

MINUTES
NESBITT HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

IN ATTENDANCE: Alirio Ferreira, Donna Tetlow, Anne Marie Sabelli, Lisa Conforti, Maricarmen Ramirez, Stephanie Salvo, Christine Gravel, Nadia Barberio, Glenda Davis & Principal Antoinette Scrocca

1. Opening Remarks – Welcome to all!

Alirio welcomed us to the first meeting of 2015 and kindly provided doughnuts. Coffee was also available courtesy of the Principal.

2. Approval Agenda / Approval of Minutes (minutes from last meeting May 4th 2015)

Alirio moved the following be added to the agenda:

4.7 Lunchtime activities,

3.5.1 Approval of covering \$50 expenses incurred by 6 Graders during Welcome Back Day Event

4.8 Official position on teacher work to rule

Add Breakfast Club to point 4.3

Amendments accepted unanimously. Approval Agenda moved by Christine, seconded by Anne Marie.

Question arose from the minutes of the last meeting - Was the number of T-shirts ordered discussed/voted on as seemed high. Alirio confirmed it was discussed and the motion to approve the number accepted. Approval of Minutes (minutes from last meeting) Moved by Anne Marie, seconded Alirio.

3. Reports:

3.1. Principal

Happy to be new Interim Principal at Nesbitt. Thank you to volunteers for Welcome Back Day Event and Terry Fox Walk. Appreciates work and effort of Home & School Association, integral part of school. Great turnout for curriculum night held 24th September 2015. 120 chairs were set out plus benches and standing. New format having a gathering and address in the gym before individual teacher presentations. Met with positive feedback.

3.2. Welcome Back Day Feedback

Overall positive, successful event. Hard work and efforts by 6th graders and their teachers really appreciated. Suggestions for future events; If offering food need to be better prepared for drinks. Maybe memo to advise pupils to bring extra water bottle. Some classes received such a memo this time but appears not all. Maybe have one inflatable and something else. There was confusion over the Beaver Tails portions on the day which required phone calls and discussions from H&S to resolve. It was

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and we received everything we paid for. One of the inflatables was not clean, contained chip crumbs
Feedback given. Alirio confirmed cheque not yet sent and raised the question should we try and
negotiate a lower price in view of the condition of the inflatable? Consensus was yet.

3.3. Home and School Membership

Formal apology from Chair Alirio for miscommunicating the Home & School Membership Fee at the
General Assembly held 15th September 2015. The fee is \$22 not \$18 as previously stated. \$18 is what
we pay to the federation.

3.4. General Assembly Report

General Assembly held 15th September 2015. Good turnout, more than last year. There were 5
positions available, 8 nominees. 25 people voted.

3.5. Treasury report

Previous treasurer Anne Monreau not at meeting. No longer a parent at the school. New treasurer to be
elected presently. Alirio provided members present with a report for End of Year 2014-2015, estimated
year end balance \$44.36 and a report for Year 2015-2016, final forecast balance \$68.54. He confirmed
the payment of \$2208.00 not included in reserve accounts for discrepancy. Payment with cheque
number 787 not paid. H&S is a non-profit organisation. Money raised used for this year and next with a
balance between academic and school life.

3.5.1. Approval of covering \$50 expenses incurred by 6 Graders during Welcome Back Day Event.

Moved by Alirio, seconded by Lisa. Vote of approval unanimous.

3.6. T-shirt Update

Total sales 229. 107 sold curriculum night, 31 at the General Assembly and 91 through Mr. Anthony. Not
a fundraising activity. We maybe make 18 cents per t-shirt. Pupils who still require a t-shirt can purchase
from Mr. Anthony on the day they have PE.

4. New Business

4.1. Election of a Treasurer for 2015-2016

Nadia Barberio volunteered to be the new Treasurer. Vote - unanimous approval. Alirio moved to
change signatories for cheques. Changed to Alirio Ferreira (Chair) and Nadia Barberio (Treasurer)
Seconded by Anne Marie.

4.2. Graduation Committee

There is a list of volunteers available that was gathered on Curriculum Night. Lisa Conforti to head up
Committee for this year, Anne Marie Sabelli volunteered to assist. Brief overview of previous years'

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format given to Principal Scrocca. As in previous years there will be representatives from the 6th Grade on the committee to help with the yearbook.

4.3. Library Volunteer(s) & Breakfast Club

All volunteers need a background/police check. Alirio to distribute forms to H&S volunteers for events and activities. Forms to be returned to school office.

Volunteers required for the school library. 310 students this year. Number of specialists in the school have been cut. The library is only open full day Wednesday and half day Friday. Volunteers could extend its opening. Friday afternoon proposed to allow this to be a full day. Nadia and Donna volunteered. Arrangements and training to be followed up with Principal.

Breakfast club. Currently have volunteers from other schools and students from a local high school. No volunteers for Friday. Volunteers would be needed between 6.30am - 8.00am. Alirio to issue email. Cost of Breakfast Club is \$45 a year. Form to be sent home shortly. Brown bag breakfast.

4.4. Fundraisers

Call to propose fundraisers, bring to next meeting. Not chocolate sales. It was confirmed we will do a readathon and 2 book fairs as in previous years. Ideas mentioned at meeting included a raffle and spaghetti night (successful previously) Zumba could not be done last year due to a problem with Insurance. To be reviewed again this year. School doesn't rent out space. Would need to go to School Board for approval.

7.55pm Anne Marie Sabelli left the meeting.

4.5. School Beautification

Priority for this year. Have \$5500 in fund to use. Open to smaller initiatives. Scheme of 1/3 school, 1/3 Board, 1/3 Ministry not successful previously. Alirio confirmed his calls to the contractor re painting lines on the school yard not returned. Field is City property. Need to double check whether the school yard is EMSB or City. Rumour of project that school board is going to repave school yard. Look to clarify and obtain further details. Ideas of portable kit raised. Possible issue of stairs into school and the gym. Permanent equipment, need to consider issue of vandalism. Additional lightening around the school would be welcome from a safety aspect and could help alleviate problem of possible vandalism to school yard. Other schools have utilised TD Bank Sponsorship. Believe deadlines are every 4 months. To be looked into.

4.6. Question Period / Comments

No questions/comments

4.7. Lunchtime Activities

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H&S to offer lunchtime activities again this year. Provider is EducAction as in previous year. Have a contract. Plan to offer Painting & Drawing on Tuesday to grades 1-6 \$96 and Hip Hop on Thursday for grades K-6 \$85. Run for 8 weeks. Can't offer soccer as gym not accessible due to repair work. Activities chosen from the results of a survey sent to parents.

To qualify for Tax Credit activity needs to be a minimum of 8 weeks. Oversight in a previous year where course had been shortened to make cheaper resulted in it not qualifying for Tax Credit. As Tax Credit a possible incentive for parents the activities need to qualify.

Activities are open to children of paid Home & School Members. Offered this way as an incentive to encourage parents to join Home & School. H&S does not wish to exclude children. It was felt there was a need to try and make this clearer to parents and provide more information about H&S and to clarify what the \$22 membership fee covered.

It was questioned whether there was a minimum number of members required for H&S to exist. Alirio to check.

Activities are to be held lunch time as many pupils in the school are bused. Daycare is Base Certified and offers free activities. Will try to offer activities on days where there are no Pelo classes.

The activity provider EducAction needs volunteers to help with the organising of activities. It was thought this may not be the case if we paid more Alirio to check. Previous provider Enfant & Compagnie managed everything. Stopped using them due to concerns over children being left unattended. It was raised that we had used them a lot without incident before this incident and so could possibly consider using them again in the future. It was mentioned they are also more flexible about running classes with lower numbers. Many classes last year with EducAction were cancelled due to minimum numbers not being met.

Request to offer Chess at lunchtime and have it open to all pupils through the Chess'n Math Association. Need to check whether this is possible due to our contract with EducAction. If this is an activity they offer could we use another provider?

Consider having activities open to all as a fundraiser?

If H&S need a minimum number of members to exist and the method for encouraging membership is lunchtime activities, then other activities may draw away from this. Need to check whether we need a quota.

4.8 Official Position on Teacher Work to Rule

H&S member Glenda Davis raised her concern that some parents were viewing the pressure tactics being used by the teachers as selfish. She feels we need short term pain for long term gain. Consensus of the members present was that teachers need to be happy and that it was understood that the teachers are trying to negotiate better conditions for the children. Alirio confirmed he was happy to

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write a letter to be issued to parents outlining the facts and providing links to where they could obtain further information. Principal will check if he is allowed to use H&S letterhead. Happy to do personal letter if not. Principal not allowed to issue letter. Look into ways we can show our support for the teachers. Presence at picket line on strike days. Could we do messages of support to be displayed in class? If our school is affected by the action of French School Teachers on their strike day pupils will be directed to Trinity Church situated across from the school. A letter will be issued to parents. Dates of Strike Days will be issued to parents.

5. End of Meeting

5.1. Schedule next Meeting

Tuesday October 27th, 6.30pm

5.2. Adjournment

9.05pm

* During the meeting it was questioned whether we could in fact vote if membership had not been paid yet. Felt 1 meeting grace allowable re membership and voting as there was the intention to pay.