

MINUTES

George L. Armstrong Elementary School Council

Date | time Thursday February 15th, 2024 | 6PM *Meeting called to order by* S.Armstrong

In Attendance

Name	Email		Voting
Sharla Armstrong	hidingfromhubby@hotmail.com	Co-chair	Y
Nina Vallvé	nvallve@hotmail.com	Co-chair	Y
Carrie Gerdes	carrierschultz@gmail.com	Secretary	Y
Laura Corson	Laura.corson@gmail.com	Treasurer	Y
Tara Gasparik	tgasparik@hwdsb.on.ca	Principal	
Paula Wardle	pwardle@hwdsb.on.ca	Teacher Rep	
Leah Senior	Leah.senior@gmail.com		Y
Carley Hepworth	Cjh316@icloud.com		Y
Michelle Noble	Michelle.s.noble@gmail.com		Y
Elaine			
Julia Hayes		VP	
Jolene Andrews			
Regrets:			
Elisha Coughler	Chriselishacoughler1@hotmail.com		Y
Valerie Preston	vpreston@mcmaster.ca		Y
Janet VanDuzen	jvanduze@hwdsb.on.ca		Y

Opening Land acknowledgement

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board acknowledges our presence on ancestral Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Confederacy land as determined by the Dish with One Spoon treaty. The intent of this agreement is for all nations sharing this territory to do so responsibly, respectfully and sustainably in perpetuity. We respect the longstanding relationships with the local Indigenous communities, the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from January 18th 2024 were circulated prior to the meeting.

No changes indicated

Approval of amended minutes moved by ____Nina____, seconded by ____Elaine____.

No one opposed.

Minutes of January 18th 2024 approved as circulated

Report Cards

Go home Friday February 16th if parents have questions about their child's report card please contact your child's teacher

GL Armstrong School Annual Plan

Next Staff Meeting Thursday February 16th staff will be reviewing where we with our School Annual Plan

Focus on Well being

Needs

- Students who are struggling with self-regulation, confidence in their ability to learn and positive self-esteem (survey data, staff observations, student conversations)
- There is a need to create a sense of community with classrooms, the school and the GLA community. (Survey data)

Vision / How we will get there

- If we create a Staff Planning Team (Culture Club) then we can create a vision of what makes GLA a great place to learn.
- If we create common language regarding what makes GLA great, then we can use this language from K-8 when dealing with conflicts, self-regulation and behavior norms and expectations.

Strategies

- Eagle Eyes - Grade 7 & 8 Leadership Students are going out on Nutrition Breaks (Primary/ Junior) and when they see a students doing something Kind they are asking name, grade and class. The students are tracking in their books class totals.
- Other strategies will be identified at the Staff Meeting

Discussion on well being:

Lynn is a wellness advocator who previously expressed interest in doing a blurb monthly, Sharla to follow up as Lynn sent regrets tonight. Areas of focus: pointers on temper tantrums and self-esteem and all of the other things that are available as resources

Focus on Reading

Needs

- Improving reading achievement using report card data, observation, conversations with students, Lexia Reading Data for students who struggle in reading

Vison/How will we get there

- Identify our students reading achievement, reading skills they have, phonemic awareness , create small group instruction that is focus and targeted to the needs of the students

Strategies

- Targeted instruction in the classroom , small group instruction, reading activities that focus on the student needs

Discussion on Reading:

Kids are really enjoying the reading buddies program, and it also is fostering a sense of community as connections are made at school that can carry on outside.

Teacher's Report – Paula Wardle

Received the labels for the kids clothing

Shout out with support and volunteers was heard

- There are a few more volunteers for the day to day literacy goals as well as our regular volunteers for school trips

New Co-op students

- Sherwood and Nora Henderson students
- Help support the kids in the classrooms

Sarah and Patty Firth Working on Jr Basketball

MrForeman's active recess

Grades 5 & 6 teaching the younger kids to play some games

- Foursquare
- Hoola hoops

Create play strategies for younger kids and provide leadership opportunities for the 5s & 6s

Council Updates

Candigrams

- Went home yesterday
- Leftovers were sold for 50 cents a piece, SOLD OUT
- Should have made about \$75

Feed the Love

Lisa has messaged that there is some food there for pick up

Messaging through the GLA Families Facebook Group

Education Week Breakfast Planning

First break is 10:40-11:20

Massages

Ten minutes?

Provide information to staff about massage therapy services

May require some assistance from Paula to coordinate sign ups.

Carrie to follow up with the massage therapy school about the logistics

May 7th Breakfast/Nutrition Break for teachers

Funding and volunteers for providing food

- Based on volunteer provisions
 - Nina volunteers to provide something baked
 - Carrie will provide fruit trays

Volunteers required

- Jolene already has the day off!
- Please forward availability for volunteering to Sharla

End of Year Carnival *Thursday May 9th* 5-7PM

- Coincide with the School Open House
 - o Staff will be on-site, so no additional time commitments
 - o Tara to inquire about insurance requirements and options
- Classroom activities brainstorming
 - o Have passports to be stamped and entered for a prize
 - Scavenger Hunt Style
 - o Craft station
 - o Selfie booth
 - o Mini Putt
 - o Plinko
 - o Basketball
 - o Cornhole
 - o Flip Cup Races
 - o Minute to win it games

Already paid for items (because last year was rained out)

- o Lillypad
- o Crazy Cactus
- o Basketball Game
- o Golden Feather Crochet – already purchased
- o Balloon Animals purchased
- o Photo Booth – Ms Wardle
- o School photographer comes - \$10 per family photo
- o Library – story time in a junior classroom
- o Freedom Dance Studio – dance presentation (Sharla to check in)
- o School clubs
- Purchasable
 - o Water
 - o Pizza
 - o Poster printing

Fundraising Flowers

- Spring Flowers
- Daffodils
- Lillies
- Hyacinth \$20
- Hydrangeas \$25
- Check out Terra under Easter Fundraising
 - o Send out form like for Poinsettia's
 - o Pick a date for pick up March 26
 - o Forms in March 18

Community News

Concession Street BIA updates

- Cigarette butt collection competition
 - o Adults only
- Patio Programs
 - o Food or retail, retail can use it for the summer as a gathering space
- Monday 3PM Family Day

- Children's events
- Coldest Night
 - Feb 24
 - Local fundraiser

Hamilton Public Library

- Free glasses for the Eclipse
- Available on or after Feb 22 all you need is a library card

Budget/Treasurer's Report

Budget Figures include

- Starting grant
- Poinsettia and Holiday market
- Departure Gift for Joanne Hall
- Cost of clothing labels

Other Business

Grade 8 graduation token of appreciation

- Bags & Signs
- Was happening during COVID
- Will discuss whether it would continue on as it was in place of the party and trips events etc

Next Meeting

March 21st | 6-7:30 PM, Staff Room

Motion to adjourn was made at __6:55__PM by __Carrie__, seconded by __Elaine__