

EQUINOX HOLISITIC ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Council Meeting Minutes January 16, 2017

Library | 7:20 pm – 9 pm

SCHOOL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

(In Attendance)

Co-Chair: Matthew Hall
Co-Chair & Secretary: Angela Matich
Co-Treasurer: Cherokee MacLeod
Co-Treasurer: Jillian Dempsey
A.S.A.C. Rep.: * Boriana Karan
Student Rep.: Zara Wong

*A.S.A.C. = Alternative School Advisory Council

SCHOOL STAFF REPRESENTATIVES

(In Attendance)

Principal: Mark Lasso
Teacher Rep.: Kyle Punch
Roden Teacher Rep.: Robert Walters

ADDITIONAL MEETING ATTENDEES

Tina Faridi, Lorien Iantomasi, Heather Wong

VOTING PROCESS

All parent attendees and the one Equinox teacher representative were able to vote on anything presented during the meeting. Whether a vote was passed or not has been recorded below. Before each vote, the School Council motioned for the vote and one of the meeting attendees seconded it.

7:20 PM – 7:40 PM JOINT SCHOOL MEETING – PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

EXTRACURRICULAR SPORTS & CLUBS

- **Toronto Police Sports Group Grades 7/8 – Instructors: Sherman Lam and PC Adam Whyte**
Alternating Tuesdays | Gym
- **Ukulele Club Grade 4/5 - Instructor: Lisa Olafson**
Wednesdays & Thursdays | Lunch | Library
- **Grade 5/6 Girls Volleyball - Coaches: Simon and Tera**
Mondays 3:30 – 4:30 pm | Gym
- **Grade 5/6 Boys Basketball - Coach: Simon**
Wednesday & Friday 3:30 – 4:30 pm | Gym
- **Grade 7/8 Boys Basketball - Coach: Simon**
Thursday and Fridays 3:30 – 4:30 pm | Gym
- **Grades 1 to 4 Book Publishing Club – Instructor: Robert Walters**
Tuesdays 11:45 am – 12:45 pm
- **Twitter: @Roden_HPE**

EQUINOX HOLISITIC ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Council Meeting Minutes January 16, 2017

Library | 7:20 pm – 9 pm

OFF SICK

Armaity who will be away until the end of January.

WINTER CLOTHES & REGULAR CLOTHES DONATIONS

Both Roden and Equinox schools are looking for donations of winter clothes for students in need. This includes any size gloves/mittens and clothes for students between 6 to 10 years of age.

JANUARY 20th PA DAY

January 20th is a PA Day for assessment and evaluation by teachers.

RED DOOR SHELTER

A Red Door Shelter is opening in the area and Roden may receive new students from this program.

MENTAL HEALTH

School staff are working to educate students on where and how they can receive access to mental health support. The last Wednesday of every month is a lunchtime mental-health workshop. Starting this January two Sheridan Nursing Students will be available to work with both Roden and Equinox staff and students on mental health.

ANTI-BULLYING

Both Roden and Equinox schools are continually addressing and educating staff and students on anti-bullying by combining a number of programs at any one time.

NOW, PLAN & GOALS

Mark walked the group through his charts. The first one was an overview of current state of the school. As per TDSB directions the focus is achievement, equity and well-being. The second one is exploring what that means for planning. The last one is setting achievable goals. So, what does that mean...

Achievement:

Improve math with the support of a math coach and collaboration between both schools. The focus is on geometry and spatial sense. Also, includes hosting a Parent Math Workshop on February 1st.

EQUINOX HOLISTIC ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Council Meeting Minutes January 16, 2017

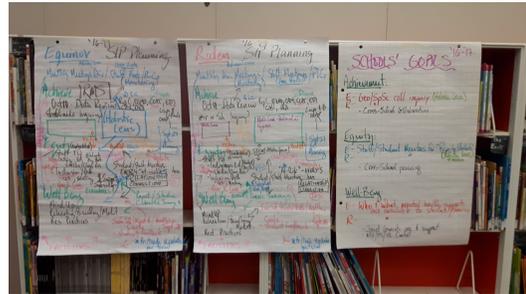
Library | 7:20 pm – 9 pm

Equity:

Setting up priority mentoring for high-risk students and others. This includes student to student and student to teacher mentoring.

Well-Being:

Working towards educating students on what health supports and resources are available to them and their families.



WIFI

Roden and Equinox are currently on an old Bell network so WIFI is inconsistent and often can't support the tech we have. TDSB had a contract with Cogeco to upgrade the system; however, Cogeco did not meet that contract. TDSB is currently in a law suit with Cogeco and there is no estimated time on resolution and when the WIFI will be upgraded.

EQUINOX MEETING OPENING

Zara opened the meeting by reading the TDSB acknowledgement of the traditional territories/ancestral lands of the Aboriginal peoples. Next, Matt led the group through an opening circle where everyone was invited to share their name, their children's names, grades, as well as a favourite holiday tradition.

NOVEMBER 2016 MEETING NOTES

The meeting notes from November were approved.

PROPOSED BUDGET SURVEY SUMMARY & VOTE

Angela confirmed that 62 budget surveys were completed. All line items were approved by the majority of survey takers. Furthermore, when a "No" or "Other" was selected it was sometimes for a reason other than not approving the actual line item. For example, a few times responses thought the budget should be higher or they felt they didn't have enough information to make an informed decision.

The council has posted responses for the feedback received on the budget survey. Those responses are still available online for you reference: <https://equinoxschool.ca/2016-2017-school-council-budget-survey-responses/>. Below is the presented budget, survey results and vote details.

EQUINOX HOLISITIC ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Council Meeting Minutes January 16, 2017

Library | 7:20 pm – 9 pm

Note: Winter tree expenses are trees purchased online through the School Council website. That money had to be forwarded to the Scouts for the trees.

EHAS Budget Summary 2016/17 as of Jan 13/17

Bank Balance	\$25,569.92
Deposits pending pick up	\$360.00

Commitments coming out of the bank \$14,548.45

Outdoor Kindergarden funds	\$1,797.89
Funds to cover PINE shortfall	\$4,000.00
Council Childcare & pizza for 2 meetings	\$220.00
3rd Floor Murals	\$1,235.00
Accidental Deposit from Equinox acct	\$3,705.00
Winter Concert Bake Sale Fundraiser for Xylophone	\$559.65
Winter Fair Tree Expenses	\$1,450.00
Winter Fair Other Expenses	\$530.91
Movie License	\$200.00
Instruments for String Club	\$650.00
ReadUp Club	\$200.00

Money available to spend \$11,381.47

Upcoming fundraising dollars (Estimates) \$1,800.00

Jan - Egg Fundraiser	\$300.00
Feb - Egg Fundraiser	\$300.00
Mar - Egg Fundraiser	\$300.00
Apr - Egg Fundraiser	\$300.00
May - Egg Fundraiser	\$300.00
June - Egg Fundraiser	\$300.00

Expenses to vote on \$7,090.24

Classroom Supports	\$2,600.00
Grade 8 Graduation Celebration	\$500.00
Lice Check	\$500.00
Production (Grade 4-8)	\$1,000.00
Cultural Enrichment Program	\$1,328.00
Nutrition Program	\$1,000.00
Recess Revival Sports Cart	\$162.24

EQUINOX HOLISITIC ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Council Meeting Minutes January 16, 2017

Library | 7:20 pm – 9 pm

CLASSROOM SUPPORTS – APPROVED \$3,000

Budget Survey Results are 90.32% Yes, 0%, No, and 9.68% Other

The original proposed council budget had allocated \$200 per class for supports for a total of \$2,600. During the Monday, January 16th council meeting, Kyle advised that the teachers had met and came to a consensus to ask that council provide classroom supports by teacher instead of by class. This resulted in this budget line item going up slightly. At the meeting, it was approved by vote to give 15 teachers classroom support funds: JK/SK x 2, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Grade 4/5, Grade 5/6, Grade 7/8, French, Gym, Library, Music, Spec. Ed, Home School x 2. Total 15 teachers x \$200 = \$3,000.

GRADE 8 GRADUATION – APPROVED \$500

Budget Survey Results are 91.94% Yes, 4.84%, No, and 3.23% Other

NUTRITION PROGRAM – APPROVED \$1,000

Budget Survey Results are 91.80% Yes, 3.28%, No, and 4.92% Other

Both Roden and Equinox students receive snacks and have access to the morning Breakfast Program. Mark confirmed the snacks are slightly different between the schools because the Equinox community has specific food preferences such as no gluten, dairy or eggs. This means Equinox's snacks are fruits and veggies. Our schools do receive grants for this program; however, we are still required to raise additional funds from users and the community. The additional money being donated by both Roden and Equinox School Councils is to improve the quality of that food so there are healthier options for our students. Parents are still asked to donate to further to help this program provide quality options to the students. Currently it runs with only \$0.29 per child per day.

LICE CHECK – APPROVED \$500

Budget Survey Results are 85.24% Yes, 11.48%, No, and 3.28% Other

Lice checks are performed by a third-party company with the assistance of school volunteers to keep costs low. If you are a parent interested in volunteering to do lice checks, please email equinox@tdsb.on.ca. Any parent who has concerns regarding the quality of the lice checks should contact the office at equinox@tdsb.on.ca

PRODUCTION (Grades 4 – 8) – APPROVED \$1,000

Budget Survey Results are 71.67% Yes, 18.33%, No, and 10% Other

One of the meeting attendees confirmed that last year that the very talented (paid) accompanist also provided script/musical guidance for this production, including working with the children on vocal refinement. Angela also confirmed that last year approximately 30 to 40 students participated in the production.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAM – APPROVED \$1,328

Budget Survey Results are 85% Yes, 8.33%, No, and 6.67% Other

EQUINOX HOLISITIC ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Council Meeting Minutes January 16, 2017

Library | 7:20 pm – 9 pm

RECESS REVIVAL CART – APPROVED \$162.24

Budget Survey Results are 96.67% Yes, 0%, No, and 3.33% Other

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVES

Book Publishing Club Grades 1 to 4

Robb Walters outlined the book publishing club. This is the second year it is running. The extracurricular club is available to both Equinox and Roden students in grades 1 to 4. Currently there are approximately 100 students interested in participating in the program (1/3 of which are Equinox students). During five to six lunch periods students will be invited to work individually or as groups to create, write and illustrate their very own books. These books will then be professionally printed with a hard-copy book being kept in the library for all future students to enjoy. The cost per each 20-page hardcover book is \$40. Robb will be asking participating students to pay for their own hardcover books; however, he is hoping to raise enough to cover a copy for each participant that would then become part of the library inventory. So far he has raised \$1,400 and needs approx. \$4,000 more to cover all the program costs. He has asked both Roden and Equinox School Councils to donate to the program a combined total of \$2,000—1/3 for Equinox and 2/3's for Roden. The Equinox School Council will be voting on this at the next council meeting in February.

If you are interested in volunteering for this club during lunch break, please email Robb at robert.walters@tdsb.on.ca

MUSIC & TECH

Kyle asked the School Council if the teachers will still receive the traditional \$1,500 for tech and \$1,000 for music as in previous years. The school would like to purchase an Eco-Colour printer, and Chromebooks/Surface Pro's for students to use for class projects and presentations. The music department would also like more xylophones. The School Council confirmed that it still has approximately \$4,000 of unallocated funds and asked for teacher RFF's to be submitted for these two areas so they can be voted on at the next meeting which will be held in February. Otherwise, those RFF's can't be approved until April because there is no meeting in March.

FUNDRAISING

The School Council explained that once the additional approximate \$4,000 funds have been allocated this year all future council fundraising efforts will adhere to existing TDSB and the Ontario Ministry of education specifications. This means all fundraising efforts will clearly state what they are raising money for and that money will go to those specified projects.

Furthermore, the School Council invited the Equinox community—teachers, staff, students, and parents—to share with them their long-term wants and goals at any time, even if it's just a concept. The School Council is readily available by email (chair@equinoxschool.ca) and in-person. Please do not wait until a formal council meeting to present these ideas. This way we can work together to find the best ways to address these concepts, including possibly setting up a council sub-committee to figure out what fundraising, grants, or third-party donations etc. could potentially be used to reach those goals. A sub-committee would also encourage those interested in that specific cause to invest their time participating in its success.

EQUINOX HOLISITIC ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Council Meeting Minutes January 16, 2017

Library | 7:20 pm – 9 pm

STRING INSTRUMENTS

The School Council confirmed that the string instruments were approved at the November meeting.

IPADS

Mark confirmed he has approved the iPads requested by Loti and Sandee from the school budget.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Angela outlined that there is a Holistic Approach to Education Parent Workshop on Wednesday, January 25th at 6:30 pm. The keynote speaker is Jack Miller. A teacher was invited to open the workshop with a circle activity similar to one that the students do in the morning and for that teacher to participate in the end panel discussion. Kyle said he was interested and would confirm with Angela if he would be able to attend that night.

EGG FUNDRAISING UPDATE

With the Equinox School Council now adhering to the TDSB and Ontario Ministry of Education specifications, the egg program funds need to be allocated to a school cause. The School Council proposed that these funds (approx. \$300+ per month or a total of approx. \$4,000/year) be given to an Equinox Student Council as its working budget. Currently there is no active Student Council at Equinox. The hope is that one will be created with equity in grade-level representation and that this budget would give them the ability to self-direct some of the funds raised by the School Council towards improving student life and achievement at Equinox. The Student Council would require some form of adult (i.e. teacher, principal etc.) supervision to ensure proper use of funds.

Zara thought that Equinox students would be excited by this idea. Kyle confirmed there were several students who had expressed interest in forming a Student Council.

A parent at the meeting also suggested dividing the funds by class.

Mark and Kyle agreed they will explore these concepts further with the teachers and student community and that they will get back to the School Council with feedback.