

# MINUTES

## George L. Armstrong Elementary School Council

*Date | time* Thursday October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 6PM *Meeting called to order by* J. Hall

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### In Attendance

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(Please insert attendance sheet from that night)

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### Approval of Minutes

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There are no previous minutes available at this time. This is the first meeting of 2023-24.

Approval of the May 2023 Minutes deferred until they become available to the current council.

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### Land Acknowledgement

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Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board acknowledges our presence on ancestral Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Confederacy land as determined by the Dish with One Spoon treaty. The intent of this agreement is for all nations sharing this territory to do so responsibly, respectfully and sustainably in perpetuity. We respect the longstanding relationships with the local Indigenous communities, the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River.

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### Council

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Joanne Hall, principal introduced the structure of the Council.

Ten (10) members self-identify as voting members for the purposes of establishing the size of council and the votes required to reach quorum will be six (6) ( $n/2 + 1$ )

All executive positions on council were acclaimed.

Co-chairs: Sharla Armstrong & Nina Vallvé

Treasurer: Laura (last name)

Secretary: Carrie Gerdes

Joanne explains the date/time of the meeting is linked to the staff meetings on Thursdays, and immediately follows by time.

Will continue to have the Zoom option available for those with childcare issues.

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### Principal's Report - Joanne Hall

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GLA has 425 students in 18 classes

Class sizes vary by grade levels:

JK/SK            26-28

Grade 1-2-3    20

Grade 3-4       24

Grade 5-6-7-8 25

Staffing update following the system wide mid-September reorganization created no changes for GLA

Staffing at GLA will increase from 22.6 FTE to 23.2 FTE this year

- Learning resources teacher was reduced in 2022-23 has been returned to 1.5 from 1.0 this year
- One teacher has resigned because she is relocating
- A new permanent Grade 3-4 teacher is starting tomorrow to replace
- Admin support has been reduced
  - o 2.0 to 1.5 FTE secretary this year
  - o 1 to 0.5 Vice Principal this year as well

Annual Plan – Student Well-being and academics

Sept/Oct

- Learning about new students
- Establishing norms and expectations
- Getting the pulse of the classroom and student needs
  - o Mental health, well being, anxiety, self regulation, cooperation
- Assessment starts in October
  - o Simple diagnostics for reading, writing, math
  - o Basic grade appropriate tasks
- New language curriculum
- New math curriculum
- Power writing
  - o Given a prompt students are allowed to write whatever they feel
  - o Look for patterns
    - Introducing strategies for writing ie/spacing and punctuation
- Small group instruction with the teacher

October PA Day – reading, writing, math NEW curriculum focus

Sam Porterfield is the new literacy/reading specialist

Parent – teacher interviews are back!

- Should be no surprises, all feedback is communicated to families ahead
  - o Primaries via the agenda
  - o Intermediate students are encouraged to be responsible, but notes continue to be placed in the agendas
  - o Starting in grade 5 kids become more responsible for messaging home
- Semester 1 dates are Thursday November 16 & Friday November 17
  - o Each teacher does 3 blocks (block is AM or PM each day)
  - o These meetings are short
  - o Notice will go home to fill out and request a timeASIDE: School council does not need to have a presence

Meet the teacher night is October 19

- Sharla will coordinate a presence with J. Hall
- It is a bit later in the year than we would remember as kids because we want the right teacher to be met should the school have a reorganization from the board level
- Scholastic Book Fair will be the same day
- Kids art will be on display

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Teacher's Report – Paula Wardle

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Ms Wardle was unable to attend tonight, report given by J. Hall in her absence.

#### Terry Fox Run Walk and Roll

- Discussed the Foundations direction to rebrand as well, as there are children who participate via whatever locomotion method they are capable of
- Excellent community support this year \$1600 raised
- Grade 6/7/8 interacted with the Grade 1 class
- Kindies made signs to encourage the older children and did their Run/Walk/Roll in gym class

#### Intermurals are back

- Mr. Carmen Mr. Foreman have supervision time that coincides with intermural activity times
- In the event of job action these activities remain scheduled during the 20min activity period outside

#### Mr. Foreman's kilometer club is back

- 1 loop = 1 popsicle stick
- Class with most popsicle sticks gets the Golden Shoe

#### Buddy classes

- Older kids and younger kids are paired
- Use the buddy system to send kids upstairs to older kids classroom area in order to burn some energy and read a book

#### Park is open

- Used for DPA (daily physical activity)
- Everyone is happy to have the use of the equipment again

Three pitch, swimming (walk to Hill Park on Wednesdays), Cross country, Volleyball, Dram Club, Lego Club (gr 1-8) are all happening now.

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### Budget

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The budget for school council is \$500.

There is an additional \$1000 grant available through the board. Can apply for the grant to bring speakers into the school.

There are supplies from the cancelled end of year Carnival from last year.

Childcare can be arranged by a registered ECE through the board for the length of the meeting. Children must be school age.

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### Activities/Community News

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Sharla will be at the Meet the Teacher Night handing out bookmarks with School Council info on them.

Haunted house within walking distance, the Gr7 & 8 students may wish to attend.

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### Other Business

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No other business

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### Next Meeting

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November 23 | 6-7:30 PM, Staff Room

Motion to adjourn made at 7:15 PM

