

Home and School Meeting

September 26, 2023

Attendance

Kelly Arfin-Gurevitch, Julia Stein, Erica Horn, Erica Grand, Chantal Latour, Karene Benabou, Sophie Belzile, Diana Martire, Melissa Loyer, Talya Michon, Jessica Fridman, Galit Zeira, Dana Frankel, Jinal Patel, Jodie Beckenbach, Alexandra Zinegyi Theofanis, Tara Saxe, Jessica Rogers

Welcome

Welcome from Kelly and introduction to Home and School and of the Executive Committee. It will be Kelly's last year as president, in April/May, we will have elections for the following year – chair, vice chair, and membership chair will be up for election. Home and School is the fundraising initiative in the school to help raise money for the school, classrooms and teacher's needs. Home and School aims to collaborate with the school administration, and under the umbrella of the QFHSA. We operate by vote by majority. We vote on how we raise money and how we spend the money we have raised. It must be approved by administration, then to staff council, and then the governing board must approve of what we ask from the community. Kelly is on the governing board and liaises between the governing board and Home and School. Only members who have paid their memberships can vote. All votes are final, votes can be amended.

Approval of Agenda

Karene accepts the September agenda, Erica Grand seconds the motion, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Erica Grand accepts the minutes, Erica Horn seconds the motion, all in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Erica Horn; we started the school year with roughly \$27,000 but some was allocated last year already, blinds project and other. Back to school breakfast didn't happen due to construction. Kelly deposited the money from pizza, TCBY, Shark shirts etc. Total was roughly \$75,000 and more money is still coming in. Total projected profit for the pizza is roughly \$22,000 (minus plates), TCBY is \$12,500 (grad fundraiser). For the Shark shirts, the money raised goes towards buying sharks shirts for incoming kindergarteners.

Membership is in and out – paid to QFHSA

Administration Report

Diana Martire – it has been challenging to retain staff, especially French language staff. Welcome to Erin Berger, Jamie Borenstein, Gabrielle Harris-Phillips, Karine Deschamps, Christina Gervasi, Lori Rapattoni and Lina Peitroniro new to our staff this year.

The construction project has been challenging but construction has moved forward, and all staff and parents have been patient and respectful. Welcome to Sophie Belzile, VP.
Sophie Belzile – request

1. Gym – request to purchase 2 tents for phys ed when we have outdoor events with the name of the school – Westpark on them. They must be priced out before we can approve funding.

Teacher's Report

Chantal Latour

1. In the past Home and School has allocated money for home room teachers for supplies in the classroom. Also, new teachers in the past have received additional allocations to help them set up their classrooms. 27 home room teachers request allocations. 6 new teachers are requesting additional. allocation. Request is for \$100/homeroom. They are asking to consider inflation and potentially increase the amount per homeroom.
2. Art – Mme. C has two requests.
 - a. Envelopes – each child will have their own private envelope to bring their art back and forth – ordering from U-line \$582. This has been ok'd by Mme. Martire under school funding and Home and School does not need to cover it.
 - b. Consumables like sharpies, black tape, etc. totaling \$232.92.
3. Science – two science teachers, senior Mme. Christina and junior Mme Elisa
 - a. Pumpkin/magic garden activity – 150 pumpkins for grade 1 and 2 - \$750 (under the nutrition or field trip budget from the school possibly)
 - b. Requesting a reptile - roughly \$500-\$700 purchase, food, accessories, etc.
 - c. Books – they are lacking in science books (Usborne) roughly \$300 plus tax. Willing to accept science books donated from Westpark families.
4. Grade 6 English teachers
 - a. Requesting copies of the novel Melissa (previously known as George). They are using this novel to kick off their human rights projects – 60 copies from Scholastic, \$11.50 per book = \$690 – home and school has a credit and can purchase these books.

Membership

Erica Grand – 26 members. People can join at any time.

Updates

Fundscrip – only gift card buying platform and you get money back. We buy our Pizza Pizza gift cards with Fundscrip. We have roughly \$2,500 in that account that we will cash out.

Pizza Lunch – first pizza lunch was today. It went very smoothly on time. Profit is roughly \$22,000 minus plates. We need to buy 20,000 plates in one shot. (A parent has offered to donate the plates).

TCBY – grad fundraiser \$12,500 raised.

School Kits – delays because their warehouse burnt down. The orders arrived a couple days after school started which was not ideal. Sales were on target – expecting between \$1,300 - \$1,400.

Sharks shirts – red & colors – tomorrow is the deadline to order. Minimum order quantity has been met. Governing board approved shark shirts in different colors for spirit days (pink for anti-bullying days, orange for truth and reconciliation day). This is not mandatory but an option.

Jadon has the rights to the Westpark apparel so they must be ordered through them. Discussion regarding Westpark merch – lanyard, mugs, etc. Karene Benabou and Galit Ziera would like to get involved with this endeavor.

Back to School Breakfast 2023 – did not happen. Can we substitute this with a coffee cart with the same funds allocated previously.

Approved Fundraisers

N/A

New Business

QFHSA News – no news. If anyone wants to attend the conference, let Kelly know.

New Fundraiser ideas 2023/2024 – will circle back.

Science Allocation – discussed above.

Homeroom Teacher Allocations – discussed above.

Book Fairs – French book fair and English book fair options. This is typically a volunteer driven event (15-20 volunteers needed). Do we want to do one? Do we want to do both? Consider the gym is not usable during this period. The first evening, parents can come in after daycare and the following day, teachers bring their classes. Looking into possible dates for book fairs. (Governing Board approval needed once we get dates).

Bake Sale / Vendor Fair – We used to have bake sales during parent teacher interviews. Last year we held it as a grad fundraiser.

Halloween Door Decoration Contest – teachers decorate their class doors with their students. There are 4 winning classes according to cycle and they win prizes for their classrooms like pizza lunch. This must be approved at the Governing Board.

Year End Bash – at the end of the year there is a giant BBQ bash with inflatables, DJ, etc. for Westpark families. This is a family event! Funds raised get donated to charity. Volunteers are needed for this to run (over 100 volunteers needed).

Varia

1. Blinds – broken or missing blinds in classrooms. Money had been allocated last year. More money is needed. To fix every blind in the school comes to roughly \$7,500. There are two classes where all the blinds must be replaced. There are also 6 classrooms where half are broken. Mme. Martire asks to add funds to cover that as well. Can the

Home and School allocate the same amount this year? Teachers are asking for blackout blinds currently as well. Shall we repair the blinds or rather replace them with blackout blinds which would add to the budget. Asking to match the \$6,000 from last year.

2. iPad have been purchased where funds were allocated last year.
3. Photo/headshots at the entrance of the school. Can we add photos for new staff who would like to take a photo and staff who are not up there.
4. Option to revisit basket fundraisers.
5. Chocolate fundraiser – officially out of chocolate – possibility to raise roughly \$18,000.

Potential Fundraiser Ideas

Discussion on limited edition Westpark Sharks sweatshirts for sale. Inquiring about pricing.

Vote

1. Blinds – motion Erica Grand, Dana Frankel seconds, all approved.
2. Homeroom allocation - \$150 per home room plus \$100 additionally for new teachers, Tara Saxe motion, Karene Benabou seconds, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions; approved.
3. Specialists – science, art, music – motion to allocate them for each specialist department \$500, motion Galit, second Karene, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions; approved.
4. Raffle baskets – look into governing approval, Kelly motions, Erica Grand seconds, all in favor, none opposed, no abstentions; approved.

Next meeting: TBC