

MINUTES

George L. Armstrong Elementary School Council

October 21 | 6PM Meeting called to order by Lynn

In Attendance

Name	Email	Voting
Lynn Armstrong		Chair Y
Britney Fraser		Vice Chair Y
Carrie Gerdes		Secretary Y
Andrew Carreiro		Treasurer Y
Kelly Dunford		Principal N
Jennifer Sired*		Vice Principal N
Julia Woodward		Teacher Rep N
Christine Turcotte		Member-at-large Y
Jennifer Clarke		Member-at-large Y
Sophie Heijseelaar		Member-at-large Y
Regrets:		
*online		

Opening Land acknowledgement

Lynn's land acknowledgement text required

Approval of Minutes & Agenda

Minutes from September 2025 circulated prior to the meeting,

Sophie's role required updating as she was not present for the inaugural meeting for the 2025-26 year

Minutes approved as amended: Moved by Sophie, seconded by Carrie. No one opposed.

Agenda was circulated prior to the meeting.

1. Welcome/Introductions
2. Land Acknowledgement
3. Approval of September Minutes
4. Chair's Report
5. Principal's Report
6. Group Brainstorming activity
7. Goal setting/sub committees
8. New/additional business
9. Adjournment

Discussion on the agenda creates a standard agenda for future meetings including time for Principal's report and Teachers' report as well as a shortened meeting structure.

Chair's Report

As circulated

1. HWDSB School Council district meeting

- Britney & Lynn attended the HWDSB school council meeting at the school board offices October 14
- Presentations from the Home & School Association, trustees, a sample SC / school team and HWDSB Foundation office,
- Importance of childminding was discussed
- Foundation office is most relevant to us as they will help us with charitable receipts, online auctions and -a-thons
- Foundation office will also help with grant opportunities
 - Parent Engagement Grant (PEG)
 - \$500
 - Given to schools to encourage / increase parent involvement
 - Funds are accessed through principal
 - Solely intended for use by school council to make running SC more effective
 - Parent Reaching Out (PRO)
 - Support initiatives that identify and address local parent needs / or remove barriers that prevent parents from participating and engaging fully in their children's learning and educational needs
 - Up to \$1,000
 - School Councils work with the principal to complete and submit
 - Principal responsible for approving – due Nov 21
- Next meeting will be on Jan 13/26 (at school board offices) – all invited
 - Dinner 5:30
 - Session 6-7:30
 - Child minding available

2. Fundraising

- The pumpkin fundraiser was a success with over ¾ of the 200 pumpkins ordered were sold
- As it was a quick turn around and first time it can be considered successful
- Would like people to reflect on if we want to continue and if somehow can be improved.

3. Facebook Group

- We have created a Facebook page
- Used as another form of communication with the GLA community
- Encourage all members to join and encourage other parents to do so
- @glaschoolcouncil

4. 1:1 Meetings

- I have been doing 1:1 meetings with everyone and would like to continue to do so periodically
- Hopefully can find time for last few meetings soon

5. Newsletter

- I have started working on a newsletter and would be happy to work with anyone who wants to contribute or help edit.
- Anyone interested please let me know and I will share the Canva link.

- Will share with everyone for input as we progress.
- Will be a mix of info from School Council and GLA administration

Principal's Report – Kelly

Mrs. Wardle's class has created their own land acknowledgement following through on the direction from last school year.

Mr. B (caretaker) to get no smoking signs and no dogs on school property signage posted.

Looking for ways to deter the citizens from walking across the school property except on the pathway at the back of the park.

The school now owns the park as well.

The city garbage trucks idling beside the lot and garbage blows off creating a mess on the front lawn.

Sign at front is broken HWDSB responsibility to fix. 10-20K quote to fix.

GOLDEN TICKETS Program

- adults in building get to give out the tickets for good behaviour and stand out items
- Return to office for a prize

Middle school survey shared

Fundraising

- pumpkin fundraiser made \$XXX
- In future bigger pumpkins more ads source a donation
- Pizza \$ being done as one pizza and one restaurant per month
- Bake draw - cake wants school council to organize it. Each student gets a ticket. All donations must be store bought.
- Pita pit \$XXX
- Hamilton water plastic (240) and stainless steel (40) (purchase a stainless one for our graduates will cost 3-4 per)
- Chocolate fundraising Linda Wong - January February
- Can use water bottles as a fundraiser

Teacher's Report – no teacher rep

The goings on at GLA this fall

- Positive Space Bee/ Paula Wardle
- Young Entrepreneurs Club
- French Café
- French Gardening Club (Club de jardinage)
- Lego Club
- KM club – M, W, F – 1st break
- Baseball club
- Terry Fox – raised \$1100.00
- Spirit Wear Collection to be released Next Week- orders will be due in November and orders will be delivered before Xmas break.

- Grade 6 to run outdoor games at NB
- Colour House Sports grade 1-3 Small gym
- Spirit Days- first one was Blue Jays day. More to be announced.
- Junior Swim Team – wrapping up – meet is Nov. 5th – Senior will be in the spring
- LEGO wall! Ms. Dunford has the card!
- Ms. Silverglen is including Indigenous activities in many activities in Drama, storytelling and song; they made 3 sisters soup with 2 self-identifying Indigenous students.
- The Kinders learned about Turtle Island as well as the 3 sisters.
- We also have a new ‘map’ to the 7 Grandfather’s mural which we’re hoping to take walking trips to see!
- The Music Fun Group is maturing into a Singing Ensemble - Ms. Silverglen and Ms. Aiklidz are working together to include older students and hoping to have a song ready for presentation at Remembrance Day ceremony.
- Choir with Ms. Silverglen
- Remembrance Day assembly

Council Updates

Fundraising plan

Brainstorming activity.

1. Perishable
 - Little Casears x2
 - Gingerbread houses x2
 - Butterfly Kits
 - Spring Flowers
 - Candigrams
2. On-Line
 - FunDscript gift cards
 - Cash Back (Flip Give)
 - Flip Give
 - Shopify
3. A-thons
 - Dance-a-thon
4. Multi-year
 - Community Garden
 - Clothing Swap/Closet
5. Expanding
 - Paul Davis (social Media Speaker)
 - Art work Auction x3
 - o @ French Café
 - o Sale
 - o Show/Fundraiser
 - Haunted House
6. Other
 - Summer Clothes Sale
 - Winter Bazaar x2
 - Movie Nights

- Book Drive (for library with extra to be sold)
- Small Business Directory
- Freezie Sales
- Craft Kits
- Bird homes
- Hot Dog Day
- Drive (offer of winter coats from another school)

December fundraisers: poinsettias via Britney and Gingerbread houses via Carrie on the same order form.

Different greenhouse as Terra has pivoted to an artisan market.

Voted to proceed with a December fundraiser: all in favour, none opposed.

Timelines: November 15 orders must be in for this date to have Nov 26 delivery

Pricing

- 100 plant min
- Costs and price point for sales discussed and voted on. None opposed

Requests for funding from Kelly

- tech (iPads)
- DPA equipment
- Tricycles
- Kinder play
- Trip subsidies (Hamilton foundation for student success?)
- Full list next meeting

Budget/Treasurer's Report

Awaiting totals from accounts and remainder from last year in addition to the \$500 grant for this year.

To Do

- PRO grant is all online, Lynn & Kelly to work on due Nov 21
- Prior to next meeting Kelly will create a list of school priorities for fundraising
- Julia to forward teachers' report in full to Carrie
- Lynn to distribute list of ideas

Next Meeting

Date: WEDNESDAY November 19 2025 | **6-7:30 PM**, Learning Commons

Motion to adjourn made at 7:25 PM by Lynn seconded by Britney

Future dates

- JAN 20 Tuesday
- Feb 25 Wednesday
- Apr 21 Tuesday
- May 27 Wednesday - subject to change