

Shannen Koostachin - School Council Meeting
Monday, October 7th 6:00 pm in the Learning Commons Room

Member Vote to open the meeting:

1. Welcome/Land Acknowledgement & Introductions by Saima
 - Saima Mirza Welcome to the meeting & Land Acknowledgement
 - Saima Mirza and Alison McKelvie- Co-Chair and Vice-chair welcome & intro/bios
 - Mrs. Maria Marino: Principal welcome & intro/bio
 - Mr Chris Hollingsworth: VP welcome

Principals Report:

- Welcome to all who have attended today's meeting and took time out of their evening to support
- Review of student enrollment currently. We have 713 currently enrolled in our school
 - Mrs. Marino wanted to share a heartfelt message with our families who are heavily affected by the profound and devastating impacts of the geopolitical conflicts that are occurring in our world, and Community. Shannen Koostachin Staff, and Administration will have their doors open to help support those needing a safe space to talk or reflect.
 - Mrs. Marino thanks all the caregivers/ family members who helped support the school's re-organization of classes. 64 students were impacted and have done very well with the transition. Mrs. Marino also wanted to make mention of the teachers who helped make the change as seamless as possible. Mrs. Marino provided the council with why a re-organization occurs, and how it looks for different classes and ages.
 - Mrs. Marino shared new documents that help guide teachers, and HWDSB schools on Inclusive, and diverse events that include everyone. She would like to see Council use these informative documents when planning events, and fundraisers. The **HWDSB Theme Day Planning Guidelines**: these guidelines are not cancelling traditions and celebrations but are encouraging you to approach them with a more equitable and inclusive lens and to avoid pressures of consumerism and exclusion. Please see attached for more information.
 - Mrs. Marino shared the excitement for the upcoming Open House on Thursday, October 10th from 5:00 pm-7:00 pm. Teachers are prepping their rooms, and are hard at work to show off their classrooms.
 - Mrs. Marino chatted to us about the exciting new group- The Student Success Team. The team's goal is to help encourage, foster, and promote a positive culture within

our school. Helping EVERY student achieve wellbeing and academic success and what this looks like for our school, and our local Community. This is a new initiative that will adapt over the coming school year. Round of applause for all those in attendance.

Teachers Report (Ms. Mitchell & Mrs Gear)

- Pizza Days- They will begin on October 23rd, and as the year progresses more days and other “food” days will be added. The pizza is from Pizza Pizza. We are looking for School Council Volunteers to help in organizing the Pizza while our Student Leaders will be delivering to the classrooms. Great balance of Community volunteer support and developing student leadership skills while honouring the integrity of instructional minutes and Nutrition Break minutes. The collaboration between School Council and Student Leadership will help in ensuring a successful Pizza Day.
- Vulnerable Sector Screening for volunteers
- Volunteers are needed to Pizza Days
- If you wish to volunteer please complete your Police Check. You can collect from front office from Nancy in the office.
- If you have already completed one, you will need to sign a declaration form that states nothing has changed since last year's report. Your record checks are good for three years.
 - RoboKind Program welcomed and reviewed by Chris Hollingsworth. The “Robokind” program’s goal is to build next-generation assistive robots and a social-emotional curriculum for autistic students. The school is very excited to see this program in action, and track its successes!
 - Book Donations- Mrs. Gear wanted to share how thankful she was for the community's support in helping with her goal to fill our library's bookshelves. She is on a mission to collect more books over the coming weeks and get approvals for these books to land on our shelves. She is also happy to accept book donations at the Open House, as well as through the school's Scholastic Book Fair.
 - Cross Country Meet with commence on Wednesday, October 8th
 - Terry Fox Run- Thank you to our community for helping our school raise \$900.00
 - Picture Day- Tuesday October 15th (retakes November 20th)
 - Fire Safety Trailer Program will be on-site at our school this Wednesday to share with our junior grades fire prevention, and fire safety
 - Meet The Teacher Date to be confirmed for some time this month if possible.

The meeting was opened to attendees for any general questions suggestions or concerns

- Thank you to Mrs. Marino for your last e-mail date with all the upcoming events and important dates. This is wonderful communication for all parents. Mrs. Marino will be more than happy to send out monthly updates to our families to help keep communication open via School Messenger.
- Discussions shared about upcoming events:
 - Movie Night will be November 14th (Movie TBD). The council still has a permit and will look into adding Pizza as an option. Volunteers will be greatly appreciated. Next Movie Night has a tentative date of February 13th.
 - The council would like to start up a “Event Sub-Committee” within the group to help plan events, fundraise, and initiate these wonderful events. Several parents agreed, and have offered to help be a part of this sub-committee.
 - Spring Open house with vendors was discussed, and the council will take away suggestions and work with Mrs. Marino on what this would look like
 - Bake Sale was discussed to see if additional funds can be raised for the school. Mrs. Marino will look into this.
 - A suggestion was brought forward to look into the “FlipGive” program that can collect money from people’s everyday purchases. The school did have this during the Pandemic, and Saima will look into retrieving the password.
 - Meeting Schedule reviewed for upcoming months –
 - November 18, 2024 (moved from November 11th due to Remembrance Day)
 - December (TBD)
 - January 13, 2025
 - February 10, 2025
 - April 7, 2025
 - May 12, 2025

Meeting Adjourned at 8:07 PM by the committee

- Meeting Agendas are posted 48hours prior to meetings. If you have anything you would like to bring forward, please be sure to contact Co-Chairs by email before then.
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