

George L. Armstrong Elementary School Council

Date | time Thursday May 23, 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	carriemschultz@gmail.com	Secretary	Y
Dianne Barlow	dbarlow@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
Elisha Coughler	Chriselishacoughler1@hotmail.com		Y
Valerie Preston*	vpreston@mcmaster.ca		Y
Lynn Armstrong*			
Nanar Sabahia	youssiPnawa62@gmail.com		
Marowa Harbi	maroyou877@gmail.com		
Regrets:			
Michelle Noble*	Michelle.s.noble@gmail.com		Y
Laura Corson	Laura.corson@gmail.com	Treasurer	Y
Janet VanDuzen	jvanduze@hwdsb.on.ca		Y
* Indicates online			

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 the February 15th meeting were circulated prior to the meeting

Minutes were amended to reflect an spelling error in Nina's last name.

Minutes approved as amended

Moved by: Carrie Seconded by: Nina

Minutes from the April 18th meeting were circulated prior to the meeting

Minutes were amended to reflect an spelling error in Nina's last name and the date of the 18th.

Minutes approved as amended

Moved by: Nina Seconded by: Sharla

Principal's Report –

School carnival & open house

- Very successful and well attended
- Big thanks to school council
- A lot of positive feedback from staff and families
- Some unclaimed door prizes to deal with

Staffing updates

- Ms Hayes is moving schools (PT VP)
- The new part-time VP between Norwood and GLA will be Vanessa Swan beginning in September

Welcome to Kindergarten night

- Was a great success
- Shared book marks with attendees about school council and getting involved
 - One new sign up

Healthy Schools Certification

- GLA achieved a gold standing as a result of the healthy activities and nutrition promotion

Fuel for Kids – June 10th Fundraiser

- 2:00 pm presentation for students at the school
- Need 1-2 volunteers to help with transporting things to the store and set up from 3:00 pm 4:00 pm
- 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm need 4-8 volunteers to help with the BBQ at Fortinos on Mall Rd
- sponsors donate hotdogs, buns, condiments (will make a note about Hallal hot dogs)
- Any other fundraising events (face painting, cotton candy, plant sale... can be considered)
- all funds raised comes back to the school.
- Planning for this event will be completed at the May 23rd meeting

Play Day

- Grades 1-3 being planned
- Puddle Day incorporation
 - Fund raiser for bereaved families in Hamilton Burlington
 - Water activities that cost a coin to participate in
 - Queried the FD to participate?
- Can council provide funds for freezies
 - Discussion regarding funding for all kids: junior & senior track & field days, JK/SK field day, not just Grades 1-3 play day
 - \circ $\,$ See later in minutes for voting

EQAO

- Happened at school last week
- Grade 3 & 6

Class Placements

- Reminder to parents that class placement does not get announced until August
- Please ensure you have access to Parent Portal to see the message
 - Access Parent Portal on a desktop computer when possible to have all options available, the smart phone version is missing some features
- If you do not have access to Parent Portal contact the school office

Secure School Drills

- In the month of June there will be at least one unannounced Fire Drill
 - Question regarding notice to children with sensory issues and their accommodation
- Other drills the school is required to have throughout the year
 - o Lockdown
 - Hold & Secure
 - o Bomb Threat

Questions from Parents

Heat Advisories

- Every classroom has a temperature and humidity monitor
- There are guidelines and a protocol in place that is followed for checking frequency and actions to take
 - The upper floor classrooms can find other space to work in for example

Excursions

- Trips must be equitable and aligned with the curriculum
- Trips are a teacher sponsored initiative and options
- Cost is considered regarding appropriateness
 - Consider that all costs have risen substantially both post COVID and with inflation
- Some trips HWDSB will not approve
 - o Amusement park
- Parents who have filled out a vulnerable sector (VS) check are needed
 - Many parents at the meeting are reporting filing a VS check with the office and never being contacted to volunteer
 - Process the office has for tracking volunteers may need updating
 - Discussion regarding messaging from the office regarding the VS check and how long it is good for
 - To clarify, the VS check needs to be given to the school within 6 months of obtaining it, and then the school will keep a volunteer on file for three years, at which point a new VS check would be required
 - Paula will send message to teachers to use the volunteers that have already filled in checks, as the volunteers we have do not feel needed/useful, so being asked to engage more parent interest for more volunteering is not going over well

Breakfast club/snack program

- Temporarily Monday, Wednesday, Friday as the funding is almost completely consumed, so there is not money to provide food 5 days a week.
- Other grants have been applied for, using monies provided by TasteBuds (grocery gift cards)
- Can make a donation via school cash online
 - The option to do so seems to be missing now, Dianne to follow up

- Cash donations only as there are many restrictions on the food that can be distributed
- o Hamilton Foundation for Student Success https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/foundation/

Board policy on 'graduations'

- Now Gr 8- Gr 9 referred to as commencement, to recognize students who may not be graduating
- Celebrations for JK to SK or Junior to Senior where middle schools exist are still permitted, but not as 'graduations'
- June 20th grade 8 commencement
- Grade 5, move from middle to senior
 - Communication to parents forthcoming
- Sr Kindergarten
 - "grad" not happening
 - There will be a celebration and SK parents will be invited

Teacher's Report – Paula Wardle

CLUBS/TEAMS/EVENTS

Jump Rope For Heart

May 24th organized by Mr. Foreman

Jr Track & Field Day June 3

- School qualification day
- Reginal meet will be 2nd last week in June

Recess guardian program to replace Active Eagles

- Older students interacting with younger
- May have a request for equipment (balls, ropes etc) to have activities to engage in

Kilometer club

- Tracking the laps, looking for incentives

Pride month in June

- Featuring famous LGBTQ+ persons weekly

Indigenous month in June

- Education facilitator is working on personalization of the land acknowledgement in two classes

Drama Club

- Play happening at the school
- Current plan is one show, during the day (discussion at meeting indicated parents would like to be able to attend)

Council Updates

Completed

Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

- Well supported by council
- Positive feedback from the teaching staff

Open House/Carnival

- Looking for feedback – please feel free to email Sharla

Kindergarten information night

- Volunteer forms were handed out

UPCOMING

Mental Health Event – May 26th (this Sunday)

- Event will be held on zoom at 7pm
- Food from the original night was donated to the snack program

REQUESTS

SWAG Bags for the grade 8 commencement

- June 23 Forge FC game ticket arranged via Nina
- Theme is beach bag/bucket for each student including small tokens like gum, bubbles

VOTES:

Motion to purchase 425 freezies up to \$100

• made by Carrie, Seconded by Nina

No opposition: Passed

Motion to purchase swag bags for gr 8s up to \$10/student

- made by Nina, Seconded by Sharla
- No opposition: Passed

Budget/Treasurer's Report

In summary: have \$1236.26

Funds from Fuel for kids will come in too late to be used for technology this year, can be carried for purchase to next year.

Discussion around other community requests ie/ garden space. Council is encouraged to work with the city outside of the school

Other Business

Volunteers for Food for Kids

See accompanying document

Next Meeting

May 23rd | 6-7:30 PM, Staff Room

Motion to adjourn was made at ___7:38__PM by __Nina___, seconded by __Sharla___