



Beacon Hill Elementary
Together we care / Ensemble avec cœur

Home and School Meeting Minutes VIRTUAL MEETING

Date: Monday September 21st, 2020 at 7:30 PM

Attendance: Members: Catherine Fini, Melissa Lim, Emmanuelle Dagenais, Neil Linsdell, Darcy Moncada, Tracey Blouin, Kathleen Spaw, Julia Genoni, Pauline Deep, Bitu Guzman, Karen Borrmann, Dipa Mehta, Katia Rassi, Christine Barnes, Marcia Ploplis

Non- members: Meagan D'Amico, Samantha Brenhouse, Samantha Whipps, Martin Beaudry

Other: Susan Brayne, Derek Lagimodiere

1.Opening remarks: welcome members and non-members, regrets. We have quorum with 15 members.

2.Approval of agenda for September 2020

Motion: by Tracey Blouin, Second by Bitu Guzman. All in favor

3.Approval of minutes from May 2020 (Emmanuelle)

Motion by Darcy Moncada, Second by: Bitu Guzman. All in favor

4.Reports: (15 minutes)

4.1 President's Report (QFHSA updates, Fall conference, Coordinator positions, This year's forecast/calendar of events)

BH News

-Coordinators/Committees: We do not have a crystal ball with all the answers for the upcoming year! We are learning every day how to navigate new territory in the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic. As per my email correspondence, there will be new things to try and new ideas will be considered. I have communicated to our Principal to let us know how H&S school can support the school's needs as new things are realized. We are fortunate that we are in good financial standing as an Association, and I thank Neil for his attention to detail and sharing expertise with us.

-Despite having our meetings virtually, your attendance will still be required for quorum/voting otherwise we can't activate our plans. If you have a report for an upcoming meeting, in keeping with the routine we set last year, we request your reports are sent to our secretary 1 week prior to the meeting. Melissa shared a sample of a summary from a coordinator. A couple of sentences are all that are required. This helps tremendously with timing our meetings and keeping accurate minutes. Thank you!

-As we continue to transition to virtual/electronic means of running business, our binders are getting thinner! Please remember that we have a GOOGLE DRIVE which coordinators can access for their committees (please reach out to me if you need orientation to this). This should replace USB drives as we continue to transition. It is the coordinator's responsibility to make sure their folder is up to date on the drive.

-We invested in a Zoom account. If you require a committee meeting, please arrange it with me, I will create the link.

News from QFHSA.

-Fall Conference is coming! They are planning to offer a series of virtual workshops and meetings over several days around November 16-21st. If you have some ideas of workshops you think Home and school leadership or parents might appreciate, please let me know. Sam Whipps has already submitted an idea and she will share this with us tonight in 'new business'

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-BH will mail in our \$50 Association fee and executive list to QFHSA following tonight's AGM in order to maintain our good standing. Deadline has been extended to Nov 15th.

-QFHSA also shared important dates related to the Nov 1 School Board Elections (this plays into Bill 40 and the abolishment for school boards, something the QFHSA has been actively involved in fighting and acting as the voice for parents). We distributed this information to our school electronically.

-QFHSA continues to communicate virtually with us via regular newsletter updates to president's and regional zoom meetings in which I participate. Take a look at the QFHSA News Summer Edition as there are several items from events at BH which were featured.

4.2 Treasurer's Report & Budget (Neil)

Neil doesn't have much to add to the budget he just presented in the AGM. Fundraising has begun. Spending was on gifts and a Zoom account.

4.3 Membership Updates (Pauline)

Welcome to Marcia. Catherine reported that we have 90 members from last year. In the new school year, we have 12 members thus far. Cost is \$25 and all online now. Several members suggested that a reminder be sent to families. Membership has been extended until November 15. Current members hold their voting privileges until then. Parents at BH can join or renew via electronic online payment (we eliminated cheques and paper forms). We have been recruiting membership at our school since the first week of school. Benefits to membership is the voting privilege at meetings. Bulk of the membership fees goes to QFHSA to support political issues and set up workshops, grants, and provide activity ideas. We have a postcard and paperwork we can give families, but we are trying to go paperless. Perhaps we should brainstorm a membership campaign.

4.4 Principal's report (Mrs Brayne)

Welcome: Welcome to the parents. A year unlike any others, but the students are happy to be back in school. Routines, taking it day by day. I look forward to working with this dedicated group of parents once again this year. Thank you to Pauline Fakhri for her many years in the H&S executive.

Thank you: Thank you so much for the Starbucks reusable cup and the gift certificate that the staff received on our return to school. It was much appreciated!

Volunteers: Unfortunately at this point we are unable to have volunteers in the school but we are hoping that this will change later in the year. We love our volunteers and they add so much to the school.

Picture Day: Will be taking place tomorrow September 22nd

Terry Fox Walk: Will take place on Friday, October 2nd during Phys Ed classes. Thank you to H&S for providing the freebies to each class

Field Trip and extra-curricular activities: At this point of the year we are not offering either field trips or extra-curricular activities

Library: Colleen Henderson our librarian will be putting together baskets of books for the teachers to share with their students. She will also be going to the classes to read to the students

Outdoor classroom: The outdoor classroom is getting used by the teachers. It is a great spot to take the children.

Derek talked about Terry Fox (October 2nd). M. Lag and Mrs Mumme will be running, walking, jogging doing laps in soccer field with kids from all grade (K-4 to 6). They will count them and tally how much everyone will contribute, and this will be done during the gym classes. The

organizers are hoping that H&S can help by contribute Freezies or popsicles. No pledge forms this year, everything online.

4.5 Teacher representative (Mr. Lag): Teacher Wish Lists, etc.

Wish lists have not been on anyone's mind so far. Mr Lag will send a reminder to teachers, and we will try to go paperless.

5 Business arising from May minutes:

-Summary of Year end gifts (Mme Power, Admin): Gift basket for Mrs Power for her retirement. Gourmet strawberries were given to admin at the end of year.

-Fundraisers (Christmas trees, coffee, Epicure, sanitizer, Super Recyclers, seeds, fabric sacs): Use the Shopify store a lot more (safer, more effective). These are fundraisers that were discussed as Executives. Catherine went over various fundraisers, that each give 20-50% returns to H&S. Melissa would get nothing from sales of Epicure. Christmas, coffee, Epicure would be around November; Seeds, Zero waste store around Earth Day. There are lots of ideas to fundraise out there, but we are trying to streamline.

Grade 6 will also use Shopify and we should coordinate fundraising simultaneously so that shopping is more coordinated and have a day to pick up everything. Grade 6 was thinking October, H&S can be ready for then. Other people expressed concerns about having all fundraisers at the same time because it would cost too much at once. May discourage people from shopping. Marketing and promotion ideas: it could be wise to leave things online for a while so when people go for one thing and may browse to see more stuff.

Marcia wanted to make sure we were supporting local businesses. Bitia was suggesting that parents that are at the school that have things that they are trying to sell so we can encourage them. However, Melissa said that the parents are not allowed to make money on this endeavour. We will elaborate on this at the next meeting.

Motion to approve fundraisers: Darcy Moncada Seconded by: Marcia Ploplis. All in favor. 1 abstain.

6 Correspondence (Catherine) – 2 minutes

None

7 Coordinator Reports: (25 minutes)

7.1 School Clothing (Emmanuelle)

Last order, we were short by \$12, for the first time. Will be opening the store soon for a new order with minor changes to clothes colors to save on set-up fees.

7.2 Terry fox

Tracey will purchase the popsicles. She offered to go out for each group to hand them out, but Mrs Brayne said that parents are not allowed on school grounds (Covid-19) so she will hand them out herself. Darcy needs pictures of this event for the yearbook. Mrs Brayne will take the pictures and send them to her.

7.3 School Supplies (Catherine)

The drive through school supply pickup with Editions Vaudreuil on August 25th ran smoothly. The number of total orders was 113, up from 99 last year (90 boxes for pickup). Last year's sales were under \$10k which awarded H&S \$381 in funds (5% of sales). We will not have the final sales for this year's orders from Ed V until Oct. I'll share these numbers once I have them.

7.4 Staff appreciation (Christine)

-Recap of final 2019/2020 initiative. Gave a donation to WI Food Shares on behalf of school staff. Every teacher got a note saying this.

-Welcome Gifts: We did Starbucks cup and gift card for teachers, will do this for daycare staff as well. We already spent \$400. Normally, we would have many staff appreciation on the go at this time. "The teachers and staff have been phenomenal"-Mrs Brayne, so Christine wants to make sure that the teachers have a good year too. Biggest hurdle is the money. Staying on budget in and around \$1000. She is concerned that we will not have enough funds to give teachers what they deserve if we don't ask parents for donations. This will be brought up at a next meeting, perhaps more concrete ideas.

7.5 Book Fair (Emmanuelle)

Got in touch with Dipa, co-coordinator. We could look into Clio or Babar. Got information that Scholastic also does online book fairs. Wondering if we should do one this year or skip. We could have 2 options: 1) online bookfair through Scholastic/Chapters and 2) make a donation through Shopify for the classroom. We will vote on this next month. Julia also offered to help research different options.

7.6 Foster child (Catherine)

Fundraising events to raise the \$504 needed for Plan International to sponsor our F.C. are usually held in April. Due to the school closure in March we were not able to fundraise to cover that (2020) fee. Instead, we used funds from our H&S reserves. We may have to rethink how we raise the funds for F.C. this school year-possibly online via our shopify website if we cannot collect coin donations from the students for dress down day. TBD at a future meeting.

7.7 Gr 6 Graduation (Darcy)

Need to agree on fundraisers at the meeting. Looking into activities for Fall (outdoor), sweatshirt designs are underway. They have some positions left to fill. Meeting is next week, on Tuesday.

7.8 Used clothing (Catherine)

Receive clothing donation in school colors. Then they are bundled and sold. Have sold 23 bundles since last October. Made \$214.

7.9 Super Recyclers (Melissa)

We have booked the trailer for Nov 15 until November 16th. While this remains a small fundraiser, we have the feedback from past events that it is a service our community appreciates. Please share the info with your neighbours.

8 New Business/Open Floor/Question period (*H & S related items*) – 10 minutes

Sam Whipps talked about Media literacy: The Social Dilemma. How do we prepare kids for this new world? It's not about banning social media, it's about how do we use it. Media Literacy is the ability to access, analyse, and evaluate the complex messages presented through mass media. Media Smarts is a non-for-profit who work on teaching kids about social media. Could we offer some sort of media literacy course, perhaps after school, like a babysitting course, Spanish program? It could be run as a fundraiser. It could also include parent webinars. We could provide kids with resources regarding Research tools, sneaking integration of marketing and advertising, including some understanding on algorithms. Media literacy week is October 6th. Sam would like H&S to introduce this topic to the school.

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Next step would be to find out if we are allowed to do this? If we are, in what capacity are we able to do so? Which part of curriculum would we like to purchase (licensing fees)? Sam has asked the company some questions and is waiting for answers.

Mrs Brayne: We could perhaps have a speaker come to talk to the parents. She thinks it could be good to introduce this to the teachers.

Parents respond interest in extra-curricular activity.

Mediasmarts.ca is website to look into. Website doesn't offer facilitators, but the website is very detailed and we could run it with parent volunteers. Julia has been trying to get this on the table for a long time. Julia and Sam will talk about this on the side to come up with a plan. Then meet with Mrs Brayne about it.

Melissa will bring this up to QFHSA as something to look into.

9 Call to action:

10 Meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM

Motion by Tracey Blouin Seconded by Melissa Lim All in favor