



Beacon Hill Elementary

Together we care / Ensemble avec cœur

Home and School General Meeting Minutes

Date: January 22nd 2024. Library. Start time: 5:03 pm

Attendees: Catherine Fini, Natalie Maurice, Stephanie Nicolaou, Erica Ranjitsingh, Samantha Cinquino, Lisa Taylor, Domenica Viola

Regrets: Olivia Hutchins, Derek Lagimodiere

1. Opening remarks: Welcome members. Quorum is met with 7 members in attendance.

2. Approval of agenda for January 22nd 2024

- Motion approved by 1. Stephanie 2. Erica; All in favor

3. Approval of minutes from November 27th, 2023

- Motion approved by 1. Erica; 2. Stephanie; All in favor

4. Reports:

4.1 President's report/members update (Catherine)

QF Home & School Association Quarterly Newsletter now available:

- Please take the time to review the newsletter for important information-such as;
 - Awards Banquet on May 25th is in person, and a great networking opportunity
 - AGM on May 29th being conducted virtually
 - Interesting article on AI – a good read on how AI will impact learning
 - Information on changes in Quebec's English Cegeps
 - Event and fundraising ideas from other H&S's; example- Genesis school in Laval (less students than BH) raised \$8k in profit through a chocolate bar fundraiser! We discussed this with Mrs Maurice as an option and it was decided not to move forward with a similar one since we want to avoid asking families to sell chocolates "door to door" or through their workplace.
- April 15th is the deadline to nominate a H&S member whom you would like to recognize for their awesome efforts.

4.2 Treasurer's Report & Budget (Olivia):

- Holiday Shop will be re-categorized in the budget as it is not recognized as a fundraiser. We just about broke-even, as was expected.

4.3 Principal's report (Mrs Maurice):

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a restful holiday with family and friends. I wish you all health and happiness for 2024!

We are currently getting ready for next school year! Thank you to Home and School for your support with the Open House. It was certainly a busy day and evening. We decided to try an evening session this year – and staff were on deck to help out. We had the pleasure of meeting and greeting many new families.

Our theme (thank you Erica) was “We are “smitten” at Beacon Hill.” The visitors were treated to popcorn, juice, water and coffee. Each child received a package of mittens – indicating that they are “in good hands at Beacon Hill.” The event was a huge success.

The Kindness Committee, along with Miss Julia and myself are busy preparing for Chinese New Year, Black History Month, dress down days, Pink Shirt day and much more! We have a special presentation for Chinese New Year for the whole school (on January 29th), as well as for Black History Month (in February). The students are in for a big treat! Carnival week will conclude the month of February, as well as the end of Term 2 and preparation for report cards.

Once again this year, the feedback from students, staff and families for the Holiday Shop was extremely positive. The products were once again very good quality, and very reasonably priced. Thank you for all the volunteers who helped to make this memorable event.

Lastly, thank you to Home and School for the yummy treat boxes – they were thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated!

Treat trolley was a huge success and greatly appreciated - many thanks!

We are looking forward to many exciting months to come.

Catherine inquired about grant status on some of these presentations, and Mrs Maurice advised that she has received some grants already, and H&S may be asked to contribute approx. \$500 towards the presentation during Black History Month. She will advise.

4.4 Teacher representative report: Teacher wish list (Mr Lag):

- Mr. Robin's wish list request for a class fish was approved last meeting, and he will be shopping for the fish the week of January 22nd 2024.
- No further teacher wish list requests

5. Business arising from November minutes:

5.1 H&S Contributions to Christmas Activities:

- Hot Chocolate went very well! Volunteers served hot chocolate to all students on Dec 18th. There were 6 volunteers total (2 per trolley), and it took approx. 1.5 hours to prepare the hot chocolate cups for all of the students. We borrowed a thermos from Dorset to have 2.
- Popcorn was indulged by the children during their movie-we ordered 360 bags from Bad Monkey to which the remaining were kept for the Open House. Upon ordering, a discount was obtained. Total cost was \$372; however, we saved \$90 with discount code.
- Every Xmas as part of the '10 days' there is a classroom bingo. The prizes for the Bingo were provided by excess of supply from the Holiday shop: 4 prizes per class (64 total).
- Baskets were delivered to 8 sponsored families! Thank you to the volunteers who supported by loading the cars and delivering the goods. Unfortunately, we were short on volunteers with only 3 cars, therefore more volunteers are needed for next year.

5.2 Field Trip Banner

New banner is currently in production. The total cost is \$138 and will be taken from the school spirit budget. This banner is used at school sporting events.

6. Coordinator Reports:

6.1 Holiday Shop post mortem (Erica)

- A great success! The children enjoyed shopping for their Christmas gifts.
- Lessons learned for next year is as follows:
 - More volunteers required for next year-especially on the last day
 - Condense the days & double up on classes if possible
 - Gift Bags would save a lot of time, and no more wrapping
 - Did not sell well: animal toys, trolls, dolls, bouncing balls
 - More Blankets, stuffed animals, Pokemon cards, masculine gifts
 - Aim for average price pf approx \$5 per gift
 - \$9/\$10 max for a gift if possible

6.2 Open House post mortem (Erica)

- The afternoon shift was very busy, and the evening was quieter than expected
- Wrapped 40 gloves with tags as take-home gift
- Set up a table with water, juice, popcorn & coffee
- 2 H&S Reps supervised the table in morning & 2 H&S Reps for part of afternoon (beginning of afternoon session was busy) & 1 H&S Rep at night

6.3 Pizza Round 2 (Catherine)

- Pizza is now \$6 per lunch & the deadline for 2024 pizza orders is Jan 26th
- We will need to change the Feb 2nd pizza date for all grade 5 students due to the Jouvence trip. Catherine will coordinate with Bitu.

6.4 Staff Appreciation Holiday treats and STRAW (Erica)

- 14 bakers supported the Holiday treats – thank you! We packed the staff boxes, wrapped them with an ornament with their initial on it – much appreciated.
- Staff Appreciation Week is February 5 – February 8th
 - Committee includes: Sam Cinquino, Domenica Viola, Danielle Goldman and Erica
 - Flyer went home via email with TTSU for Pot luck and donation link

6.5 Carnival (Lisa)

- Week of Feb 26th
- There will be ~ 300 Bingo prizes picked up from our usual contact at Mega Surplus
- Snacks for all the students to be distributed.
 - Looking to obtain prices on individual Goldfish individual bags
 - 300 juice boxes required
- Just dance competition to take place; 14 classes to participate. Mr Lag has asked for Wild Willy gift cards of \$5 each

6.6 Art Gala (Catherine)

- Date: April 24th
- Only 2 parents on the decorating committee – more volunteers needed!
- Catherine to send an update to staff as reminder for classroom and raffle projects. She will also send a follow up for more volunteers to join the committee
- Raffle prizes and sponsors are required to make the event a success

6.7. Grade 6 Grad

- No official coordinator assigned; however, Mrs. Maurice and Catherine to support, and Katia will handle the yearbook and I Saute student activity.
- Fundraiser (How many skittles in a Jar?) is going out on Feb 14th
- Felix and Norton fundraiser likely not necessary this year due to extra funds coming in through TCBY and the guessing jars.

7.New Business/Open Floor/Question period (*H & S related items*)

7.1 Big Box of Cards Fundraiser

- Week of March 11th, the 2-week campaign starts, and purchasing will be online only
- No box samples to be sent home, except for 1 card sample to each family-to be kept
- Unfortunately, no French or blank options are available
- Prizes to be won for top selling class

7.2: Communications

We discussed different strategies to encourage more volunteers and have more effective communication. Possibilities include:

- Video message before end of year (Sam)
- Survey for feedback (Stephanie)
- Restructuring the Executive committee?
- Mrs. Maurice can send an email to request coordinators and volunteers.

7.3: School Supplier

We made over \$711 through the school supply fundraiser in August, 2023. This is the most we have made! 127 orders and sales exceeding \$10k before taxes equates to 7.5% back. Last year we made \$585. Motion to continue with Editions Vaudreuil for school supplies for next school year.

- Motion to approve 1. Lisa; 2. Domenica

7.4: Home Alone Stay Safe Course

Possibility to offer a virtual course for grades 5/6 (possibly gr 4) on safety protocols while staying home alone. Someone will look into this!

8.Call to action (recap from actions above)

- Expenses to be submitted by coordinators
- Exec will work on creating a video explaining H&S prior to end of year
- At Kindergarten New Parents meeting, a presentation will be made to the new parents in order to encourage new H&S volunteers to join meetings and get involved

9. Meeting Adjourned at 6:15pm

- Motion approved by: 1. Stephanie 2; Sam 3; All in favor

Next meeting February 26th 2024 at 5-6pm library