

DRAFT

EARL HAIG SCHOOL COUNCIL TOWN HALL MINUTES

October 18, 2023
Earl Haig Public School

ATTENDEES

*IP indicated in-person attendance, OL indicated online attendance

Name	Role	In Attendance
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE		
Danielle Rombough	Co-Chair	IP
Tanya Mustachi	Co-Chair	IP
Madelaine Hamilton	Treasurer	OL
Daniel Segal	Treasurer	OL
Cleo Buster	Secretary	IP
Polly Vandenberg	Secretary	IP
Robyn Vanpee	Fundraising Lead	IP
Zoe Lamothe	Fundraising Lead	IP
Heather Cockburn	Ward 16 Council Rep	IP
Zoe Lamothe	Communications Lead	IP
Kelly Antoine	Communications Lead	N
Pilar Hernandez	Nutrition Coordinator	IP
VOTING MEMBERS		
Jennifer Scott	Member-at-large	N
Lucy Saunders	Member-at-large	IP
Evelyn Paraschos	Member-at-large	N
Shannon Butcher	Member-at-large	IP
Charlotte Chevallier	Member-at-large	IP
Barbara Bower	Member-at-large	IP
Derwin Remedios	Member-at-large	N

Angeles Reyes Corona	Member-at-large	IP
SCHOOL STAFF		
Aileen Burke-Tsakmakas	Principal	IP
Jennifer McColl	Vice Principal	N
Rob Taylor	POR Wellness	N
Lydia Bracht	POR Equity	IP
Kelly Ritsakis	POR Achievement	IP
Agapi Zegas		IP
Zainab G. Abbas		IP
SCHOOL COMMUNITY		
Jen Barnes		OL
Flynn Paquin		IP
Farouk Janmohamed		IP
Alex Andrews		IP
Silvia Delgado-Lee		IP
Yolotl Plascencia		IP
Laura Mandelbaum		IP
Laura Vresk		IP
Karen Simpson		OL
Andrew Stoch		OL
Alicia Neufeld		OL
Loretta Lau		OL
Sarah Goetze		OL
Marco Goetze		OL
Dawn Lovas		OL
Kristen Currie		OL
Nadja Bouya		OL
Lisa Luu		OL
Maria Flamingo		OL
Colm Prunty		OL
COMMUNITY MEMBERS		
N/A		

26 Attendees in person

18 Attendees on Zoom

AGENDA ITEMS

Welcome remarks and Land Acknowledgement (Danielle Rombough)

We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and the Inuit peoples.

Nous reconnaissons que nous sommes accueillis sur les terres des Mississaugas des Anichinabés, de la Confédération Haudenosaunee et du Wendat. Nous voulons également reconnaître la pérennité de la présence des Premières Nations, des Métis et des Inuit.

1. School Update (Eleni Burke-Tsakmakas)

1.1. School reorganization and classroom space

The board-mandated reorganization of the school and class allocations is completed. School staff thank parents for their patience and understanding. Although last year's reorganization was quite small, this year's was large and complicated, but we are lucky that the results are more teachers and smaller class sizes, allowing for better learning.

School enrollment is growing beyond school size. We have classes housed in library and music rooms. The school will receive two new portables within the next two weeks, and the electrical set-up will happen shortly thereafter to ease the crowding. Eventually, we will receive another two portables (bringing the total to six).

Portables will be placed on the field, which will decrease play space for the children, but the baseball diamond will remain. Depending on the location of the portables, the school may consider a different recess schedule to allow for fewer children outside at a time.

1.2. Events

Thank you to all of the parents who attended our Curriculum Night.

Picture retake day is November 16, which is also parent-teacher interview night. There will be a family photo fundraiser that same evening at the school.

There will be a Book Fair the week of November 16, ending the morning of November 17th at parent-teacher interviews.

1.3. IEPs and Progress Reports

Progress reports will come home on November 15. If your child has an IEP, please check your email as these reports are now distributed from a TDSB email address and do not come from the classroom teacher.

1.4. Field Update: Eleni will meet with the person in charge of turf fields to find out where Earl Haig is on the waiting list. In the meantime, Earl Haig is scheduled for new sod to be replaced and for the track to be repaired this summer.

1.5. Lockdown & fire drill

It is TDSB protocol to do 3 fire drill and lockdown practices each term. Tomorrow is the first lockdown practice. If any classes are on field trips, they will join in on the next drill. Evacuation sites for our school are Earl Beatty (K-4) and Monarch Park (5-8).

1.6. School Census and Equity

We are currently receiving last year's data (census, CAT4, report card). We use this data to revisit our goals of equity, indigenous community and education, and others.

Our equity team just received approval for education on racism and raising/teaching Black children by the group Parents of Black Children. The first date will be for the teachers during their next staff meeting. The second date will include teachers and parents.

1.7. Spirit Wear:

Due to some issues last year, staff are looking for a new vendor for our Spirit Wear. More information will follow

1.8. Staff Introductions:

Zainab G Abbas (new grade 4-5 teacher): her new class is transitioning well and they are working on classroom expectations and routines. Her class is currently in the music room.

Agapi Zegas: this is her second year at EH. She is one of the teachers organizing the dance-a-thon. She is asking for more donations from parents for prizes. Children will be able to put their ballots into the prize boxes to try to win (each child gets one ballot, with an extra ballot for each \$10 raised).

Kelly Ritsakis: POR in achievement and grade 5-6 teacher. She is looking at language and math data for achievement goals to make sure all gaps are closed and students are achieving appropriately. Our first Family Math Night is coming up. 2 reps from Jump Math will come and facilitate. There will be various stations and activities to give families an idea of what Jump Math is and how it's used. It will be Thursday, November 23, from 5:30 - 6:30, and they are looking for parent volunteers. This is open to all grades. The teachers will be doing training for this on this upcoming Thursday. Volunteers will need to be part of this training (it is on Zoom) from 3:45 - 4:45 (Danielle Rombough will be one of the volunteers)

Lydia Bracht: POR in equity, ½ library and ½ resource. The library will be fully usable once the new portables are set up. The book fair will be the week of November 16. They will be partnering with Urban Indigenous Education Centre as well as Parents of Black Children.

1.9. LUNCH PROGRAM

The form must be filled out. Children may not eat snack or lunch program unless their guardian has filled out the form. We NEED parent volunteers, and are looking

at hiring an extra person to help out. Pilar and Admin will meeting with 3 candidates for this position next week. All volunteers must have a police check.

1.10. Library

For the time being, teachers are borrowing books on behalf of their classes for the time being. Once the class has moved to the new portable, the library will open

1.11. Rob Taylor (not in attendance; read by Lydia Bracht): X-Country had an excellent turnout. 32 kids went on to South Regionals yesterday. 7 kids are moving on to City Finals (5 grade 5, one grade 6, one grade 7). The Team Unbreakable race will be on November 7 and the link to sign your family up will be in the next newsletter.

Financial requests for SAC funding include updating recess kits, and bussing for the Grade 8 graduation trip. These financial requests will be discussed and assessed at the next SAC planning meeting.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

Question about how to donate to the school: Parents may donate to the school at School Cash Online and may direct their donation specifically (i.e. to Earl Haig Library, or to Earl Haig Recess kits) using the same process as the Cross Country bibs. SAC does also fund items using proceeds of our fundraisers.

Discussion around the impact on the students of having part-time library and no music room. This is temporary, and Admin have advocated strongly in order to get the portables here as soon as possible. After the portables arrive, two classes will move there and the 2.5 music teachers will share the music room. The school will request a third portable for another music room. The TDSB formula does not give a designated room to music programs, so are privileged to have this option still open to us. The staff room is also considered as available space for a classroom, and the cafeteria space could potentially be used for two separate classrooms. The gym would then become the eating space (there is not enough supervision for classroom eating) if that happened.

If parents want to advocate for specific programs, it is the Province that sets the budget and advocacy can be directed there. And if you are talking to your Trustee, know that our school demographic spans two different trustees. Parents who want help knowing where to direct advocacy can contact the council at earlhaigschoolcouncil@gmail.com.

Online question from Sofia: is it possible to be notified after a lockdown drill so that parents can debrief with their child? Connect with your child's classroom teacher beforehand with any concerns and your child's teacher can reach out when these drills are planned are completed.

2. SAC Update (Tanya Mustachi, Danielle Rombough)

2.1. Updates from SAC Planning Meeting

Minutes will be discussed and approved at the next planning meeting

2.2. Fundraising Update

2.2.1. Pumpkin Patch

Thursday October 26, 3:30 - 6:30, we are looking for volunteers to bake treats and volunteers to set up, work, and clean up the event.

Baked good tickets will be \$1 each and pumpkins will be \$7 each. Small items (bubbles, keychains, etc) may also be available if there are not enough baked goods. Parents are encouraged to buy ahead, but some tickets will be available at the event.

Our vendor will allow for us to purchase extra pumpkins if we pre-sell extra.

There are two sign-up sheets for volunteers (one for in-person volunteers, and one for volunteer bakers)

2.2.2. Spring Fair

Zoe, Robyn, and Tanya will meet next week to assemble a sub-committee to plan the event.

2.2.3. 100th Anniversary Event

This is our 100th anniversary year! Parent and Alumni communities would like an event where they can come inside and see the school, rooms, and possibly past teachers. We are hoping to pull together an Alumni database from various social media groups to help get interested people involved. Anyone who is interested can come help.

2.2.4. Winter Library

The winter clothing outerwear library is large, and we don't need a full drive for new items. Tanya will go through our stock and create a wish list of needed items. This will be coming up shortly.

2.2.5. Classroom Allocations

The Council voted to approve up to \$5,000 to support classroom materials for teachers. Support teachers receive up to \$125. Classroom teachers receive up to \$125, with an extra \$5 per student for teachers with 26 or more students. Teachers and Council will be working closely to make sure that teachers take advantage of this.

2.2.6. Finance Update

We are currently waiting for our access, as our account was with Pace Credit, which has been taken over by Alterna.

3. **Digital Privacy Discussion (Alex Andrews)**

How the school stores digital information and media is important for childrens' safety. Alex has worked in hospitals with kids and kids' data and privacy in research, and is now in the application side. Alex has 3 kids in the school and daycare. We need to have a conversation about what it means to be responsible with kids' data and why it matters. When we lose control of kids' photos, videos and schoolwork, there is the risk of identity theft, deep fake abuse materials, etc. We can't predict the risks, so we need to be very careful.

A safer digital example: when the daycare takes pictures, they use a digital camera with memory card and print physical copies only.

It makes sense to not use real pictures and full names when uploading information to apps and websites, even educational ones, because this data is then on a server which may be vulnerable in ways we don't understand.

SCHOOL RESPONSE AND DISCUSSION:

This ties into some of the learning EH staff had today at the staff meeting. The TDSB is becoming strict with what apps and servers are being used. Staff has a discussion around assessments, report card data, google classroom data, etc. This discussion will continue with the staff. Digital citizenship is also covered in the curriculum age-appropriately from kindergarten on up.

Phones are not necessary in the classroom and students should not have them out during instructional time. The school cannot ban them from the classroom because not everyone has access to a secure locker. Parents are encouraged to help enforce no cell phones in class. The school asks that all phones are put away in instructional time and that parents not telephone their children during school time.

Parents find it frustrating when there isn't a consistent approach to digital privacy from one teacher to another. Parents who are digitally cautious don't want their children exposed to teachers who are not as cautious.

Sometimes photographs are used as an assessment tool, not to be posted, especially with some of the very young years where the students cannot write their own descriptions. Parents would appreciate consistency of who is taking the pictures, what pictures are taken, if they include group photos or individual photos, or just school work photos, and what kind of devices they are taken on.

4. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM

Minutes prepared by Polly VandenBerg

Upcoming SAC Meetings:

- Thursday, November 2nd @ 8:00 pm - SAC Planning Meeting
- Wednesday, November 8th @ 7:00 pm - Town Hall (School update) - In-person at school
- Tuesday, December 5th @ 7:00 pm - Town Hall (School update) - In-person at school

Connect with us online:



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