

## EQUINOX HOLISITIC ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL

Council Meeting Minutes February 21, 2017

Staff Room | 1:45 pm – 3:00 pm

### SCHOOL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

(In Attendance)

Co-Chair: Matthew Hall  
Co-Chair: Angela Matich  
ASAC Rep: Boriana Karan

Vice Principal: Chris O'Shaughnessy

### ADDITIONAL MEETING ATTENDEES

Heather Bell, Heather Wong, Tina Faridi and Shelagh Smith.

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### VOTING PROCESS

All Equinox parent/guardian attendees 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.

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### OPENING

The School Council meeting opened by reading the TDSB acknowledgement of the Traditional Territories/Ancestral lands of Aboriginal peoples. Next, Angela led the group through an opening circle where everyone was invited to share their name, their children's names and grades, as well as a recent success they had in their lives or something they were looking forward to.

### NOVEMBER MEETING NOTES

The meeting notes from November were approved with one minor change. The budget on the last page was missing a line item in the left column – Third Floor Storage \$1,235. The last page budget was updated with a new version issued in February 2018.

All meeting notes from this school year are available online at [www.EquinoxSchool.ca](http://www.EquinoxSchool.ca) for reference.

### STUDENT DANCE-A-THON UPDATE – FRIDAY, MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

Both councils agreed this past November 2017 to work together to run their first ever glow-in-the-dark dance-a-thon fundraiser in the school gym between **9 am and 3:30 pm on Friday, March 2nd for ALL grades.**

The student dance-a-thon schedule is listed below for your reference.

### Equinox & Roden Student Dance-a-thon Event Schedule

9:10 am – 10:10 am – Kindergarten  
10:30 am – 11:30 am – Grades 1, 2 & 3  
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm – Grades 7 & 8  
2:25 pm – 3:25 pm – Grades 4, 5 & 6

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Proceeds raised from Equinox's dance-a-thon will be used to bring in professional educational and inspirational speakers for Equinox students covering topics like black history month, mental health awareness, and more.

Although, Equinox always strives to get TDSB approved speakers for free whenever possible, understandably many professional speakers charge fees for their services. This fund raiser will help cover those costs.

*All students have the opportunity participate in the dance-a-thon, whether or not they have pledges.*

### **HOLISTIC PARENT WORKSHOP – TBC**

The School Council received a \$1,000 PRO Grant this school year to host educational holistic parent workshops. Marcia and a few parents are working together on this project. A fun hands-on educational workshop is planned for this Spring featuring Jack Miller. It will include a potluck.

Angela mentioned that the workshop may be filmed and edited into a short informative video. This video would be posted on the Equinox website and be available to a wider audience, such as parents who couldn't attend the workshop, future Equinox parents and families interested in our school.

Childcare will be provided at the workshop.

Exact event details will be confirmed closer to the actual event.

**Note:** The School Council PRO Grant application is now open for the 2018-2019 school year. If anyone has any ideas for the PRO Grant application, please email [chair@equinoxschool.ca](mailto:chair@equinoxschool.ca).

The group recommended the School Council also ask the Equinox staff as well for ideas for the PRO Grant.

### **9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EQUINOX SOCIAL**

The 9th Annual Equinox Social will be hosted at Murphey's Law this Spring. It's a fantastic night out for parents, staff and Equinox friends. If you would like to help organize the event, please contact [chair@equinoxschool.ca](mailto:chair@equinoxschool.ca).

### **DRUMMING CIRCLE EVENT – JUNE 2018**

Heather Wong is organizing an end of school year Equinox family-friendly drumming circle event in June. If you are interested in helping her organize the event, please email [chair@equinoxschool.ca](mailto:chair@equinoxschool.ca).

### **EQUITY PARENT WORKSHOP**

TDSB is working towards addressing equity in its schools. Staff are receiving equity training and this topic is being explored with students. The School Council wants to support the equity movement by hosting an informative equity parent/guardian workshop to learn more about this complex and sensitive topic.

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The School Council proposed hiring [Harmony Movement](#) to lead a 2-hour parent workshop at the school on equity in either April or May this school year. The \$750 workshop fee would be covered by council's existing TDSB and OME funds. These funds are provided to all School Councils every year for council materials and parent outreach activities. If we don't use them, we lose them. These funds are completely separate from the Equinox School Council fundraising funds.

Chris inquired if the Equinox School Council had checked if TDSB had any free equity leadership services that they could tap into. Angela confirmed that since this past November she has been going back and forth with Cathy and TDSB. Angela was told that the parent community does not have access to TDSB's equity educational services such as the Learning Coaches. The School Council will check one more time with TDSB before hiring a third-party vendor for the equity parent workshop and Angela asked Chris to do the same.

The group asked if Roden, other Alternative Schools and the general public should be invited to the equity parent workshop. Angela explained that Equinox has its own equity challenges which are unique to our school, such as admission processes for example, which may be better addressed in an Equinox only equity parent workshop. She also explained that the School Council's hope was that this parent workshop would build a strong foundation of equity knowledge and help launch the School Council's new Social Justice Committee. Lastly, she outlined during the workshop, attendees will break off into smaller discussions groups. Ideally the workshop would be for a group of 30 to 50 people anything more this sort of process gets more challenging.

### **HOW TO BE AN ALLY: THE EXPERIENCE – HEALING THE SACRED**

Marco and Irit are gathering information for the School Council about possibly arranging for Bear Standing Tall to lead the workshop. The description of the workshop is below for reference.

*Join us for a powerful three-hour experience and learn in a non-colonized way about The Doctrine of discovery, Terra Nullius, The Indian Act, Reservations, The Pass System, Treaties, Residential Schools, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Healing the Sacred Circle, The Four Sacred Gifts for all Humanity, and Learning to be an Ally with Indigenous Peoples. Q & A panel with a Residential School Survivor to follow workshop.*

### **EQUINOX MISSION STATEMENT**

TDSB requires all Alternative Schools to review and re-commit to their Mission Statement every three to five years. Although Equinox has discussed its Mission Statement since opening its doors nine years ago; the school has not completed the process of a Mission Statement review and recommitment.

The School Council hopes to complete that process with the school community this year. The goal is that once the Mission Statement is finalized and approved, it would be reviewed and approved annually like other Alternative Schools vs. every three to five years. This will hopefully make the overall processes easier in the future for the Equinox school community.

At the request of the School Council, the teacher community reviewed Equinox's current Mission Statement. After they reviewed it, the School Council was going to share it with the parent community for feedback; however, the meeting group felt that there may be better processes for addressing Equinox's

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Mission Statement. One example given, was holding a meeting where individuals would write down four words that described the school. Then those individuals would pair off and take their combined eight words and narrow it back down to four. Then that couple would pair up with another couple (total - four people) and take their combined words and pair it down to four again. This would continue until whole group finalized four words.

It was agreed, the School Council, teacher representatives and the school admin will meet in the next few weeks to discuss how best to approach this sensitive Mission Statement project.

### **ASAC EVENT**

Boriana confirmed ASAC will be hosting an event this year which all Alternative Schools staff, students, parents and the general public will be invited to learn more about Alternative Schools. It will include a variety of presentations, information and be a fantastic community networking social opportunity.

A meeting attendee mentioned how some Alternative Schools host Sports Mash-ups where the different schools come together to have fun and play sports in a non-competitive environment. It often turns into family socials. The group agreed this might be something fun for ASAC to organize in the future.

### **OPEN FLOOR REMARKS**

- **CARPET REPLACEMENT**

The school carpet replacement with bio tiles is a work in progress. It is unknown at this time when the entire project will be completed. The library carpet will be replaced with new carpet tiles. The exact carpet tile material for the library was unknown at the time of this meeting.

- **FULL SPECTRUM LIGHT BULBS**

Last Spring TDSB Facilities approved Equinox's pilot project request to order a small batch of full spectrum light bulbs for our school to test. We will be the first TDSB school to receive these full spectrum light bulbs. The new light bulbs will fit into the existing light fixtures exactly like the current light bulbs.

The full spectrum test lights bulbs have been specifically ordered for the Spec Ed Room and the Music/French Room.

Unfortunately, the full spectrum light bulbs that were ordered last Spring were not delivered as planned. Equinox's school administration is working to hopefully get these light bulbs delivered and installed this school year.

- **DROP-IN CENTRE & LORI'S KINDERGARTEN CLASS RELOCATION**

Equinox is still waiting for TDSB Facilities to confirm the exact of timing for the Drop-in Centre and Lori's kindergarten classroom relocation. According to TDSB, it should happen sometime this school year and/or before September.

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For those who have not heard yet, Lori's kindergarten class is going to be relocated from the library to the Drop-In Centre. Lori's kindergarten students will finally have easy visible bathroom access and be located with all the other Roden and Equinox kindergarten classes. Lori's kindergarten class is the only kindergarten class which is currently separated from the others.

The Drop-in Centre will be relocated to the library. TDSB plans to build two glass walls fully enclosing the current circle carpet area in the library. This area will become the new Drop-In Centre. An entranceway to the new Drop-In Centre location will be made through the adjoining wall to the Breakfast Room. The Drop-In Centre relocation will not impact the Breakfast Program which ends before the Drop-In Centre opens. Families will be able to park their strollers in the Breakfast Room and use the Breakfast Room bathroom.

The library meanwhile will get back the two meeting rooms and open space currently being used by Lori's class.

- **EQUINOX OUT KINDERGARDEN MAKEOVER UPDATE**

Equinox has been waiting since October 2017 for TDSB Facilities to approve the production and installation of the project donor engravings. We are on hold until they do.

Equinox has also been waiting since October 2017 for TDSB Facilities to provide feedback on the proposed outdoor forte storage and pricing. We are on hold until they do.

The School Council wanted to confirm the cost of the donor engravings and forte storage before purchasing the outstanding water wall accessories. Some meeting attendees recommended the School Council go ahead and purchase the water wall accessories now. This would allow them to enjoy by the students this Spring.

- **EQUINOX THIRD FLOOR STORAGE**

Equinox has been waiting since October 2017 for TDSB Facilities to provide feedback on the proposed third floor storage wall. It would be the same as the existing double-sided wood storage wall in Julia's classroom. That wall was designed and installed by TDSB many years ago.

Equinox must go through TDSB Facilities to address our school's lack of storage, walls and doors due to TDSB's regulations and existing third-party union contracts. Equinox may not resolve this matter on our own, such as build our own storage units.

- **STAFF END OF YEAR APPRECIATION**

The group discussed hosting a catered staff end of year appreciation lunch in June. Angela is going to reach out to the Roden School Council to see if they want to do a joint catered event again like last year; however, lunch instead of breakfast.

- **A TIME FOR GARDENS FUNDRAISER**

Angela confirmed with the group that Marcia and Cherokee have agreed to organize and manage A Time for Gardens Fundraiser this school year. It will happen in early Spring. All proceeds raised from this fundraiser will go towards the p.i.n.e. project field trip shortfall for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year.

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## ADDENDUM – COPY OF UPDATED DRAFT COUNCIL BUDGET

EHAS Budget Summary 2017/18		EHAS Projected Revenue & Allocations 2017/18	
<b>BANK TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,376.84</b>	<b>2017-2018 FUND RAISERS COMPLETED</b>	<b>\$13,567.98</b>
Bank Balance	\$10,143.84	Egg Sales (July-September) - <i>Cultural Performances</i>	\$479.00
Deposits Pending Pick-up	\$233.00	Roden/Equinox Curriculum Night Food Sales - <i>Nutrition Program</i>	\$267.00
		Fresh From the Farm Baskets - <i>Grade 7/8 End of Year Trip</i>	\$572.80
		Egg Funds (starting Oct. 2017 onwards) - <i>Legacy Fund</i> Approx. \$300/month or \$3,600/year. Raised To Date: October 2017 (\$308), November (\$459), Dec 2017 (\$329), Jan. 2018 (\$346), Feb. 2018 (\$401)	\$1,843.00
<b>ALLOCATED FUNDS TO BE DISTRIBUTED</b>	<b>\$8,043.42</b>	Winter Fair 10% Donation to Glen Rhodes Food Bank	\$832.20
2017 Equinox Social - Physical Ed. Program	\$358.42	Winter Fair Pre-Event, Entry Tickets, Ticket Holders and Raffle Baskets - <i>3rd Floor Classroom Storage (Cabinets, Coat Racks etc.)</i>	\$992.00
EOK Makeover Project Final Grant Funds	\$6,250.00	Winter Fair Raffle Baskets - <i>Cultural Performances</i>	\$1,199.00
2017 Read Up Club Supplies - Using Existing Funds	\$200.00	Winter Fair Food/Beverage Sales - <i>Nutrition Program</i>	\$1,081.00
3rd Floor Storage	\$1,235.00	Winter Fair Bake Sales - <i>Annual School Production</i>	\$1,286.00
<b>MONEY LEFT TO SPEND</b>	<b>\$2,333.42</b>	Winter Fair Artisan Market - <i>School Lice Checks</i>	\$501.00
		Winter Fair Woodland Pond - <i>Grade 8 Graduation Celebration</i>	\$494.00
		Winter Fair Children's Store & Storage Funds - <i>Teacher Classroom Supplies</i>	\$1,454.00
		Winter Fair Face Painting - <i>Teacher Classroom Supplies</i>	\$124.00
		Winter Fair Oracle - <i>Teacher Classroom Supplies</i>	\$46.00
		Winter Fair Craft Table - Tech (Ink Replacement \$50) + <i>Classroom Supplies</i>	\$119.00
		Winter Fair Tattoos - <i>Teacher Classroom Supplies</i>	\$30.00
		Winter Fair - Story Time with April - <i>Teacher Classroom Supplies</i>	\$32.00
		Winter Fair NEW Amazing Winter Challenge - <i>Teacher Classroom Supplies</i>	\$44.00
		Winter Fair NEW Sing Along & Crafts with Tera - French/Music Room	\$38.00
		Winter Fair Pocket Fairy - <i>N/A (No charge activity)</i>	\$0.00
		Lantern Walk/Winter Concert Bake Sale - <i>Jr./Inter. Music Supplies (\$ TBC)</i>	\$812.00
		Mable's Labels - <i>Nutrition Program</i>	\$72.61
		March 2, 2018 - Dance-a-thon - Professional Inspirational Speakers for Students <b>***Total raised by cash and cheques. Does not include online donations. Those are still being finalized.***</b>	\$1,249.37
		<b>SPRING FUNDRAISERS - COMING SOON</b>	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
Winter Fair Total After Expenses and 10% Donation:	\$7,440.00	April 28, 2018 - Equinox Social - <i>3rd Floor Classroom Storage</i>	\$500.00
Winter Fair Classroom Supplies Total:	\$1,849.00	May 2018 - A Time for Gardens - <i>the p.i.n.e. project Shortfall</i>	\$1,500.00
		<b>***All projected numbers for coming soon fundraisers are approximations.***</b>	

**Equinox School Council Budget  
DRAFT: 03/07/18**