

MINUTES

George L. Armstrong Elementary School Council

Date | time DATE | 6PM *Meeting called to order by* Britney

In Attendance

Name	Email		Voting
Britney Fraser	britney.culm@gmail.com	Co-chair	Y
Sophie Heijselaar	sheijselaar@gmail.com	Co-chair	Y
Carrie Gerdes	carriemschultz@gmail.com	Secretary	Y
vacant		Treasurer	
Susan (online)		Principal	
Jennifer Sired	jsired@hwdsb.on.ca	VP	
Paula Wardle	pwardle@hwdsb.on.ca	Teacher Rep	
Christine Turcotte	chrissycarlile@gmail.com	Member	Y
Regrets:			
Andrew Carreiro	andrewcarreiro@gmail.com	Member	Y
Carly Hepworth	cjh316@icloud.com	Member	Y
Elisha Coughler	chriselishacoughler1@hotmail.com	Member	
Alicia Noel-Eisenberger	allthingspurple@gmail.com	Member	Y
Liz Bowerman		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 April 2025 were circulated prior to the meeting,

Minutes approved as circulated.

Moved by Britney_ Seconded by __Sophie__

Call for items for New Business. None added

Agenda approved as circulated.

Moved by Sophie_ Seconded by __Britney__

Principal's Report – Susan

Susan was here three years ago during COVID times. She expressed that it has been a great pleasure to be here seeing the renovations and the smiling faces of all the children.

- Susan is here until the end of May
- Our superintendent is looking for a permanent staffing solution
 - o Staffing changes are done by the HWDSB and assigned by the end of May
 - o Because we have had such a series of temporary principals the board is aiming to have someone who will supply consistency over the coming years

Teacher's Report – Paula Wardle

Chocolate fundraiser is finished

- ~3000 raised
- Prizes have been drawn
- Trips & extracurricular

Kindergarten plans

- May 22 Fire Truck on site Mrs. Golia has arranged 1-2:30
- Potential zoo trip, ask classroom teachers for details

Intermediates

- went to public library & the Forge FC soccer game
- Will be planning a trip on June 3rd to Toronto
 - o Aquarium & Arcade
 - o Senior girls flag football

Juniors trips

- Zoetic done last week
- Planetarium in the works

Teams

Swim team (16 students)

- awards given
- Pizza party next week

Robotics Team is still going strong

- Three more kits are coming from the school board

Staff Appreciation Breakfast

- Big thank you to school council
- everyone's dietary needs were met, staff were so happy, much appreciated

Kindie space

- Miss. Golia will be reaching out to chairs about the painting in the kinder area
- Has some feedback about current items

Open house

- a big hit

- Kids are still talking about it
- Henna was a huge hit

Hygiene kits

- o Miss B is requesting
 - United Way - Britney (Period Promise)
 - Carrie to see about P&G [addendum P&G no longer supplies samples, just educational materials]

ACTION: confirm donation options

Grade 8 Commencement

- June 20th

Talent Show

- there is an audition process
- Must be responsible & reliable and appropriate
- Permission forms due back next week wrt to the audition time and requirement

June Newsletter will be coming out

- Jennifer is working on it with the kids
- Will get submissions and then compile it

Play Date

- no date yet
- Intermediate date

Council Updates

Events – Completed Debrief

Carnival

- Include the notes from Agenda
- Volunteer Challenges
- First Aid provision
- HPL said 85 families came and visited her booth
- Next time more tooting the horn of council - funds raised, brought to you by etc
- Silent Auction
 - location was challenging
 - Outside weather permitting
 - Expand it, smaller baskets

Teacher breakfast

- Thanks to Sophie for organizing check your email for a total

Events - Planning

Ice cream

- June 11 no - seniors are out
- June 12th Ice cream? Date to be confirmed [addendum, moved to June 13 re: kinder trip June 12]

- Order form for ice cream on the back of the flyer

ACTION: Carrie to confirm date, print and distribute orders. Please let her know availability for distribution on day of

New Family Handbook

- simple
- How to find the teacher
- Late drop off
- Buzz in
- Snack program
 - Donations
- Live electronically
 - Translation services from the school board?
 - To format using word in order to be compatible with translation services
- Will form a subcommittee
 - Everyone's invited
 - Facebook GLA Families ask for what info was surprising

School council meetings and parent engagement

- interest waxing and waning
- Commitment level
- Use of the school calendar
- Do you have a talent/service you'd like to provide
- Were you aware that school council existed
- Do you need translation
- Childcare requirements?
- Online options

ACTION: Britney to send out the chatGPT survey with our additions for feedback.

Funds raised/allocated

- LEGO wall items to be purchased
 - Britney to connect with Andrew
- How much is in the fund currently?

ACTION: J.Sired to provide report to co-chairs

- What expenses have come out
- The PRO Grant was spent on carnival plus
- What deposits were made
- Freezies
 - purchased by us
 - \$17/70 Costco

Motion to spend up to \$120 on freezies for play day made by Carrie, seconded by Britney.

Unanimously passed

ACTION: Sophie will purchase freezies

Kindergarten Celebration

- what can school council do to celebrate
- Can we have an EOY assembly
- June 23rd potential date
- There is lots of interest

SIP

School Improvement Plan

Three Parts

- Social Emotional Well-being engagement in Mental Health
 - Reduction in absenteeism
 - Positive Spaces for student inclusion and

Literacy

- Improve reading and comprehension
- Targeting programs to address identified gaps

Numeracy

- increase in mathematical skills
- Improved EQAO score
- High impact strategies with the math specialist
- Primary jr intermediate recommendations made and implemented

Budget/Treasurer's Report

Fundraising plan?

Budget report?

New Business

Next meeting:

Discuss & plan the first meeting for September

- planning the electoral process
- Constitution/By-Laws
- Homework: review the by-laws

Ensure funds are all used/designated

Handbook Sub Committee Formalized

Next Meeting

Date: June 19 _____ | 6-7:30 PM, Learning Commons

Motion to adjourn made at ___7:20___PM by ___Britney_____, seconded by __Carrie__