

Eastdale School Council Minutes

November 1st, 2021 6:30 pm

In attendance:

Bri Nethercot, Allison Simpson, Jonathan Coates, Janet Vanduzen, Vanessa Gudalj, Alethea "aLEEtha" Groff, Devin Powers, Jazz Kaur, Jen Davis, Josh MacDonald, Justine Brown, Richelle Bratuz, Kerry Kumaasi

Opening Remarks: Richelle

Land Acknowledgement, Welcome to Janet Vanduzen, Acting VP, who is standing in for Saira Waseem (Medical Leave).

Introductions and Welcome

Approval of October Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes –Devin Powers.
- Approved by: Justine, Jen, Kerry, Vanessa, Aleatha, Jonathan, Jazz

Principal's Report:

- Not a lot of covid update, which is welcome. If there is a positive case, the team of staff goes through the close contacts, and a school Messenger announcement is sent out. Richelle then follows up regarding isolation and dates. Students who are vaccinated are eligible to return to school earlier than those not vaccinated. The teacher (if vaccinated) is able to return to the building and run a hybrid model. If there is a positive case, there will be a turnaround day granted for students to get devices and get logged in if necessary.
- Parking update: bylaw came out one day (they can't be here every day!). The officer spoke to parents who were parking unsafely and having students walk across the road. The message continues to be that parents/guardians are parking on side streets and walking over. Good News: People have been more respectful of our neighbours, and don't seem to be blocking driveways any more. There is an option for further Safe Schools support if it is requested.
- Dress Code Guidelines: HWDSB has put into place a new guideline for Dress Codes. The guidelines strive to be gender neutral and abide by the human rights code so that individuals are not singled out or discriminated against.
- Student Census: students are being asked to complete a census to help HWDSB understand who they are, to better understand their needs, to identify systemic inequities, to inform local decision-making and to further support student success, inclusion and well-being. Students in grades 1-4 are completing the census with parents via the Parent Portal. Students in grades 5-8 at Eastdale will receive a link, and work through the census with guardian support, on their own. The census will roll out November 29-December 16. It is not mandatory. Students that have opted out will not receive a link. Feedback will be received the following year by council and by the school to better understand the needs and feelings of the students.
- Bullying: is it still an issue? What is the definition of Bullying according to the Ministry of Education? [Policy/Program Memorandum No. 144, Bullying Prevention and Intervention \(gov.on.ca\)](#). We still have students learning to adapt to being back at school. Kids being nasty to each other and having conflict doesn't necessarily constitute bullying, and we need to take care to address it and label it correctly. Conflict leads to teachable moments... not all of these are bullying situations. The challenge is in giving children the freedom and independence to play, and solve their own problems with staff support and guidance. We are having to re-teach

how to be friends, how to socialize appropriately, and conflict resolution strategies. Students are encouraged to talk to staff members on duty and when they come indoors. If the issue is repeated, or aggressive/targeted, then it's the time to bring it to the office. Bullying includes: Intent to harm, a power imbalance, and it is generally repeated behaviour. Bullying can be physical, Verbal, Social and Emotional. Please be a partner with the school and communicate your concerns if bullying has taken place. Classes have been asked to set a goal for themselves to reduce bullying and increase positive interactions.

Teacher Report—Allison Simpson:

- Assemblies are happening virtually on a monthly basis.
- The Kindness Challenge (follows some of the Reimagining Wellness Initiative presented by the Board). Students are asked to set class goals and be good friends.
- Halloween was Friday.... It was a spirit day, lots of students in black and orange or in costume. There was even a virtual parade!
- October was Islamic heritage month, and a display is in the front foyer with artifacts, cultural items, art, and information.
- Student sport is back! Volleyball is in full swing, and the kids are loving it!
- Mr Barletta is starting music extracurriculars, including ukulele and drumming.
- Key dates in November: Picture day for K-3 is November 9, grades 4-8 is November 10.
- Progress reports go home November 19th.
- The school board does list days of Significance on their website, including Diwali, Remembrance Day, World Kindness Day, Transgender awareness week, and many more. See the list at [Religious Days of Significance | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/religious-days-of-significance)

From the Chairs' Chairs:

Can we fundraise? What are the rules and what can we get done? Jen Davis brought up Fundscript, and mentioned checking into fundraisers for Fielding Estates Winery, and Spirit Wear. Justine mentioned FlipGive... when you buy certain items from online retailers, they donate a percentage of your purchase to the charity registered. Devin will research selling flowers and hanging baskets. Are there still pointsettia drives? We would like to pursue giving to our local community. Perhaps adopting a family, or a food drive.

Fundraising Leads:

Food Drive: Justine

Spirit Wear: Richelle will send home info and it is direct order

Tree of Warmth: Allison will communicate with staff for a class leadership opportunity

Next Meeting: Monday, January 10th, 6:30 pm