

# Agenda

## Parent Council – Thursday October 6, 2021

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Joanne and Jolene asked for nominations as none were handed in. Nina offered to continue as Secretary. Wayne offered to be Treasurer. Jolene will remain Chair.

Voting and non-voting members, Kim will look up old by-laws for voting/non voting. Please email Jolene at [glarmstrongsc@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:glarmstrongsc@hwdsb.on.ca) if you would like to be a voting member. Only voting members are eligible to vote on matters pertaining to what funds are used for, actions taken by Council, proposals put forth by members on Council, etc. A vote is taken to pass a motion.

### Principal's Report

Joanne Hall introduced herself as the new Principal. She's been with HWDSB for 20 years and a Principal since 2007.

Thanked parents and Community for working together during the pandemic. Students are doing a good job wearing masks and keeping their distance and parents with submitting the online forms and notebook checks. Staff as well, with daily employee web portal.

Last week a reorganization which was in effect this Monday – moved students and classes. Lost a grade 1 and grade 3 class but opened a Kindergarten and a 2/3 split class. Average class size 20-25 and a little higher in grades 7-8 (approx.23)

Due to the communication platform changing over the summer, the 3 communications that went out did not reach most parents. Should be getting updated communications through school messenger. Terry Fox form sent home to ensure people received in time.

Someone posted that students in kindergarten to Grade 3 have never had a regular school year. Very true but students are doing a fantastic job.

Biggest struggle to date is their ability to get along with others since they've been home and not socializing. Teachers are working with the students and parents should work with the students on independence and doing things for themselves.

Students' perception of school and themselves and others is an issue mostly in the Junior Intermediate grades. The students should respect themselves, others and the school.

Some recent tiktok challenges have people vandalizing bathrooms and stealing from teachers. She talked to the students about this and they listened and stopped and are starting to take pride in their school.

Asked older students (grades 7 -8) for lunch monitor duties as extra help for the teachers, many volunteered. Teachers are there as well, mostly for primary grades. Outdoors they help with primary grades – ex. if something gets thrown out of a cohort, the volunteer can grab it. Indoors monitor at class doors and will flag down a teacher as required – teacher is monitoring 4 classes and walks around. Only issue is loudness and it is something they are working on.

Give them opportunities and they will rise to the occasion. This also gives them pride in themselves and their Community. Positive culture and behaviors.

There is a Positive School Culture team with the teachers – Halloween and clubs.

Most schools are paused for extracurriculars, but we are trying to keep students occupied and engaged with extracurricular activities. Some students are bored during break, they came forward and were challenged to budget and determine cost with tax on an item they wanted to play with during break. The students actively worked on it and came up with ideas and a cost.

Challenges with older grades and cohorts. Every cohort is in a separate area outside with a gray zone separating them. Majority are doing well.

Question about opportunities to have kids tested when they travel in order for them to return to school earlier than the 14 day isolation period? No – protocols stay the same no other info was provided from the Ministry.

#### Vice Principal's Report

N/A

#### Teacher's Report

Terry Fox run Friday – link to fundraising [Terry Fox School Run](#)

Other extracurricular sports started or soon to be started– 3 pitch (girls and boys), cross country, volleyball.

Mr Scheben's Dungeons and Dragons club started.

This year's permission forms are a little different due to Covid.

Snack program will start October 13 from Lococos and will have individually prepackaged food. Will be run by Mrs. Korokus.

Fire Drills – because of covid, students need to go out in spaced drills – a class goes out, lines up then comes back in.

Mr Ciardelli will be helping the school twitter account.

Additional footwear is required when students go outside. Send indoor runners for students so they have clean and dry footwear in class if possible.

Third floor has limited lockers and second and third floor lost some lockers for the new elevator (now working).

Teachers want to know how parents are feeling. Parents are frustrated with the lack of communication coming home. Some ideas – Agendas were great, students encouraged to track upcoming events or special days in their agenda so parents are aware. Another idea would be to add a monthly calendar in the Screening Sign off duo tang with pages for notes.

**\*\*UPDATE\*\* Mrs. Hall has ordered Agendas for our students and they will be distributed when they arrive. Council will discuss at the next meeting if they can contribute partial or total cost of agendas. \$2500.**

### Treasurer Report

\$8079.62 is the total amount of money in our School Council account

### Previous Business

Last year the school was the recipient of the Love of Reading Grant from Indigo - \$60,000. Money to be used to fill the Library and classrooms. Funds can also be used for teacher resources and learning opportunities surrounding literacy.

### New Business

Jolene will talk to Ms Riddell on the status of funds – currently at \$8079.62.

Crossing guard from Inverness and East 19<sup>th</sup> has passed away– more details may follow.

Previous years, Active and Sustainable School Travel Plan walk was done, will/can it be done again? Confusing with 3 different speed limits around schools

Christina from Concession St BIA – Thanks for Concession bucks from last year as it helped small businesses. Concession in a boom recently, this Saturday Oct 9 sidewalk sales with samples and figures in costumes walking about. No formally organized Halloween events this year. Looking to organize a Bookcrawl. They created an audio tour of Black History on Concession St. Currently on the website for free <https://www.concessionstreet.ca/black-history-audio-tour.html> . Paper copies of the tour available at HPL for those without electronic access.

Remember to send an email to [glarmstrongsc@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:glarmstrongsc@hwdsb.on.ca) about being a voting member and ask any questions. Also, to introduce yourself!

\*unfortunately, the online meetings do not allow too much time to interact and Jolene will look into ways in which we can get to know each other better asap\*

Please feel free to contact Joanne at [joahall@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:joahall@hwdsb.on.ca) with any questions or concerns!

Future parent council meetings will be virtual until further notice as per direction from school board.

No meeting in October as Joanne will be off for surgery but tentatively in November.

**\*\* UPDATE\*\* Next meeting will be Thursday, November 25th from 6:30pm-8:00pm**

**UPDATES (post meeting communication)**

**Creating positive culture and wellbeing:**

- Eagle Eye November: if a student is caught doing acts of kindness, they'll get a ticket for a draw. Raffle will take place before the Holidays
- Pen Pal: pairing up an older student with a younger student where they alternate story writing. If possible, they can meet outside to work together

**Spirit Days:**

- looking at maybe one per month
- Halloween update was added to recent Newsletter

Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm. Thanks for coming!