

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>YORKHILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Y.E.S.) PARENT COUNCIL MEETING</b> <b>SEPTEMBER 12, 2016</b></p>
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In attendance:

Natasha Parsotam, Kim Sparks, Neda Pilaram, Rina Patel, Ilana Keyes, Mehala Munnainathan, Cath Hall, Yatri Shah, Danielle deLestard, Elena Choy, Edward Lin, Vanessa Ren, Grace Kim, Stella Hantzakos, Jennifer Angel & Catarina Burisch.

Regrets:

Jennifer Stemerding

The following is a summary of discussions. Order of presentation does not necessarily reflect the order of discussion or the extent of all discussions surrounding the topic.

- Introductions: Attendees introduced themselves in advance of discussions regarding positions to be filled. Contact sheet circulated and will be shared with group to facilitate group discussions.
- Executive positions were filled
  - Co-Chairs: Kim Sparks & Natasha Parsotam
  - Treasurer: Jennifer Stemerding
  - Co-Secretaries: Rina Patel and Neda Pilaram (New)
  - Voting members: TBD
- Adoption of previous minutes: Sufficient number of voting members not present?
- Discussed what the goals should be of the group and whether or not there should be an alignment with YRDSB goals (from <http://www.yrdsb.ca/AboutUs/BoardPlans/Pages/MYP-Goals.aspx>) – not available at time of meeting but reproduced below:

**Student Achievement and Well-being**

Continuously increase student achievement and well-being through a culture of caring and learning, which emphasizes:

- Positive relationships among students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members.
- Inviting and innovative physical environments in schools and workplaces.
- Safe and supportive schools and workplaces.
- Engagement of students, staff, parents/guardians, and community members in public education.
- Student and staff mental and physical well-being.

**Delivery of Effective and Sustainable Educational Programs**

Deliver effective, innovative and sustainable educational programs to each student by:

- Implementing modern learning approaches which engage students and prepare them to succeed in a globally connected world.
- Providing access to differentiated and relevant learning opportunities, resources and programs.
- Engaging students as partners in their learning.
- Embracing environmental awareness.

**Stewardship of Board Resources**

Align human and financial resources with Board priorities by:

- Demonstrating professionalism and accountability for high standards of practice in all Board operations.
- Enhancing confidence in public education.
- Ensuring new initiatives are focused and attainable.
- Modelling continuous environmental sustainability.

- The council started to articulate preliminary goals relating to the following (goals to be revisited during :

- Community involvement
  - Members requested increased communication from school (i.e. weekly email updates which is done at other local schools) with a view to facilitating increased communication – Related YRDSB goal: “positive relationships/engagement among students, parents/guardians, and community members...”
  - Discussion regarding blog and periodic newsletter which is issued every 6 weeks. Request for increased frequency to 4 weeks which might be difficult. Minutes/parent council update to be inserted into newsletter – Alana to provide.
  - Request made to advertise parent council and volunteer opportunities at Curriculum night on September 15, 2016, with a view to increasing parental involvement and participation specifically with respect to volunteer opportunities (i.e. Pizza day – need to volunteer only for one hour on Wednesdays).
  - Member stated that up-to-date minutes do not seem to be available on school website. Verification required that minutes are being updated in a timely fashion.
- Fundraising and Events
  - Members discussed various fundraising activities and opportunities to be discussed further at the next Parent Council Meeting.
  - Suggestion that each event get assigned lead/subcommittee to organize and bring to fruition.
  - Discussion that goals should be known prior to determining fundraising and events. Starting balance of \$5000 from previous year. Suggestion that funds go to tarmac games or even rejuvenation or installation of new play area.
    - Halloween Dance – Tentative date October 27, 2016. Permit required and need to inquire re credit with DJ
    - Star-gazing night – to be coupled with a movie night – Tentative date of November 24, 2016 – request for “Secret Life of Pets”
    - Market night where vendors would be invited to set up booths for \$50 a table. They would contribute raffle items, with proceeds going to Y.E.S. Couple this with the Winter Holiday concert where there is a guaranteed audience? In order to get admission, would have to bring a food item.
    - Discussion regarding food options
      - Pizza – might be resumed – once form is approved and uploaded to SchoolCashOnLine. Google sign-sheet to be circulated.
      - Sub
      - Kids Kitchen
      - Special good event with Kids Kitchen potentially where a ‘cut’ could go to Y.E.S.

- Setting of dates for upcoming Parent Council Meeting
  - October 6
  - November 7
  - January 9
  - February 6
  - April 3
  - May 1
- Discussion regarding condo development to go up in place of plaza.
- No application for 2016-2017 Parent Reaching Out (PRO) grant submitted by Y.E.S. parent council. PRO Grants are designed to support parents in identifying barriers to engagement in their own community and to find local solutions to involve more parents in support of student achievement and well-being. For further information see:  
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/reaching.HTML>