

MINUTES

George L. Armstrong Elementary School Council

Date | time Thursday October 3, 2024 | 6:30PM Meeting called to order by D. Barlow

In Attendance

Name	Email		Voting
Sophie Heijselaar	sheijselaar@gmail.com	Co-chair	Y
Britney Fraser	britney.culm@gmail.com	Co-chair	Y
Alicia Noel-Eisenberger	allthingspurple@gmail.com	Secretary	Y
Vacant		Treasurer	Y
Dianne Barlow	dbarlow@hwdsb.on.ca	Principal	
Paula Wardle	pwardle@hwdsb.on.ca	Teacher Rep	
Liz Bowerman	Ebowerman42@gmail.com	Member	
Carrie Gerdes	carriemschultz@gmail.com	Member	
Andrew Carreiro*	andrescarreiro@gmail.com	Member	
Carly Hepworth*	cjh316@icloud.com	Member	
Christine Turcott*	chrissyarlile@gmail.com	Member	
Regrets:			
Lynn Armstrong		Member	
* Indicates online			

Opening Land acknowledgement

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.

Approval of Minutes

No minutes were circulated

No items for New Business

Principal's Report –

Introductions, Code of Ethics and Elections

- Round table of introductions
- D. Barlow distributed Code of Ethics to those present
- Formal Council Positions were elected as above. Treasurer remains vacant.

Staffing Update

- Mr. Gratton is the temporary VP for 2-3 weeks
- V. Swan to be new VP

Renovation Update

- Renovation update sent by D. Barlow to all families in initial communication email
- Phase 1
 - o Student washrooms - complete
 - o Hallways – complete
 - o Large gym - complete
- Phase 2 (Estimated completion December/January)
 - o Music room – millwork continues
 - o 2nd Floor Science room – millwork continues, however, room is accessible for use
 - o Library – work continues, projectors installed, books to be shelved
 - o Art room – not started
 - o Small Gym/Stage - closed
- Renovations now take place in evenings/weekends which slows progress
- Each class receiving 1 PE in Large Gym and 1 PE outside per week (while Small Gym closed)

September Open House

- Thank you to staff and families for attending

September PD Day

- Used for Educator learning and Academic training
- U-Fly Program – Part time reading and math educators
- Ms. Davis – PT reading specialist
- PT math facilitator Grades 3 & 6
- Math Up & Math Hip Strategies
- Reimagine Wellness

Policy Updates

- New Cell Phone Policy
 - o No cell phones during class or nutrition breaks
 - o Going well, staff providing reminders to students
 - o Violations – teacher/principal will keep phone for the day
 - o Repetitive concerns will be addressed on an individual basis
- New Nutrition Procedure
 - o Exempt days apply to entire school i.e. Halloween
- Updated Dress Code
 - o Can be found on the HWDSB website
- Updated Code of Conduct

- Can be found on the HWDSB website

Reorganization

- Occurs on an annual basis, different each year
- Classes are opened/closed to balance class sizes based on actual student enrollment
- Decisions are determined by the Board
- At GLA, a Grade 2/3 class was changed to a Grade 2 class
 - Impacted approximately 30 GLA students

Hiring Update

- Jr/Int French teacher 0.5 FTE
- TBD additional EAs as a result of Reorganization
- Currently 6 EAs at GLA

Parent Drop Off

- D. Barlow brought forward concerns
 - +++ adults on playground for AM drop-off – makes sight-line for Supervisors challenging
 - Adults bringing Primary student(s) to classroom when arriving late – safety concerns as well as concerns re: hallway volumes
 - Dogs on school property – some students/adults uncomfortable with dogs
 - Parking in school bus zone on East 18th street
- D. Barlow will send email to all families requesting:
 - Adults drop off student(s) in line on playground and then stand against the fence
 - Adults bring late student(s) to the office, staff will bring student(s) to class
 - Please refrain from bringing pets onto school property
 - Please adhere to signage – no parking in school bus zones
- Supervision on playground starts at 8:25am until the bell, and after school from the bell until 3:15pm
- Students not picked up by 3:15pm will be brought to the office

Communication with families

- Outstanding challenge from last year
- Action plan
 - Weekly communication email sent to families on Fridays with important info/dates
 - School website will be kept updated
 - Timely sharing of School Council Minutes

Communication with School

- Teacher is first point of contact for classroom related issues
- School concerns should be brought to the Office
- School Council will look at the needs of the entire School vs. individual concerns
 - Action item
 - Add School-wide concerns to agenda (*S. Heijselaar, B. Fraser*)

Volunteers

- Volunteering opportunities are varied (i.e. field trips, classroom) and are up to the classroom teacher re: need for volunteers and volunteer responsibilities
- The teacher(s) requiring volunteering will reach out to families/potential volunteers

- School may ask volunteers to support for other field trips (not their child)
- Those interested in volunteering should contact their teacher or the Office
- Vulnerable Sector Screen (VSS) required
- Potential funding for VSS - please contact the Office

Fire & Emergency Drills

- 3 Fire drills required in the Fall
 - o 1st drill will be announced prior to drill
 - o 2nd & 3rd drills will not be announced prior to drills
- School is required to communicate Lockdown drills to family via email

Fundraising plan

- Submission of Fundraising plan required by the end of October
 - o Action item
 - Add Fundraising plan to next agenda (*S. Heijselaar, B. Fraser*)
- Current School Council funds approx. \$3950
- Fuel for Kids event last year raised approx. \$1700
 - o Money was planned for purchasing tech (iPADs, cases)
 - o Action item
 - Email flyer (*C. Gerdes*)
- Previous fundraising included Terra Greenhouses (Fall/Winter- poinsettias, Spring- Easter bulbs)
- Teachers organize chocolate fundraiser
- Grade 7&8 leadership students organize milk, popcorn & pizza fundraisers to offset end of year celebration costs
- Fundraising cannot be used for Facilities (i.e. portable A/C)
 - o D. Barlow will inquire if this has changed
- School Council can also look at setting a multi-year goal for larger purchases
 - o i.e. outdoor learning space
- Action item
 - o Add Fundraising Plan Ideas to next agenda (*S. Heijselaar, B. Fraser*)
 - o Council members to come to next meeting prepared to present fundraising ideas and present for voting (*all*)

Terry Fox

- Thanks to students, staff and families
- Goal was surpassed

School Council Start-up

- D. Barlow distributed flyers for School Start-Up Event being held Oct 14

School Council Meeting Dates

- Next meeting: Thursday October 24, 2024, 6:00-7:30pm
 - o Online meeting only
 - o Focus on fundraising ideas presentation and discussion
 - o Potential for Winter Market discussion
- 2024/2025 School Council Meeting Dates
 - o Thursday October 24, 2024 (online only), 6:00-7:30pm
 - o Thursday November 14, 2024 (hybrid – in person/online), 6:00-7:30pm

- No December meeting
- Thursday January 16, 2025 (hybrid), 6:00-7:30pm
- Thursday February 20, 2025 (hybrid), 6:00-7:30pm
- No March meeting
- Thursday April 10, 2025 (hybrid), 6:00-7:30pm
- Thursday May 15, 2025 (hybrid), 6:00-7:30pm

Teacher's Report – Paula Wardle

Deferred

Council Updates

Deferred

Community News

Deferred

Budget/Treasurer's Report

Deferred

New Business

None

Next Meeting

Thursday October 24, 2024 | 6-7:30 PM, *Online Only*

Motion to adjourn made at __8__ PM by _____, seconded by _____