



Home and School General Meeting Minutes

Date: September 11th, 2023. Library. Start time: 7:20 pm

Attendees: Catherine Fini, Natalie Maurice, Olivia Hutchins, Stephanie Nicolaou, Erica Ranjitsingh, Arnaituk Gagnon-Auclair, Julie Latendresse, Bessie Michael, Derek Lagimodiere, Samantha Cinquino, Lisa Taylor, Marjolaine Alloï, Alexandra Kindrat, Neil Linsdell, Georgianna Karamitos.

1) Opening remarks:

- We already went through the voting procedure.
- Quorum for general meetings is 7 members, quorum is met.
- Secretary - has attendance.

2) Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda, 1- Lisa, 2- Julie. All in favor.

3) Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve minutes from meeting May 2023 (sent electronically), 1- Erica, 2- Stephanie. All in favor.

4) Reports

4.1) President's report: (Catherine)

- Members: currently at 40 as of Sep 9th. Draw for gift bag to families who sign up before Aug 15/Sep 15. First draw before Aug 15 won by Lisa Pietersma.
- Calendar of forecasted events is on BH school website.
- Volunteering: look out for TTSU for the library, Halloween bash etc.
- Bring back Google Calendar – we may ask this in an upcoming survey to see if there is an appetite for it.

4.2) Treasurer's report: (budget for 2023-24) Neil already discussed in AGM.

4.3) Principal's report: (Mrs. Maurice)

- What a great start to the school year! It has been a very warm entry to say the least – summer does not want to let go just yet. We had our Curriculum Evening on Tuesday, August 29th – before school started. The feedback from the community and staff was very positive. It was great to meet the teachers, bring the student's supplies in and have a chance to ask questions. It is a practice that we will keep moving forward.
- Thank you Home and School! Thank you for organizing the Editions Vaudreuil fundraiser and pick up evening. Thank you for the breakfast treats on the

Monday, August 29th. Everything was delicious and enjoyed by staff. Thank you to Erica for setting up the front entrance way for the opening days. As well, thank you to the volunteers for taking pictures of all the students – what a great souvenir to have! Thank you for organizing the pizza lunches and TCBY for the year, and the hot lunches. Parents and students will both enjoy these treats!

- Kindness Committee 2023-24. Julia and I are currently in the process of recruiting and forming the Kindness Committee. We look forward to having a partnership with Home and School to help with events! I am looking forward to working with you all for another great year.
- We are currently at 285 students, the population has settled, we lost some students this year because they moved away.
- Tomorrow we are hosting Everblast, fun day for K4-Gr6.
- Lots of things coming up - Terry Fox on the 21st, followed by student photos, student count, and orange shirt day.
- We have a new librarian and are in the process of getting it up and running.
- We plan to continue our monthly assemblies, with focus on virtues, kindness, talent etc.
- We have also begun safety drills.
- We welcome a new custodian, Mr. Tony. Mr. Kevin has taken a position at another school.

4.4) Teacher's representative report: (Mr Lag)

- Thank you, Mr. Lag, for coming back as our teacher liaison.
- No teacher wish list items yet.
- Terry Fox on Thurs, Sep 21st. Popsicles & gift cards provided by H&S: Popsicles 12 boxes Lolli Chapman, 10\$ Indigo gift cards – 1 per class for a total 16.
- What time do we need volunteers to arrive? Mr. Lag will confirm.
- We have 6 volunteers - Alexandra, Olivia, Julie, Georgiana, Bessie and Stephanie. Thank you!

5) Business Arising (from May minutes)

5.1) Everblast:

- Welcome back picnic is hard to coordinate as we have a lot going on at the start of the school year, and we do have the family Halloween event coming soon anyways.
- Mrs Maurice agreed that team building activities was a good idea instead of the welcome back picnic. Everblast is coming on Sep 12th with each class on a 1.5hr rotation.
- June 4th/5th – we will have our picnic with Wild Willy's and Everblast, carnival picnic style.

5.2) Plans for balance of Art Gala \$:

- The Art Gala was our biggest event last year. Profits donated to the music department.
- With the money left over, Mrs. A would like to use that towards the clarinet repairs (\$776.08). There was approx. \$500 left, so we are voting to cover the full amount of \$776.08.
- Motion to approve. 1- Georgianna, 2- Marg. All in favor.

5.3) Volunteer Survey: online

- To better understand the barriers to join or volunteer at H&S events, and what parents like/dislike.
- To bridge the gap of what we actually do.
- To tailor communications.
- Ready for beginning of October.

6) Coordinator Reports:

6.1) School Supplies: (Stephanie N)

- Pickup was at the school from 5-630pm. This year we took over distribution of boxes and it went so much smoother, was much more efficient.
- Cheque will be sent in Oct: commission received for sales under \$10k is 5%, over 7.5%
- We had 100 orders, which is more than in the past.
- We had good feedback from parents.
- The website is old but other than that we did not receive any negative feedback
- Next year we would recommend just 1 hour since 1.5 was not needed

6.2) School Clothing: (Catherine)

- As a reminder, used clothing pre-bundles are no longer available (too labour intensive to maintain).
- We encourage parents to offer to friends, create group chats per grade.
- Idea to post on BH Facebook page directly? Concerns were raised that this may take attention away from important school and H&S reminders-Catherine to discuss with Mrs Maurice
- Royal Blush has had good feedback – kids loving the name on the sleeve and the new mascot on the grey t-shirt

6.3) Welcome back display/photos: (Erica)

- Volunteers helped take photos the first week of school, which will be printed and distributed to all students.
- The theme was airplanes and checking into a new school year.
- Thank you, Erica, for the creative idea!

6.4) Staff Appreciation welcome back treats: (Erica)

- On August 28th we welcomed back the BH staff with a breakfast spread. The students were not in the school yet, and the treats were enjoyed by all staff in the building.

6.5) Pizza: (Catherine for Bit)

- Same process as last year-volunteers in on Friday to distribute. Cheese only.
- The price is slightly higher for round 1 in September due to a supplier increase. Price increase approved by GB
- Offering pizza every Friday to ease confusion (2 extra Fridays)
- Dominos has raised prices yet again. Our cost is \$4.03, and parents are being charged \$5.38 (\$70/13 dates in round 1). Our anticipated profit is \$10k (our biggest fundraiser), and if we do not increase price to \$6 for round 2 dates (starting in Feb, 2024), we will lose out on approx. \$2200 profit.
- To compare, Sherbrooke Academy charges \$10 for 2 slices (Pizza Pizza and their cost is approx. \$6.75).
- Motion to increase price to \$6 per pizza for round 2 (\$90 for 15 dates/ 0.62\$ increase), 1 – Lisa, 2 – Stephanie. All in favor.

6.6) Scholastic book fair: (Stephanie)

- Oct 16th-20th, and evening Oct 27th during the Halloween Dance
- Cases will be delivered on Oct 11th and will be picked up Nov 2nd.
- Need a lot of volunteers to run this event. TTSU coming soon
- Must consider Cross Country run the 18th for grades 4-6, so those grades will choose slots accordingly, same as last year

6.7) Halloween Event: (Erica)

- Oct 27th 5-8pm
- Welcome back families/ Spooky Hill Halloween Bash.
- Dance in the gym, games, trunk of treat, snacks or food truck? TBD once the committee meets
- Trunk or Treat – parents will decorate their trunks and kids will trick or treat – candy provided by the H&S. Sign-up sheet for this as we have limited parking spots.

6.8) Grade 6 Grad: (Bessie for Katia)

- No formal Grad committee this year – Katia and Bessie are leading it with the help of Mrs Maurice, Mrs Lynn and grade 6 parents along the way -as needed.
- Budget is being finalized. H&S has already approved the \$1000 contribution.
- Some adjustments (vs last year): funds come mainly from H&S contribution, TCBY, Guessing Jar x 3 and Felix and Norton Sale (Raffle baskets has been removed as it was very difficult to accumulate items-labour intensive).
- TCBY is up and running (155 sold as of Sep 10. Deadline is Sep 14). TCBY Dairy free option requested from a couple of parents-however we are trying to keep things simple since the grad students will be distributing the TCBY.
- In the process of selecting and finalizing Hoodies (S. Whipps)
 - Next step is selecting vendor, color/design (voted by kids), getting GB approval on Sept. 28th.
 - The decision this year is to have the parents pay (vs LY), with a portion potentially covered from the grad budget.
- Meeting with Mrs. Maurice w/o to discuss:
 - Budget
 - Final details for Hoodies
 - Dates for Guessing jar: Halloween/Valentines/Easter
 - Dates and details for F/N cookies: potentially May
 - Dates and details for the 3 activities – usually as of Jan '24: Isaute / Soccer Baseball / Movies - I'd like to look into some new activities for 2024? Worth discussing.
- Start planning/discussing yearbook in the coming weeks.

6.9) Library (Bessie)

- We have a new librarian, Rachel Gilmartin, who will be in the library on Friday mornings. She has replaced Cassandra Ricafort and will be continuing same duties, in addition to helping plan some library activities for students.
- Library will likely resume in October, once a schedule has been confirmed with the teachers. We will be needing many volunteers to keep the library open for students so a sign-up email will be going out shortly. A reminder that your background check will need to be approved before being able to assist in the library. Training on circulation software and library duties will be provided before the start of the library opening.
- Book covering of new books will continue this year as we have many new catalogued books to put into circulation, so volunteers will be needed to help complete this task. We will usually cover books on Fridays.
- Beautification of the library: New Carpet, reading chair and one bookshelf purchased last year. This year, there will be another bookshelf to highlight new books and theme of the month that will arrive soon, in addition to a new mosaic on corrugated board that will be installed above the bookshelves to hide the unused space.

7) New business:

7.1) September 13th Photo Day:

- Melissa R/ Steph N and Carla have volunteered (update since meeting- photo day on Sep 14th due to weather, we have new volunteers)
- Possibility to request BH signage.
- Request for earlier delivery date (before December).

7.2) Major fundraising Goal (Basketball Court):

- Quote received from Paramount: Between \$38k-\$50k (not including nets).
- Catherine is looking into this. Any connections or referrals appreciated.
- This is an expensive project and will be a 2-year plan.
- Look into the Pearson Foundation and the Renaldi family.

7.3) H&S meetings

- Going forward-preference to in person or online? Time preference? TBD with exec and Mrs Maurice, Mr Lag.
- Put out a survey for preferences?

7.4) H&S survey-see 5.3 (added as new business instead, since it was discussed in May)

Added the following at the meeting:

7.5) Photography at events (Catherine for Malvina)

- We are looking for volunteers to help Malvina at various events

7.6) Fairy Gardner (Catherine)

- The kind gentleman across the street had been tending to our gardens again, pulling weeds and such.
- Send him a gift end of year for the kind volunteer work in the BH garden.

7.7) Super Recyclers (Catherine for Melissa)

- Looking at Nov 21 and May 28th for fall and spring trailer. Dates TBC. Neil suggested we open the trailer before bulk pickup

7.8) Art Gala theme (Catherine)

- The theme and staff project will be decided asap to give staff ample time to prepare

7.9) Big Box of Cards (Catherine)

- Scheduled for November.
- This was a huge fundraiser last year, with boxes sent home as samples

- This year we will not send boxes home, but offer option to order online
- Suggestion to look into French and/or Blank boxes.

Other – After school activities (Catherine)

- Set to begin in October.
- This is coordinated through Mrs Maurice

Open floor/Question period.

8. Call to action

8.1) Volunteers:

- Needed for the library and other upcoming events.

8.2) Spread the word:

- Purchase H&S membership/ see ongoing fundraisers: lovable labels, true earth, flipgive.

9) Motion to Adjourn meeting at 8:35pm, 1- Neil, 2- Stephanie. All in favor.

Next meeting Oct 16th (update since meeting: changed to Oct 30th)