School Updates

- .1 We have a new Head Caretaker for Earl Haig – He is the 8th person that has been here since Mr. Root started. Hoping this will be a successful match for Earl Haig. His name is Hassan Shakoor.
- .2 Grade 8 events – outdoor experience 5-8th of December. They will be going to Etobicoke Outdoor Education Centre, Albion Heights (EOEC). There are 4 teachers ready to go for this event.

2. Kindergarten Concert

- .1 Primary Concert will be at Monarch Park CI Auditorium on December 11th at 7:00pm. It will happen separately this year because there were so many parents that lined up without seats last year.
Student helpers – takes a lot of coordination with Monarch Park staff.
Concerns about sound – but they are working on that to make sure little voices are not lost in the bigger theatre.
Mr. Root took Monarch Park staff pumpkins & honey as a Thank you.
There may be some extra expenses around this, for example, if they have a caretaker that has to stay later that night to close the building after the concert.
Thank you to the teachers for this extra work. Maybe the council can do something? If the council doesn't, Mr. Root will.
- .2 Kindergarten Concert Parent questions: which Kindergartens are participating in the Winter Concert?
Rooms 2, A, B, C, 5, & 6 on December 19th at 6:15pm.
A parent noted it would be helpful to have the teacher's name on printed information along with the classroom number.
Sherry – How many Kindergarteners do we have? Is there a maximum number of people allowed in the Gymnasium in terms of Fire safety? The occupancy number should be posted in the Gym.
29 students/per class and we have 6 classes. Is there a maximum amount of guests you can invite to the concert? This could help keep the numbers down and allow immediate families to get seats. There were some feelings that this would seem too heavy handed.

3. Safety

- .1 Fire Drills and Lockdown drills –The school has completed 3 Fire Drills and 1 Lockdown Drill for the Fall term 2019 and will do the same again for the Spring term 2020. The lockdown drill was in September. The teachers are instructed to lock their classroom doors and stay quietly in their classrooms until notified. Mr. Root goes around the school and checks that all the doors are locked.
- .2 Is it possible to inform parents/caregivers before a drill happens or at least afterwards so that they can help discuss any questions or concerns with their children?
Could we do a blog post about this so that all parents understand what is happening?

4. Facility Improvements

- .1 Barrier free access is the main goal we are working on this year. Lower handrails – already spoke to this at the last meeting
- .2 Had another Barrier Free meeting - other improvements will include: braille writing, lower toilets, supports for visually impaired.

5. Budget

- .1 We have to manage an \$8/ reduction per child in our budget this year.
- .2 A list of I.T. resources and prices is being shared tonight with parents for consideration

6. Lunch

- .1 Manners in the lunchroom: Reminders to get your children to clear the table, set the table, organize the winter boots, all these activities will help children learn how to behave in other situations, for example, in the lunchroom, helping the staff in the lunchroom to keep the cafeteria clean.

7. Envision Conference - Ms Wheeler

- .1 Envision is a conference for Educators and Students – part of the LGBTQ community

- .2 Ms. Wheeler went to this conference. Lead Special Ed teacher. Have specialists that come once a week to meet with the EH staff. Leadership team – meeting with the 3 POR's, Extra-curricular Activities

8. Work to Rule – Ms. Wheeler

- .1 Begins on November 26th
- .2 Coming up with a common early learning program using the Wilson Reading Program
- .3 Negotiations have not gone well
- .4 Teachers at Earl Haig seem very united – it is about the cutbacks and things that hurt the kids and not about money and salaries.

9. New Business

1. Lead Water Testing –
Parent Question: When was the last time our school was tested?
Recent article done by Toronto Star/ Ryerson University:
<https://globalnews.ca/news/6107982/ontario-schools-daycares-lead-levels/>
Ms. Wheeler noted there is no acceptable amount of lead
Mr. Root noted that EH tested 3% above the provincial allowable level.
Mr. Root asked for new drinking fountains to be installed when he first started at EH. It has been over a year since Mr. Root asked about this. No progress has been made.
2. February 20th, 2020 at 6:30pm - Hosting the Director of Education and 2 Trustees
3. Parent question: When does the first French Cohort leave? – up through 6
4. Does the Equipment that Mr. Taylor is getting for recess include the picnic tables? Answer: No.

Minutes prepared by Cleo Buster

Upcoming Meetings: January, 21st, 2020, February 19th, 2020

Connect with us online:



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