

Home and School Meeting

Wednesday November 12, 2025

In attendance: Lisa V., Tyler, Nadia Roussy, Julie R., Rebecka, Angela MB, Melanie M., Leticia, Alyssa, Gina (late arrival)

Online: Mrs. McRae, Melanie D., Samantha B., Natalie G., Joya

Rebecka motions to adopt the agenda, Julie seconds.

Nadia motions to adopt the minutes, Leticia seconds.

Melanie does the land acknowledgement.

Admin report:

Mr. Lambert wanted to know about the Pridewear Sale- did we send anything out yet? No, Melanie sent an email to Mr. Lambert to send out. Mrs. McRae will remind him tomorrow to do it. When we have the Trivia Night, H&S is planning to do a food drive. Is it possible to ask people to bring in gift cards to purchase fresh things? Or a collection of money to buy gift cards. Perhaps a half and half (like we did at Bingo- Buy a Candy Cane- like the Buy a Boot we did). Note: it was later decided to do an Ice Cream Friday- where all proceeds will go to buying gift cards. The Breakfast Club's toaster broke- they need a new one. We will create an allocation for this later. (Toaster bought and delivered to Breakfast Club)
Report cards will be available tomorrow on Mozaic.

Membership report- nothing to report, still sitting at 31 members. A grade 6 class is putting pamphlets together for K orientation- Tyler stopped in to help them. Next year, hopefully this will encourage people to join!

VP report from Nadia:

re. The fire alarm last week, a lot of parents gave feedback that their kids got sick, were very cold when they were waiting outside. Nadia is suggesting weather-proof bins, that we could keep in the schoolyard, and fill with thermal blankets. Leticia suggested designated staff who would be in charge of these blankets, therefore they could be kept inside. Mrs. McRae does see that this could be an issue if the designated person has to stay with the students, cannot run to get the bag. Perhaps it could be left in the office. We will add this to the allocations. (Blankets bought, did we get them in duffle bags, and in the office?)

GB report: Tyler mentioned nothing to report, we had approval on everything that we brought up.

Allocations:

These allocation requests were sent out by email on October 24, 2025. All were approved by members.

1) Ms. Yan, a new Cycle K, 1 and some of Cycle 2 music teacher. She has asked for the following, **a total asked for \$543.00**

- Piano Cats and dogs (Each piano cat is part of a set that plays Do-Re-Mi-Fa-Sol-La-Ti (Si)- Do on one side button, and on the other side button sings a "meow" warm-up followed by a series of pitches that reveal a secret song (a different song per cat), where the students are the rhythm and the cats are the pitches. Great for basic elements so music training. <https://a.co/d/7rhxfxr>

- Any kind of batteries (I can wait for sales): AA and AAA Batteries (for the piano cats and dogs, electronic drum pads, electric pianos, and the portable mini guitar amps that haven't broken yet):

<https://a.co/d/f8o5Nqy>

- Although it's missing the 88 full keys, 61 keys is still enough for beginners to advanced pianists, the light up notes are helpful for students who have issues with focus (inclusiveness),

portable for music concerts, and imitates the upright piano style with proper posture options. Affordable compared to other upright keyboards, more durable for little ones than the fold up travel keyboards.

<https://a.co/d/2dGM57Q>

- Mini guitar amp (this one works both out loud and with headphones, is more resilient to damage than the smaller ones, portable for movement around the room and formation of mini rock bands with electric guitar and drum pad):

<https://a.co/d/b375KHV>

- Carbon fibre is **resistant to weather/humidity changes** and therefore less maintenance & repairs needed (as opposed to wood); **waterproof**, for outdoor concerts/play; more resilient to damage, so both younger and older children can use them). Strings usually need to be changed and restrung on any string instrument. *Strings for carbon fibre instruments need to be changed less often*):

<https://a.co/d/3gpCQgg>

2) Ms. Shatillia on behalf of all Kindergartens. The three classes will share; **They have asked for \$500.00**

- Here is a link to a water table that would work. It's from a Canadian supplier. The table must have: wheels, a cover and be no smaller than 36"L x 24"W x 24"H (M161AL). Ideally 4 students would use it at a time.

<https://woodwoodtoys.ca/products/water-sand-tables-with-metal-frames-3-versions-made-in-canada?variant=42695613907027>

If you can find it second hand that would be awesome :)

3) Virginie Roy, Grade 3:

- It's a player that allows you to listen to readings. I could record my voice reading some books/short stories, and the students could listen to the story during stations. It's compatible with headphones and it's screen-free (I prefer this compared to Chromebooks, since we can't always be sure they are actually listening to the story as supposed). It also seems very sturdy and hard to break. I've heard from teachers using them and they are in love!

I'm ready to start with 4 players if too expensive for 5 They are on special at the moment though!! **279,60(4) = 454,72\$ with tax and shipping**

They are these ones: <https://www.mybookinou.com/?srsId=AfmBOooW6GRG1qyQNz-JX2HYER0ODJqrzAGID2MdS8V9CcP2eZW0ecUX>

Allocations approved at this meeting:

- 1) As mentioned above, Julie motions to buy the Breakfast Club a 4 slotted toaster for \$60 or less
- 2) Nadia motions that we purchase 300 thermal blankets and 2 duffle bags for outdoor emergencies, that will be kept in the office, for the cost of \$700.

Babysitting course: so popular, we had to open up a second group.

It will all be done online.

Side note: We have found another company (Formation Langevin) that offers the babysitting course and an "I can stay alone" course, in person. Angela MB is going to look into this, try to plan something for the spring. If it goes well, maybe we can do it next year with this other company.

Outdoor playground: nothing to report- it has snowed- we have to put off any improvements until the spring.

We would like to remind Mr. Lambert that we do need a playground committee put together. If they are breaking ground in the spring, we would like to have a discussion about it.

QFHSA conference:

Was at Beechwood this past Saturday. One of the better turnouts that Mel has seen in the past few years.

There were two presentations: Stress and Anxiety in Children, and Getting ready for High School and Helping your child with homework.

Mel really enjoyed this presentation, and would like to look into getting a presentation from this presenter, to offer parents.

The last speaker of the day was Allo Prof- a super great website (mainly French but some sections have been translated in English) that has resources to help kids with their homework, reading, etc.

There was a roundtable discussion with different home and school associations, from all over Quebec, which is very different than a regular QFHSA event that we might be more likely to attend.

Mel and Gina also attended an H&S conference at Edgewater a few weeks ago. A major trend with most Home & Schools is the lack of volunteerism. They had a discussion with Edgewater representatives that we could try helping each other more, cross-advertising for our events.

Holiday Store Committee and Holiday Lunch planning:

The form for the lunch is being worked on, to send out.

L'Oeufrier has said they can do it again this year. We do need the teachers names, home room number, and number of children per class in order to be well organized this year ☺

Re. The Holiday Store: Nadia is asking when is a good time to start ordering the gifts? Mel said that they will discuss it in their private phone chat.

Pridewear sale: as mentioned above, it has been sent to Mr. Lambert to send out to the school community.

Re. Pridewear and a new supplier: Lisa did look into it and it does seem like doing the switch could be beneficial. Cynthia will be brought into the conversation.

Teacher Coffee December 1: Lisa V. and Angela B.

Lisa is asking what needs to be bought, how would she get reimbursed if she is to buy things. We have allocated up to \$250 for that event.

We might have some stuff downstairs as well. Tyler and Lisa will go downstairs later to look.

Libraries:

Gina mentions that the last meeting we had, we spoke about the Commissioners meeting, which Gina logged into. There is a woman who is in charge of doc techs (librarians)- she says that they are recruiting 2 doc techs who will be responsible for 17 schools. There are staffing reductions, retirees, budget cuts, etc. Because of all this, they cannot replenish all the vacancies. The woman who runs the doc tech programs says the scope of the job has changed, so people who go into this kind of field with a love of books, end up doing more administrative things, which is not what they are looking for.

We did get an update that the positions were filled, and we do have a doc tech.

Gina looked into the Library Sciences program at John Abbott (who work with EMSB). They say that because a stagiaire must be supervised all the time, and we have no doc techs, then it would not be possible.

Mel is suggesting we write letters to those responsible (us and the other 16 schools who do not have doc techs), send the letters to parents committees, GBs, etc.

The next Parent Committee meeting is next Thursday (might not be able to get that done in time).

Gina and Mel will draft a letter.

Volunteers needed:

Julie will work on the "unofficial" 50/50. (Note- this was not proceeded with- not enough participation to merit it).

Lisa needs some pumpkins if anyone has.

We need more attendees, though. Advertise advertise advertise! Spread the word!

Leticia, Shauneen, Gina, and 4 people from the Holiday Store. Angela should double check how many volunteers we have/ need. Around 10-11 is a good number.

Varia:

Gina mentions that the QFHSA does a grant every year, for any science material in the school. A proposal must be made, anything where the kids are learning about science. Gina will send the notice to Mrs. McRae so forward to the teachers.

Natalie looked into Casacades fundraising. The only problem would be that the company needs to deliver to us, we need to store it somewhere, and the school is probably not the best option. Things would be delivered on pallets, big quantities, etc. Lisa is going to look into it, maybe she can find a solution.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.