



Home and School General Meeting Minutes

Date: May 31st, 2023. Library. Start time: 5:00 pm

Attendees: Catherine Fini, Natalie Maurice, Olivia Hutchins, Stephanie Nicolaou, Nadia Wendowsky, Erica Ranjitsingh, Sue Rack, Kirsten Neilson, Malvina Spaleny

1. Opening remarks: welcome members and non-members/
regrets/Quorum/Attendance/Voting procedures.

2. Approval of agenda for May 31st, 2023. Motion by 1-Sue 2-Malvina. All in favour.

3. Approval of minutes from April 3rd, 2023. Motion by 1-Erica 2-Stephanie. All in favour.

4. Reports:

4.1 President's report/members update (Catherine)

- Great feedback from the "Thank You Volunteers" assembly. Everyone felt very special.
- It has been a busy year for Home and School, including our traditional events and fundraisers such as Art Gala, Super Recyclers, pizza lunches etc.
- New events and fundraisers this year included the Spooky Pumpkin Patch, Big Book of Cards, in-person Scholastic bookfairs and much more.
- Other new: Library was open again, orange BH field trip tees were purchased, and we introduced a new mascot! Our mascot logo can be found on grey spirit wear tees, supplied by our new clothing supplier Royal Blush Apparel. We also introduced Merenda hot meal service. We are looking forward to some fresh ideas for 2023-24. Perhaps a Spooky Hill Halloween Dance. Please look out for the H&S' Annual President's report for a full breakdown of how funds were raised and how the funds were used (coming end of June).
- Gathering volunteers has been challenging. Police checks took awhile to get back, however we still experienced issues securing volunteers at our events end of the school year. Stephanie is putting together a volunteer survey to send to families. We are looking for feedback from parents on what they may like/not like about volunteering and how we can improve communications.

4.2 Treasurer's report & Budget (Catherine for Neil)

- Art Gala brought in 4640\$. The Music department (Mrs. A) was able to purchase items in the amount of 4000\$, leaving some funds for future 'music' related purchases.
- Teachers Wishlist: High at approx 5000\$ this year. This is due to bigger purchase items such as the carpet and chair for library, as well as the orange field trip tees (all 300 replaced)
- Jungle Sport: this event did not happen as they cancelled due to low staff. Part of the original \$3000 that was set to fund Jungle Sport was used to fund the Luc B performance instead (in recognition of Black History Month). The \$1750 line item of the budget reflects the balance (\$3k-\$1250).

4.3 Principal's report (Mrs. Maurice)

- We are expecting approximately 300 students for 2023/24, including a big turnout for kindergarten (K4 – 19 students)
- June 5th we are new students for an orientation
- Thank you to the Home & School for all your hard work.

4.4 Teacher representative report (Catherine for Mr. Lag)

- There are 6 benches (in the gymnasium) that need to be sanded. Catherine will send an email out to parents requesting help. Ideally, we would like this done by end of June.

5. Business arising from April minutes:

5.1 Art Gala update (Catherine)

- Should we continue with the annual Art Gala next school year? Mrs. Maurice will consult with staff council to confirm.
- If this is a go, we will provide staff with the theme and staff project by October to allow ample time.
- Regarding the staff treasure boxes this year, this was a lot of work for them and we are looking at alternate ideas next time around.
- Kirsten N mentioned that Stewart Hall cultural center is a possible resource – mini field trips with students to create art work? A concern is if they can accommodate working with different art forms as this is what makes the Art Gala unique and interesting.
- Can we look at a possible art grant?

5.2 Book Fair update (Catherine)

- All funds go into the Scholastic fund for the Staff. We raised 5000\$ in profit from the April book fair! Teachers can purchase shelving, new books, new science equipment... We will continue this fundraiser twice a year.

6.Coordinator Reports:

6.1 Grade 6 Graduation (Sue)

- Graduation ceremony and party is on June 16th
- Felix and Norton cookie fundraiser is underway. Pick up is June 9th at the school.
- The committee will hold its first grad meeting at the end of this school year to establish the budget and vision for 2024 grads.

6.2 New school clothing/mascot (Catherine)

- Royal Blush Apparel has finalized the BH collection on their website – easy ordering directly from their website at any time.
- Delivery within 2-5 days.
- Parents can have their child's name printed on the sleeve.
- New items include caps, sweatshirts with no hoods, grey mascot tee.
- Delivery fee for orders under 50\$ is 7.99\$ - suggestion is to order with a friend. Catherine will look into a possible bulk order pickup to avoid shipping costs.

6.3 School Supplies Fundraiser (Catherine)

- The Editions Vaudreuil site will open to families on June 24th. We typically raise approximately 500\$ with only a 30% participation rate. If we can increase sales to \$10k+ before taxes, H&S will earn 7.5% on sales (from 5%). A comment was made regarding the June 24th date, as well as the mid-July order deadline. We have asked Ed V to open the site sooner, but due to staffing resources they cannot. All schools open on the same date. As for the order by date, this is non-negotiable as well, since they require adequate time to prepare all orders. H&S volunteers to take over delivery of boxes on August 23rd pickup date.

6.4 End of year Picnic/Book fair (Catherine)

- Planned for June 6th with a rain date of June 7th
- Everblast is coming with 12 carnival games, hamster ball, archery & 3 animators.
- 2 volunteers per shift required to supervise the games.
- The mascot will be revealed.
- New parents received the picnic invite via email.
- Scholastic cases are back for a 2 for 1 sale. If \$1500 in sales teachers can choose books in the amount of 20% of our sales.
- Lost and found will be set up outside

6.5 Library (Catherine for Bessie)

- Some great purchases were made! A green velvet chair, 8x10 carpet, display case.
- Coming soon is a mural/stencils on the top shelves. H&S has allocated 4000\$ for this (and stencils on the library glass, as well as near the gym). Studio West is working on this.
- Bessie was a huge help as our library coordinator. She helped our librarian with various tasks throughout the year (more on this in my 'final word').

6.6 Staff appreciation end of year lunch (Erica)

- Wed, June 14th is the planned date for the lunch.
- Simple lunch whereby all staff can grab their food.
- Bossa will be used again (sandwiches), and side salads, drinks and desserts will be purchased.
- There was approx. \$1200 left in the Staff Appreciation budget before the year end lunch.

6.7 Hot food service with Merenda (Catherine)

- Positive feedback so far from parents and staff alike.
- Parents must send child with their own cutlery; this has been an issue.
- Staff council agrees– twice a week is a go, if we can secure enough volunteers.
- We need 2-3 parents per lunch service. Perhaps we have 6-8 parents on rotation from 11:15-12:00. We will send a message out.

6.8 Super Recyclers (Catherine for Melissa L)

- 134\$ was raised on May 24th.
- We will continue this fundraiser twice a year in the fall and spring.
- Encourages donations of items, which is good for the environment!

6.9 Pizza Lunch (Catherine for Bitu)

- We will continue with the cheese only option since this is easier for the volunteers to manage.
- Dominos increased the price per pizza by \$0.25 in Feb 2023. If we do not raise the price to families, we risk losing \$1500 in fundraising dollars.
- Motion to increase pizza cost to \$5.25 per pizza beginning in September 2023. 1- Erica 2-Nadia. All in favour.

7. New business/Open Floor/Question period (H & S related items):

7.1 Welcome back event for all students (Erica)

- 1st week at school – photo booth or props?
- Should we continue with a traditional photo as we did in 2022?
- We will discuss ideas with Mrs. Maurice before August.

7.2 Fall activity (Catherine)

- There is an appetite to have another event around Halloween.
- Should we consider a Spooky Hill Halloween Dance this year?
- Grade 6 could host a bake sale at the event to raise funds for grad?
- Erica suggested a Trunk or Treat.
- We will reach out to this year's fall event committee and come up with a plan.

7.3 Ongoing fundraisers and next year's major fundraising goal

- Continue to promote more on Facebook (Lovable Labels, Flipgive, True Earth)
- We made 3000\$ on Big Box of cards – next year no need to send out samples
- Major fundraising goal to be decided.

7.4 2023/2024 Exec and coordinator roles to fill

- Catherine can stay on as president for another 2-year term
- Olivia has accepted to be our treasurer for 2-year term
- Erica R will join in the VP role for a 2-year term
- Stephanie N and Nadia W have 1 more year remaining in their term
- This is all pending a vote at the AGM in September. All parents are welcome to nominate themselves for any executive roles.

7.5 AGM

- Our in-person AGM and first H&S general meeting will be held on Mon, September 11th.

Open Floor:

- New project idea: paving asphalt and repainting basketball court? Catherine will see about obtaining quotes once the building inspector has come by. We can borrow stencils from another school and use spray paint for the backboards.
- Kirsten raised the idea of holding a movie fundraiser with a basketball theme (Space Jam?). Movie on a projector, and she has offered to make bags of popcorn to sell.
- Catherine mentioned that we need to limit our fundraisers. We should be conscious of when and how many fundraisers we hold. It can be a lot of asks

between the H&S and school-related fundraisers. That said, all new ideas are welcome, it just means we forego a traditional fundraiser for a new and improved one.

- Kirsten suggested we advise parents when/if they can bring younger kids along when volunteering. It's not always possible but maybe this would increase volunteer participation?

8. Call to action:

8.1 Call out to fill coordinator roles for next year: Tell your friends!

8.2 Final word

Thank you to Mr. Lag, our loyal teacher liaison, to Mrs Maurice and Mrs. Lynn for their continued support this past school year. Thank you to all volunteers who lent a hand, sent in donations, offered support and contributed at our meetings. Thank you to our treasurer Neil Linsdell who has completed (officially in Sept 2023) 2 terms of 2 years each.

Every year our H&S has the opportunity to highlight dedicated volunteers (parents, staff, or students) who are actively involved in everyday school life, who are helpful and reliable, and who take on additional responsibilities when the need arises. A very special mention goes to the following recipients of the 'Unsung' Hero Award for the 2022/23 school year.

1) Erica Ranjitsingh:

Thank you for taking on so much this year; staff appreciation coordinator, welcome back hot air balloons and photos for kids, Spooky Hill 'witches brew' photo booth, holiday market coordinator, open house set up, library volunteer, help with the book fair, art gala set up and yet another 'safari' themed photo booth. You are full of great ideas and initiative, and we are so lucky to have you on our H&S.

2) Bessie Michael:

Bessie has been such a huge support this year. She has helped out with the book fair, the art gala decorating committee, with research into new school pinnies, and most notably as our very dedicated library coordinator. From training the volunteers, stepping in to cover shifts, book covering, inventory, beautifying the space, creating a wonderful book mark display, encouraging the grade 6ers to write gratitude posts, reading to the students with such passion, helping Cassandra out with her tasks, and getting the kids EXCITED about reading. Congratulations to Bessie, this is very well deserved!

3)Grade 6 Kindness Committee:

Their contributions to the Home and School Association this past year were very much appreciated! They stepped in to lend a hand at many of our events and activities, such as the Spooky Hill Pumpkin Patch where they created signs, coordinated games, and handed out trick or treat bags. They also created a beautiful countdown poster for our Holiday Shop event, and walked around class to class many times to promote our fundraisers, such as the eggies in a jar, and our sponsored child.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer.

9.Meeting adjourned at 6:22 PM

Motion to adjourn: 1- Stephanie 2 – Erica. All in favour.

Next meeting: AGM/First H&S meeting September 11, 2023