

School Council Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2024

Attendees: Ria McNicholls-Ramrattan, Suzie Pierre, Ashley Buligan, Andrea Hitchcock, Fatema Bhabrawala, Krishna Patel, Hillay Nabi-Shaikh, Trang Dam, Ayaan Ali, Lucy Feng, Louise Young, Makarim Siralkhatim, Aliah Shafaq

Nomination Forms received and confirmed roles for 2024/2025 school year:

- Andrea Hitchcock: Co-Chair
- Fatema Bhabrawala: Co-Chair
- Krishna Patel: Treasurer
- Hillay Nabi-Shaikh: Secretary
- Louise Young: Member at Large (voting member)
- Ayaan Mohamed/Ayaan Ali (duplicate forms different last name): Member at Large (voting member)
- Lucy Feng: Member at large (voting member)
- Trang Dam: Member at large (voting member)

Principals Report: Ria McNicholls-Ramrattan

Org Update:

- Currently have 30 homeroom classes, including portables (7)
- First day of school hosted school wide assembly for grades 1-8: reinforcement of code of conduct expectations, but mostly PMD (personal mobile devices). No PMD's during school day. Must be stored out of view including nutrition breaks. If kids have medical concerns or engagement needs, will be accommodated.

Parking Safety:

- There were 3 large buses last year but now we have 2 and 3 small buses assigned to the school
- Sent out a message to parents about not standing in front of the gate entrance needed for students with mobility equipment
- Also sent out a message about not blocking neighbors driveways as complaints came to office.

Fundraising:

- This year 2 big items school would like to have
 - 1) Kindergarten shade structure – gets really hot , have been working to get quotes from vendors
 - 2) More technology (laptops) for intermediate students. Ipads are welcome too. Received 4 laptops from School Council last year. Most of the funds raised were used for Ipads as they were needed for EQAO.

EQAO:

- Results will be available later in the fall.

- May 7-June 11 are the admin dates for this school year's assessments. Grades 3 and 6 Staff will determine which weeks they select.

HWDSB Educational Archives:

- Open to the public to source old class pics or info on old school. Grand opening Sat Sept 28th, 10-3pm at Hillpark learning centre. Hillpark is at 465 east 16th street. There is a pamphlet in the Office should anyone want to see it.

Other:

- Parent concern: Lack of toilet paper in the girl's bathroom upstairs. Will be addressed – thank you.
- Parent engagement activity grant – at another school it was used it towards various activities. For example, math night kids' games in gym, or guest speaker in day or night. Application is due November 22 could get up to \$1000. Ashley is going to apply for school. Last year we used it for books in languages so parents could engage and read with kids.
- Tastebuds Grant. Hillay applied and received update that they are seeking alternate funding for us and will let us know if successful. Would use this grant towards starting the Nutrition Program at the school. Hillay will continue following up with them and update the School Council.

Teachers Report: Ashley Buligan

Intro for new members:

- o Ashley is a teacher, teaching grade 4 teach in portable this year.

Extracurriculars:

- Cross country is up and running - grades 3-8.
- Baseball up and running Ms. Nasir Ms. Gocentas and Ms. Martin are the coaches- the tournament is next week - Grade 3-6 & 7-8.
- Jr volleyball try outs have started grades 6-7.

Fundraising/School Spirit:

- First sub day next week. Hope is to do 1 a month Mr. Butterworth would like to do 1 every week or every 2 weeks but starting with 1 a month.
- Student Council elections are happening tomorrow morning. The assembly will take place where grade 8s make speech to run for exec and then once established, will get spirit days and everything going. Will be putting up 5 whiteboards one for each day of the week so Student Council can write what's going on each day. This is so kids don't miss updates and miss out on spirit days etc.
- Snack Shack kicks off on Meet the Teacher night. Popcorn will be Kernels popcorn as our old vendor is out of business, terracotta cookies, frozen yogurt. Kinders will have them once a week and delivered to class instead of going to the store. First break every day we are open.
- Terry Fox Run Sept 27. Toonie donation cash or Cash Online. Kids will run around the field outside.

- No Laura Secord this year. It was very profitable, but we don't want to do it 2 years in a row in case families still have chocolate from last year. Will run Big Box of Cards instead.
- Big Box of Cards: Messaging comes out tomorrow, parents would need to agree to take a box and sign back. \$35 for the whole box we make \$11 per box, 35 cards.
- The choir is grade 2 and up Ms. Nasir might start that up soon along with the band.
- Ericka Zucker asking for donation for Chef a L'Ecole for grades 4-8 teaches them French while engaging in light cooking and Francophone culture (songs etc). Super engaging and kids loved it last year. The cost is \$4316.60 due in January. Last year we paid half.
- Ashley is going to get a lottery license for school this year for Fundraisers.

Co-chairs Report: Andrea Hitchcock and Fatema Bhabrawala

Open House:

- Open House is Thursday. Will have a table in front foyer School Council. Snack Shack will be running as well.
- Parents have a chance to see classroom and briefly meet teacher.
- Parents can learn more about School Council. Andrea will be there most entire time at the School Council table from 5pm to 6:30pm but will need to step away to visit kids' classes. Krishna volunteered to help cover while Andrea is away from table.
 - o VP shared her old school had a flyer about School Council. Parent shared that a lot of parents have said they don't know what all the funds raised goes towards. Discussed creating a flyer that says here's what we did last year. Mentioning things like the soccer posts and how it betters the community. Would love eventually to put on FB group details of where funds raised are allocated.

Pizza Day:

- Waiting for re-org before Pizza Day. Beginning of October would be re-org so Pizza Day would start after that. Pizza day is every Wednesday you can purchase cheese or pepperoni \$2.50 per slice \$1 goes to school. Always looking for volunteers. But you need police check. Ayaan volunteered and has police check. Student volunteers pick it up and hand it out. Continuing to work with Dominos for Pizza Day this year. Soon as we get permission will go live on Cash Online. Fall, winter, spring, sessions – so 3 opportunities for parents to pay. Kinders teachers hand out the pizza for the kids instead of student volunteers.

Other:

- Parent question: Are we looking for members at large? Yes, always welcome if you know anyone who wants to join or volunteer at events like Spring Fling.
- Lucy volunteered to start an Instagram School Council page.
- Parent asked if teachers could tell parents about FB group – Answer: Teachers cannot promote FB group or Instagram group, nor can they join as they cannot advertise non board sponsored group.
- Could we ever purchase a sign for School Council? Are we allowed to spend money on this? Yes. VP said she had a banner at her old school. Canvas type banner. The idea would be if were doing a table can use it. Can have our Instagram and FB page on the banner. Ayaan said vista print has

them Fatema said Canva too. Vista print is more reliable. Ayaan volunteered to look into this and will get back to us. Principal shared that another school has one with the QR code.

- Whatsapp group for School Council: If new members want to join let Andrea know, but official business goes through the email.

FB Group Feedback:

- Concerns brought up by parents through FB page posts: Some families, especially parents of grade 1s find the yard really crowded and pick-up to be too chaotic.
 - o Principal- when I spoke about congregating at gate earlier this was what we meant. Today was less busy, because we have special education classes, that marked area has to be kept clear for them to exit or get on bus.
 - o Parent question: Why don't we use the front of the school for the buses? More dangerous for parents with strollers to have to step into roundabout and then get back on path.
 - Answer: Front of school is a fire route. The volume of kids is high not safe to send them to front. This year more kids with equipment/wheelchairs.
- Parent question: Can we stagger start times?
- No, Ministry sets hours for learning, cannot dismiss early. Buses get pushed up because of ppl parking in circle despite many communications urging parents not to use this roundabout.
- Parent Concern: Urgent need for crossing guard at Robertson and Raymond - would help more parents comfortable with kids walking to and from school and hence reduce congestion. Last year trustee said it was under review. We have one on the other side. Jenny reached out to By Law but no action taken yet.
- FB page feedback by a parent: school supplies list before September?
 - o Principal said not to send a list because not everyone can afford. Teachers can send out a suggested list but not required. Different for classes, some teachers use binders in grade 4, others don't etc.

Fundraising:

- Please give thought to what you would like to do this year and bring back ideas. Want to coordinate with teachers so not too much overlap with different fundraising initiatives and nicely spread out throughout the year. Pizza Day is Parent Council's biggest fundraiser.
- Teachers are running these fundraisers: Mums, Poinsettias, Spirit Wear, Candygrams, Big Box of Cards, 4 Dances, Snack Shack, Freezies in June and Sub Days.
- When school opened not one book in the library, slowly growing library collection, but always looking for more book donations.
- Parent question, can we create and send a School Council newsletter out?
 - o Printing is tricky but Eliana could post instead.
- Parent question: What's the difference between teachers and school council fundraising
 - o All money goes to school. Just run by School Council or run by Teachers.
- VP old school did Casino fundraiser – idea, but likely would not work here. Ashley applying for Lottery License to enhance school fundraisers.

Next meeting: October 22 6:30pm