**Attendance-**

Melissa Stacey, Allan Mackay, Elanor McCoy, Melissa Schrader, Barb Csanits, Sabeen Hussain, Rikki-Lynn Crooks, Erika Ott, Jen Nabney-Roy, Heather Reid, Nikki Hicks, Jennifer McNamara, Kristin Barber, Heather Wood, Tanya Harris, Darrel Mahaffy, John Beaudoin.

**Regrets**-

To everyone who couldn’t attend tonight.

**Welcome/Opening Statements- Sabeen Hussain**

Welcome back returning members, and new members. Thank you everyone for attending tonight.

Childcare will be provided for the majority of parent council meetings. If you need childcare please email Sabeen [zebrapolargiraffe@gmail.com](mailto:zebrapolargiraffe@gmail.com) so we can ensure we have enough student volunteers to supervise the children.

An email will be sent out if there will **not** be childcare provided at the meeting.

**Administrators Report- Allan Mackay and Melissa Stacey**

Our new principal Mr. Allan. Mackay is very excited and pleased to be working at our school this year. Working at Elgin St. P.S. has been one of his teaching goals during his career. Mr. Mackay is a local, who believes we are all here for the better of the community.

He has worked at several schools within the Waterloo Region including: Manchester P.S, and Moffatt Creek. He was the principal that opened Moffatt Creek P.S.

He says we will find him to be very consistent, impartial, and very passionate in his role as principal.

Mr. Mackay is very confident in the wonderful staff we have at Elgin St. He feels they are more than willing to help improve the school and community.

Strongly believes in accountability both at home and school, as well as building the kids back up.

He proposed the idea to have an executive committee for parent council this year. Having 12 executive, voting members on the council, as well as the chair, treasurer, and secretary totalling 15 members.

Admin staff will be providing council with an academic update on the EQAO testing from last year. We will indicate a plan for growth and achievement results at next months meeting.

Mlle. Siertsema’s class will be moving down to where Ms. Debranski’s class is located, and Ms.Debranski’s class will be moving into a new portable once it arrives, near the end of October. The new portable will be located in the back courtyard on the tarmac. For the interim Ms. Debranski’s class will be relocated to the library.

We are asking parents and students for patience while we get the classes re-arranged.

There will be some minor restrictions for normal library use. The library will be closed during core learning times. We will be having smaller groups from classes using the library, in hopes that we will not be disturbing Ms.Debranski’s class too much.

**HERO School Program**

We are 1 of 12 schools participating in the HERO program. We are working with a company called Plasticity. They are a company that premotes happiness and well being. This will be our second year in this program. You may have heard your children speaking of he different HERO traits. For example: hope, gratitude and resilience. We have monthly assemblies for the HERO program. We receive extra resources and specialised staff for participating in this program. More information will be sent home shortly.

**Playgrounds- Allan Mackay**

It seems like we have solved most of our playground issues. We are allowing all students to use both sets of equipment. The students seem very happy with this.

Kindie Playground. Mr. Mackay invites all parents to have a look at the Moffatt Creek P.S Kindie playground to see what our different options are. We will be keeping the fenced in area for the kindergarten classes. The new playground when installed will be fenced in as well. We are looking to raise around $45,000 to build the new playground.

**Coffee Connections-Allan Mackay**

We will be starting a Coffee Connections group at our school. We will be having a monthly meeting where parents can sit down and speak with other parents, administrative staff, and community resource workers. Our first meeting was held on Wednesday September 26th 2018. Both Mr. Mackay and Ms. Stacey were present, as well as our community resource worker Kevin Phillips. Future speakers may be invited depending on the needs of the group. Everyone is welcome to attend!!! The schools vision with this program is to allow parents to have face to face time with staff to convey the human element between staff and parents. It gives parents a forum to ask questions.

**YMCA- Elanor McCoy**

The YMCA operates both before and after school care for grades JK-Grade 6.

They also offer full day care for toddlers/preschool

There are spaces still available.

They are looking to hire some new staff as well.

**Fresh from Farm Fundraiser- Sabeen Hussain**

This is our 3rd year participating in this program. There are two bundle options to choose from.

Bundle A- $14.00 5lb white potatoes, 3lb sweet potatoes, 3lb yellow onions, 3lb carrots

Bundle B- $15.00 8lb Empire apples.

Orders are due October 10th. With delivery taking place in November. Parents will be notified of delivery date 10 days prior to delivery via: School day, Twitter and email. This year we gave parents/staff the option to donate a box of apples or $15 to help support our Nutrition for Learning program. So far we have had great success with most families donating to the program. Thank you to Tanya Harris for typing up the donation letter. Volunteers will be needed to help with the delivery date. A volunteer sheet was passed around tonight and an online signup will be created when the delivery date is announced. Volunteers who signed up to help will be notified immediately upon receiving our delivery date.

**Movie Night- Sabeen Hussain, Kristin Barber, Allan Mackay**

Still looking for future date and time options. Mr. Mackay informed us that most schools in the region offer this program once every other month, due to the liability issues. We are looking into the options of sending a survey to see what time/day would work best for families to attend movie nights.

More information to come soon.

**Pizza- Jen Nabney-Roy**

We will be continuing our pizza program with Big Slice Pizza (formerly Tito’s Pizza). Order forms have yet to go out. Ms. Stacey has confirmed that we will be using both paper forms and school day payments. We are looking into different payment options on school day as there is a service charge for paying online. More info on that issue to come soon.

The pizza program is one of our best fundraisers that we run at the school. Many parents have been wondering if we could maybe get the price per slice lowered. We currently pay $8 per pizza and charge $2/slice. We will look into other pizza companies over the school year. Council agreed to keep our current pizza company, and look into other food options for the school year,

**Upcoming Events-Sabeen Hussain**

**Book Fair-Sabeen Hussain**

Book fair has been booked for November. Date will be released at October’s parent council meeting. We are looking into the possibility of using student volunteers to help as well. The students helped out last year and it seemed to work well. Great way to teach the kids about volunteering!!!

We will be voting next meeting on where the proceeds from the book fair will be going. In previous years proceeds from the book fair go back to the library. The librarian mentioned that she did not receive any funds last year from the book fair, so we are looking into getting last years proceeds as well.

**Charity Bingo-Kristin Barber**

Charity Bingo will be held on Wednesday September 26th at the Cambridge Gaming Centre (Bingo Hall on Elgin St) starting at 7pm. For every $21 spent per person, $10 is donated to our school. Customers must specify when purchasing their tickets, that they are playing for Elgin St. P.S. There is a guide available for new players who are unsure on how to play. We have an Elgin St. table where we sit together and help other players who are new to the game.

Next Charity night is Wednesday November 28, 2018 starting at 7pm.

**Terry fox Run-Ms. Stacey**

Terry Fox run will be held on Thursday September 27, 2018. We have set a school goal of raising $2000. If we exceed $2500 in donations, Ms. Stacey offered students the chance to tape her to the wall. Hopefully we will surpass the $2500 mark!!!

**Orange Shirt Day- Ms. Stacey**

Friday September 28th 2018 is orange shirt day. We wear orange shirts as a way to honor residential school survivors, and their descendants. Its just one of the ways we support, educate and reconcile our relationship with the Indigenous people. (WRDSB)

**Open Floor-**

**Strong Start Reading- Sabeen Hussain-**

Strong Start program has started. We are in desperate need of volunteers. We currently can only accommodate 8 students in grade 1 and grade 2. We haven’t made it to the kindies yet. If anyone is interested in helping out please contact Sabeen at [zebrapolargiraffe@gmail.com](mailto:zebrapolargiraffe@gmail.com)

**School Day-Sabeen Hussain**

Only 1/3 of parents are currently using school day. As the majority of information passed from school to home is through school day, we need to stress the importance to other parents who have yet to sign up. Please ask other parents if they’re signed up.

**Kindergarten Outdoor Area-Kristin Barber**

Just wondering if sand had been ordered for the kindie sandbox, as they have a minimal amount. Mr. Mackay assured us that a work order had been placed over the summer. We are just waiting on the school board to deliver.

**New sound system-Kristin Barber**

Wondering what the status of the new Audio video equipment was. We had approved the use of Bingo Funds to pay for the equipment. Due to a couple staff member leaving, it put us behind. Mr. Sorli has agreed to take on the task of getting it ordered. Ms. Schrader offered her help as well, to move the project along.

**Parents looking for Transparency-Tanya Harris**

Just voicing concerns from parents from previous years. There has been a lack of information and transparency between school and home. We are looking forward to having more information readily available for both parents and staff. It would be nice to have job definitions and expectations pertaining to the roles within the parent council. Hopefully that will help eliminate some of the confusion.

**DJ Services/Technical Support-John Beaudoin**

Mr. Beaudoin has offered his services and expertise in regards to audio video equipment. If anyone has any questions please feel free to contact him.

**Closing** **statements**- **Sabeen Hussain**

Thank you everyone for attending our first parent council meeting of the year. We look forward to seeing you again. Our next meeting will be held Wednesday October 10th, starting at 6pm in the library. Please enter through the doors located beside the library and Room 1.

**Also a quick thank you to Domino’s Pizza in Cambridge for donating pizza for our council meeting tonight.**