

Home and School - Nov 10, 2025

Attendance: Hillary Newkirk, Natalia Gonzalez, Claire Webber, Jackie Wright, Nikol Piskuric, Neal Guha, Dhvani Patel, Mike Malysse, Fazleema Nijam, Mary Van Impe, Renee Massia, Sarah Irwin, Heather Reid, Kristina Cote, Hillary Peach, Vanessa Powell, Sara Alves, SM
Online: Shirley Andrews, Kristina Cote, Lisa Feil, Courtney, Jen Hogan, Vanessa and JJ Veda

Move to approve the minutes from previous meeting: NP seconded by RM

Introduction to the 2025-2026 executive

- President: Heather Reid
- Vice President: Vanessa Powell
- Communications: Renee Massia
- Treasurer: Sarah Irwin
- Secretary: Hillary Peach

Pumpling Hike

- Was a great success!
- Many thanks to: Westdale Warriors, McMaster Smiling over Sickness, the McMaster Maroons, Cootes staff, HSA volunteers, the RBG, Westdale Village Association and Farmer to You (delivered the pumpkins)

What the HSA has been up to:

- Playground was going to break ground on today (Monday)- but due to weather delays should be tomorrow (Tuesday) and completed by Friday
- Popcorn days have started- every other Monday
- COBS bread cards fundraising has gone out
- Spirit wear
 - We have a new supplier→ they have said it should be delivered by Christmas break
 - We will be selling Wednesday after school if people want to pay debit or cash
 - Ms. Hogan asked: Do we want to have something set up before Christmas dramatics, in the foyer? This is what HSA did last year, HSA sold stickers. Could repeat selling spirit wear and stickers→ yes we will have something

Where have the funds gone?

(Ask under \$500 the HSA exec can approve amongst themselves)

- Helped fund the cross country bussing
- Helped fund the kindergarten trip to Dyments farm
- Purchased outdoor balls for the yards→ there is a plan in place to take care of the equipment and try to prompt longevity amongst the kids
- The Tastebuds snack program is up and running
- Laura: donated yarn to the school crochet club
- Provided rocks for Kindergarten kindness rock garden

Treasurer's Report

- Generated funds from popcorn, membership (some returned due to being in good standing), stickers, Cobs bread, Mabels labels and donations from popcorn (option to donate). Pumpkin hike
- Funds to be paid: largest expense is outdoor space (have not received final bill), continued class trip expenditures

Upcoming Events

- Will be selling Spirit wear before December
- December movies days
 - Already discussed with admin, they will throw out dates, will survey for HSA volunteers
 - Nikol asked: can we alter the format? Some feedback was that it was hectic for the kids and they didn't get to watch the whole movie/couldn't hear
 - Admin didn't hear these complaints and aren't aware of any class that left early, but can certainly discuss
- School clubs?
 - Open to ideas but would need volunteers available twice a week during second nutrition break
- Will be selling COBS bread cards in January
- Little library→ hoping to partner with Westdale high to have it built
 - Was approved 2 years ago, going to try and have it purchased this year
 - NG can talk to her neighbor who is the shop teacher at Westdale high
- Popcorn sales will continue in term 2
- Skate and bake
 - Right now aiming for the last weekend of March
 - Money will be used for the grade 5 trip
- \$1000 to use towards Cootes families facing food insecurity issues over the holiday break
 - There is a waitlist of families waiting to be approved by Food for Kids
 - NG question- can we approve a higher amount?
 - Advised by admin there are fewer families on the waitlist this year- 4 families
 - NP question- was there feedback on whether groceries were helpful?
 - Admin advised that not one family who didn't capitalize on generosity
 - Sara Alves will prepare a list on what was well received- send out to the families, and then purchase based on the comments
 - Move to approve to donation: NG, seconded by RM, all voting members present in favour (HN, NP, MM, MVI, SI, HR, KC, HP, VP, SA)
- Clothing swap planned for the spring
- Bike swap planned for the spring
- RM (communications) is applying for grants to help fund outdoor initiatives
 - Canada Post
 - TD Friends of the Environment Grant (greenify the yard)

- Indigo love of reading grant- towards new books, 10% extra education - processes- need ideas on gaps of what are missing in classrooms on the literacy front
 - NG would help with TD group

Goals for 2025-2026

- Buddy bench \$2500- this is an bullying initiative- signals other friends to come over
- Twist and turn
 - This is phase 2 of the playground \$11500 (pavement already complete with the current construction happening)
- Kinderpen- taking phased approach, quoting in press
 - Safety surfacing is the biggest cost
 - Trying to find natural natural materials proposal- doesn't require safety surfacing
 - There is a company locally that does the rubberized ground- Safescapes
 - Comment from NP- from idea to execution seems to take a year with the approvals required by the board
 - Recommend approving by the HSA early and then submitting to the board and the company for quotes so that it is ready to go for next spring
 - KC moves to begin phase 2, seconded by RM, all voting members present in favour (HN, NP, MM, MVI, SI, HR, KC, HP, VP, SA)