

**Home and School Minutes**  
**October 23, 2017**

**Attendance**

Ilana Popliger, Alia Odubayo, Chantal Latour, Lana Geller, Bena Diamond-Menchaca, Liz Allen, Kelly Arfin-Gurevitch, Preetha Krishnamoorthy, Melissa Hoffman, Nathia Messina

**Acceptance of Agenda**

A change to the agenda: Liz will be discussing the French book fair, and adding topic of QFHSA new food regulations. With this change Preetha motions to accept the October agenda, seconded by Bena; all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, approved.

**Approval of September Minutes**

Ilana motions to accept the September minutes; seconded by Preetha; all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, approved.

**Treasures Report**

No changes at this time. We are waiting for chocolate money to all be returned.

**Administration Report**

The school has been given grants to help boost the success in kindergarten and grade 1. Additional integration aids will be put into the classes, and additional time allocated with the behavior tech – 40% increase for grade 1, and 10% increase for kindergarten, and a literacy program implemented for grade 2. This will provide much needed extra assistance to the teachers in their classes.

Francisation will begin shortly, 4.5 days a week. This will help the students who need more support in French, as French resource generally focusses on cycle one.

Admin is looking into getting new curtains for the gym – stage and then windows to match. Assumed cost will be about \$10,000, more details to come after getting quotes. Request to H&S will follow as needed.

Dare to Care has been booked again this year. It will take place in January and will cost about \$6000. The Kindergarten through grade 4s will participate in the Dare to Care bully prevention assemblies, and the grade 5 and 6 students will have the 'Take the time' days (1 day/grade). These are very powerful and important sessions. Requesting funding from H&S to pay for all or part of this program, as the program is very important but out of the school's budget for this. Since we are a large school, it takes 3-4 days to cover all grades, so the cost is higher than most schools that can complete the program in 1-2 days. It is very important to maintain continuity with the same program from year to year, as it strengthens the message.

This year the school will try and book parent teacher interviews through fusion. Parents will be able to set up their own appointment times.

Request for new curtains in the gym- there has been a quote for Navy and Red curtains with the Sharks logo on it, the cost is about \$10 000.

**Teachers Report**

Thank you for the allocations, the teachers are excited to be able to spend some money for their classes. The teachers must write the exact amount spent on the sheet to submit to H&S. We also need all the receipts.

Requests: the teachers attended a STEAM workshop and they had a presentation using Keva Planks. It was enjoyed by everyone. The request is to buy 2 sets per grade; the 400 plank set is \$210 on Amazon; 14 boxes for a total of \$2 897. This will be used for the STEAM projects that the school is fully immersed in and committed to this year.

## **Membership**

We currently have 35 members, up 2 from last meeting.

## **Updates**

**Pizza Lunches** – Status Quo

**Adult Evening** – see Fundraising event/ideas in New Business section

**Chocolate Bar Sales** – There has been a lot of positive feedback with the Laura Secord Brand. We needed to make 2 more small shipments to meet demand for additional cases. There are the prizes to be won for the kids who sold entire cases. The deadline to send back money is next week. We are expecting to make a bit less money this year as we are only getting 50% profit on this brand, whereas last year we got 58% in profit.

**French Book Fair** – The set up went really well, we sold \$1700 worth of books during the family shopping evening. There are some complaints that there are not a lot of books to choose from, and prices are high. The impression we have is that it seems like the company is not putting a lot of effort into the French Book Fairs. We have the possibility of having 2 English book fairs, with a request to have French books available at both, but consensus is that it is still nice to have separate English and French book fairs; this enables families to buy French books, as English books are more easily acquired.

For specific books that are popular with the kids, they were specifically requested but there was not enough quantity

We have a lot of credit with Scholastic which is the reason why we stay with the same company.

**Sharks T shirts** – the orders went out for the shirts last week. We made \$568 in profit. We were very successful with this last year when we brought back the shirts after a few years, but we do not expect sales to be that high going forward. Given the amount of work that goes into the orders, it might be worth it to let Jadon promotions take over selling them on the Westpark price list.

## **Approved Fundraisers**

**Bake Sale** – we will have our bake sale during the evening of our parent teacher interviews; which will be held on Nov 16<sup>th</sup> at 14:30. We will need volunteers to bake, sell and prepare the goods, as well as to work the bake sale that evening. We already have approval for the bake sale. Everything will need to be individually wrapped. An ERMS will be sent out next week.

## **New Business**

**QFHS New Food Policies** – There are new regulations of what will be allowed to be served/sold in schools, and this might have an impact on H&S food related fundraisers. These new rules will be in effect as July 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.

**Fundraising Events/Ideas** – There are a few people who have expressed interest in being part of a committee to put on an adult only event. We are going to take a break from the large scale auction for this year. We still want to have a fun evening that will bring in some money, and also be a fun evening. In order for this to be successful, we need a committed team of people to get this planned. We need the enthusiasm to be generated from this committee, as well as from Home & School members, in order to sell tickets and fill the room. There was an idea of having a boutique night, we would sell tables and have people shop. Other ideas would be to have a hypnotist or other such entertainment. Tentative date for an evening is planned for Thursday April 19<sup>th</sup>. Kelly will begin the search for entertainment. We will begin contacting vendors once we confirm talent and date.

**Teacher Appreciation week** – We have been approached by a student who has made videos for teacher appreciation week in the past – he would like to create another movie this year. He is presently in grade 6, so we

think that he should definitely make a video this year as part of our teacher appreciation week. More to follow for the rest of the week's plans at a future meeting.

**Teacher Allocations** – we began the year with some money with the intention of providing an allocation to each teacher to spend on classroom materials. We feel that we can give each homeroom teachers \$100, plus the 2 resource teachers and Francisation, for a total of 31 teachers. The teachers must submit their request for reimbursement by a January 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. If they are late in submitting their paperwork, they will not be reimbursed.

**Water Walk Snack – Request** – Ms. Miriam led a group of grade 5 students on the Water Walk, to simulate what some people in Africa must do to get clean drinking water instead of going to school. Afterwards, she provided the students with healthy snacks, and has made a request for home & School to cover the costs of the apples and granola bars. The request is for about \$75 (exact amount to be confirmed with receipts in the coming days).

The fall QFHS conference is on Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup>. It is an all-day conference. There is a fee of \$25 per person, if anyone wants to go H&S will pay the fee.

We were contacted by a company that sells high end Olive Oil for a fundraising idea. The bottles sell for \$25 per bottle with a 44-52% profit. We do not think that it would be a good fundraising idea for our parent population at this time. We have a lot of ongoing fundraisers and we think we will have more success by focusing on those.

#### **Voting**

A motion was raised by Preetha to allocate up to \$3000 for the Keva Planks (2 sets per grade level, total of 14 sets). Motion was seconded by Bena; all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, approved.

A motion was raised by Kelly to allocate up to \$6000 for the Dare to Care program. Motion was seconded by Preetha; all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, approved.

A motion was raised by Liz to allocate up to \$3100 for the teacher allocations (\$100 for each homeroom teacher, \$100 each for English and French resource, and \$100 to Lonna for Francisation). Motion was seconded by Preetha; all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, approved.

A motion was raised by Preetha to allocate up to \$100 for Ms. Miriam for snacks for the Water Walk. Motion was seconded by Kelly; all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions, approved.

Next Meeting Monday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017