

MINUTES

George L. Armstrong Elementary School Council

Thursday January 16th, 2025 | 6PM Meeting called to order by B. Fraser

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
Eddie Gratton	egratton@hwdsb.on.ca	Acting Principal	
Paula Wardle	pwardle@hwdsb.on.ca	Teacher Rep	
Carrie Gerdes	carrienschultz@gmail.com	Member	Y
Christine Turcotte	chrissycarlile@gmail.com	Member	Y
Andrew Carreiro	andrewcarreiro@gmail.com	Member	Y
Catherine Silverglen	csilverglen@hwdsb.on.ca	Teacher	
Regrets:			
Carly Hepworth	cjh316@icloud.com	Member	Y
Elisha Cobb	chriselishacoughler1@hotmail.ca	Member	Y

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

Minutes from November 14th, 2024 were circulated prior to the meeting.
Minutes approved as circulated. Moved by B. Fraser. Seconded A. Carreiro.

Principal's Report – E. Gratton

iPads

- 2 iPads ordered with money from Fuel 4 Kids
- Approx. \$1300-\$1400 for 2 iPads + cases
- No timeline re: arrival

Math Up Licensing

- Licenses purchased by GLA remain property of GLA (and do not belong to individual staff)
- Approx. \$800 per license (possible quantity discount)

System Class

- Board determined GLA will have a System class on 2nd floor beginning January 27th, 2025
- Class is for grade 6, 7, 8 students out of catchment that require additional support and struggling with engagement at school
- System class operates independently with 1 assigned teacher
- Class will have own transport to/from GLA, separate nutrition breaks etc.
- Class runs from 9:00-2:30pm
- Max. 18 students
- Plan to have System class students connect with GLA grade 6, 7, 8 classes to promote engagement

PA Day

- January 24th, 2025 is a PA Day for report card writing

Renovations

- Almost done!
- Small gym is only area outstanding
- Mats were re-ordered (incorrect size), Exit doors to be connected to fire alarms
- Final walk-through to be scheduled
- City is required to sign-off on Occupancy Agreement before Small Gym can be used

Admin Update

- Thank you to E. Gratton for all his efforts at GLA, especially during a time of many administrative changes. You will be missed! With much appreciation from staff, families and School Council members
- E. Gratton's last day will be Friday January 31st
- B. Playfair will assume the role of temporary Principal on Monday February 3rd
- E. Gratton and B. Playfair have and will continue to meet prior to the transition to make as smooth as possible
- M. Azzopardi, temporary Vice Principal, will be leaving first week of February
- J. Sired will assume the role of permanent Vice Principal
- 3 day overlap planned for transition of Vice Principal role

Teacher's Report – P. Wardle

Athletics

- Girls Basketball team has had 1 game- only lost by 1 point!
- Senior Boys Basketball continues to work hard
- Swim team looking for staff volunteers

Kilometer Club

- Golden shoes continue to make their way around the school!
- Kids are very motivated to earn popsicle sticks for walking laps on black top
- Also helps kids with counting (i.e. counting to 100, counting groups of 10)

Lego Club

- Runs 2 days/week for grades 1-3
- Very popular and students really enjoy

Art Club

- Starting soon! Waiting for art supplies
- Will be run by L. Wong and P. Wardle

Music Club

- Tuesdays during first nutrition break
- Performed a Winter Sing-A-Long for kindergarten students

Wish List Items

- Certain items must be purchased through HWDSB purchasing (i.e. safety reasons)
- Currently, requests are for items such as straws, paper cups, stickers

Council Updates

Fundraiser Updates

- Terra Greenhouse Pointsettias (Completed December 2024)
 - o Leads: S. Heijselaar, B. Fraser
- Terra Greenhouse Spring Flowers (? April 2025)
 - o Lead: B. Fraser
 - o Support: C. Gerdes, A. Noel-Eisenberger, C. Turcotte
 - o Update deferred
- Spring Gift Basket Raffle (TBD)
 - o Lead: S. Heijselaar
 - o Support: B. Fraser
 - o Update:
 - Donations being collected. Concession Street business owners approached. Most donations are coming from small business contacts
 - Issues with term "raffle" as considered gambling which requires permits
 - S. Heijselaar is speaking with other schools who have done "raffles" for other ideas
- Ice Cream Day (TBD)
 - o Lead: C. Gerdes
 - o Support: S. Heijselaar, A. Noel-Eisenberger
 - o Update: are we able to co-ordinate with Primary Play Day as it uses a "treat day"
 - o Action Item: P. Wardle will follow up with primary teachers re: date for Primary Play Day
 - o Alternate choices are available which are dairy and gluten free
 - o Not able to guarantee nut free
- Little Caesar's Pizza Kits (January/February 2025)
 - o Lead: A. Noel-Eisenberger

- Support: A. Carreiro, C. Turcotte, C. Hepworth
- Update:
 - Pamphlets to be sent home with students next week
 - Plan to hang posters outside on fences for parents waiting at pickup
 - Post to social (FB GLA Parents group and Inch/Eastmount group)
 - Email and robo call reminder to families for last ordering day
 - Pickup date scheduled Wednesday February 12th 2-6pm
- Chocolate Fundraiser
 - Leads: D. Mullin and L. Wong
 - Plan to start in February

Carnival

- ProGrant application approved!
- However, more applications than ever before resulted in smaller grants
- GLA will receive \$900 towards the Carnival which must be spent by June 25, 2025
- Inorder to avoid purchasing additional permits, can Carnival be held in conjunction with Spring Open House (date TBD)
- Action Item: Add discussion of Carnival/Spring Open House date to next agenda (B. Fraser, S. Heijselaar)
- Suggestion of new and previous Carnival activities
 - Bubble station
 - Basketball (arcade style)
 - Temporary tattoo station
 - Math games
 - Photo booth
 - Balloon animals
 - Face painting
 - Corn hole
 - Ring toss
 - Jelly beans in a jar (guess how many)
 - Cotton candy machine
 - Optimist club BBQ
 - Food truck(s)
- Action Item: follow up with W. Foreman re: location of last year's Carnival games/supplies (C. Silverglan, P. Wardle)
- Carnival Sub-committee
 - S. Heijselaar, B. Fraser, A. Correiro, C. Turcotte, A. Noel-Eisenberger
- Action Item: follow up with Sharla (previous Chair) as needed to assist with Carnival planning (S. Heijselaar)
- Plan to recruit highschool student volunteers to run Carnival stations
- Action Item: A. Correiro to refresh School Council on Clothing Swap fundraiser proposal at Sub-committee meeting

Use of Fundraiser Funds

- Action Item: E. Gratton to follow up and email Co-chairs re: balance of School Council account
- Suggestions for funds spending
 - Playground/Blacktop improvements

- Learning Commons tech and furnishings
- Math Up licenses
- Action Item: E. Gratton to send contact information for playground painters to Co-chairs
- Action Item: B. Fraser to obtain quotes for tricycles
- Action Item: A. Correiro to obtain quotes for Lego wall
- Other asks include “cozy corner” furnishings and tech for library catalogue in Learning Commons
- May have to be purchased through HWDSB purchasing
- Action Item: Add vote for Funds spending to February agenda (S. Heijselaar, B. Fraser)

Winter Food Drive

- Over 961lbs of food collected for Hamilton Foodshare

Budget/Treasurer's Report

Deferred

New Business

School Council By-laws

- Plan for 2025/2026 is to review By-laws at last School Council meeting of 2024/2025
- Co-chairs will connect with principal early in September to set first School Council meeting within 30 days of school start
- Action Item: add Review of By-laws to agenda for April (S. Heijselaar, B. Fraser)

Kindergarten Advancement Ceremony

- C. Gerdes brought forward question from kindergarten families re: will there be a Kindergarten advancement ceremony
- HWDSB is phasing out Kindergarten advancement ceremonies
- Action Item: P. Wardle will follow up with Kindergarten staff to see if there has been any discussion

Next Meeting

Date Thursday February 20th, 2025 | 6-7:30 PM, Staff Room or Virtual