

# HIGHVIEW SCHOOL COUNCIL

1040 Queensdale Avenue East, Hamilton ON, L8T 1J4 (905) 385-2341

E-mail: highviewSC@hwdsb.on.ca

## MINUTES

School Council Meeting – September 24, 2025 – 5:30 pm in the library and MS Teams

### 1. **Call to Order/Welcome/Introductions/Regrets J. Welsh/D. Speicher**

- The September 24, 2025, meeting was called to order by J. Welsh at 5:45 pm.
- All attendees were given an opportunity to introduce themselves; increased attendance was noted

ATTENDEES: Jenny Bognar, Stacy Winger, Mike Merifield, Sandra Montgomery, Suzanne Douglas, Nicole Murphy, Serene Hunt, Heather Harms, David Speicher, Melissa Noble, Courtney Biberhofer, Shannon Hully, Sekinat Bello, Rashead Yusuf, Peter Kola-Olalere, Praise Kola-Olalere, Venu Kurelle

HIGHVIEW REPRESENTATION: J. Welsh, V. Swan

MS Teams: Diane McIntyre

REGRETS: None

### 2. **Voting J. Welsh**

- Voting was held for the positions of Chair and Co-Chair
- The nominees for Chair were D. Speicher and H. Harms
- The nominees for Co Chair were S. Montgomery and D. Speicher
- Votes were counted by J. Welsh (principal) and V. Swan (vice principal)

**Our new chair is Heather Harms**

**Our new co chair is Sandra Montgomery**

- The official voting members are 14 with one form outstanding
- S. Hunt motioned to accept one form late from a previous voting member. N. Murphy seconded this motion. 11 members voted in favour. Motion passed.
- Council will have a total of fifteen (15) voting members, requiring eight (8) votes in order to pass a motion.

### 3. **Principal/Staff Report J. Welsh**

- J. Welsh discussed HWDSB parent council bylaws; A document was circulated for voting members to sign in acknowledgement of reading this document
- J. Welsh shared a land acknowledgment

- HWDSB has an indigenous learning lead who will be an active part of facilitating curriculum into Highview
- October 14, 2025, is the first pizza day at Highview
- The new supplier for pizza day will be Pizza Pizza
- J. Welsh and V. Swan hosted an assembly regarding compassion in response to community and teacher concerns of students making racist comments and using inappropriate terminology
- J. Welsh has reached out to Taylor Banks, who is supporting us in her role as a K-12 Equity and Well-Being Consultant with anti-racism and Human Rights work
- J. Welsh has reached out to Amanda Zavarella who is the CYCP Positive Culture and Well-Being Specialist focusing on Safe and Inclusive Schools. Her focus is on education around bullying and how we can work together to help everyone feel safe at school.
- In regard to racism, offense one will result in the student meeting with the principal and a telephone call home; Offense two will result in up to a twenty (20) day suspension to be determined by the board of Education. Offense number three may result in expulsion.
- All teachers have developed classroom rules and expectations to incorporate a positive culture
- Although J. Welsh and V. Swan acknowledge their new position at Highview, they are committed to ensure that students show respect to peer, staff, and community of Highview, even if this contributes to students developing a negative opinion of them for being strict
- Reorg is going to occur with 1.2 teachers lost; this means that Highview was required to close one class; Highview did not meet the ratio and classroom requirements in the beginning of the year
- The reorg will affect 3/4B, and some classrooms which are over capacity; On Monday September 29, 2025, a newsletter will be sent home for students who will be directly affected; On Friday, October 3, 2025, the reorg will occur
- Highview population is currently 527 students
- Sports and trips are in full motion
- PRO Grant discussion: The principal has an idea for math and reading facilitator to create take home packages for students to focus on foundational skills; S. Hunt shared previous experiences within Highview; J. Welsh to forward ideas to H. Harms who will cast a vote on our parent council social media site for a vote
- Assemblies will resume. FUN!!
- Teacher requests re: fundraising

*i. **Funding for buses:*** currently Highview has two students who may require specialty transportation; From an equity standpoint, all students must be included in a field trip planned for their class or the event may not happen; the concern is that the cost of the specialty buses may increase the overall cost of the trip for all students in that class; teachers are asking council to consider funding specialty buses; Council proposed that when a trip is planned to present to cost of the bus to council for a vote

*ii. Laptops:* Currently there are twenty (20) tablets available for sign out in the office; There are no laptops available; Laptops are now being used in High School for student education; It is requested for ten (10) laptops to be purchased and available in the office; J. Welsh is going to source and price this purchase for discussion at our next meeting

*iii. Larger screen for movie night:* H. Barlow is sourcing a drop-down screen for this.

**4. Online Business Recap**

**S. Hunt**

- Deficits from previous trips were minimal; J. Bognar motioned to cover deficits of \$70.78 for Boris Brott Festival, \$22.32 for Choir fest, and \$135.84 for Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. H. Harms seconded this motion. Majority in favour. Motion passed.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

**J. Bognar**

- Fundraising needs to be specific with a very open list of where to allocate funds.
- See attached report from J. Bognar

**6. Fundraising Report**

**H. Harms**

- S. Hunt will discuss the Holiday Gift Shop with J. Welsh to finalize details and confirm booking
- H. Harms suggested that we meet with all individuals interested in working and planning fundraisers at a separate meeting; H. Harms will inform all parent council members when this meeting occurs

**7. New Business**

**All Council**

- H. Harms will create a QR code printed on paper to be sent home for parents to join our Highview social media group related to the Highview community
- J. Welsh shared a teacher request to have the cost of transportation to the swim meet for the junior swim team on November 3, 2025, to be financed by parent council. The cost of the but \$226. J. Bognar motioned to approve this request. D. Speicher seconded this motion. Thirteen (13) members voted in favour of this motion. Motion passed.

**8. Confirm date of next meeting**

**H. Harms**

- H. Harms discussed moving our meeting to a Tuesday which was met with resistance. Instead, we will continue our meeting on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 pm in the learning commons. Although it would be lovely to have a teacher representative in parent council, it is not likely that a volunteer will come forward with such a late time slot.
- H. Harms motioned for the next meeting to be October 15, 2025, at 6:15 pm. S. Douglas

seconded this motion. Thirteen (13) members voted in favour. Motion passed.

**9. Motion to Adjourn**

**H. Harms**

- Motion to adjourn by H. Harms at 7:40 pm. S. Hunt seconded this motion. All in favour. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned.

Principal: J. Welsh Vice Principal: V. Swan

Reg. 612/00, s. 2 (1). The purpose of school councils is, through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.

Reg. 612/00, s. 2 (2). A school council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations in accordance with this Regulation to the principal of the school and the board that established the council.

## School Council Funds 2025-2026 School Year

### YEAR OPENING

SC Eco Initiatives	\$953.87
SC Enhancement Donations	\$1,874.95
SC Pizza General	\$184.35
SC Spirit Wear	-\$708.16
SC Trip Subsidy	\$8.84
24-25 SC Pizza Fundraising	\$4,480.40
	\$6,794.25

Date	Description	Amount Spent
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>		
September 24th	Bus for Junior Swim Team	\$226.00
		\$226.00

### SEPTEMBER CLOSING

SC Eco Initiatives	\$953.87
SC Enhancement Donations	\$1,874.95
SC Pizza General \$184.35 SC Spirit Wear -\$708.16 SC Trip Subsidy \$0.00	
24-25 SC Pizza Fundraising	\$4,263.24
	\$6,568.25

### EARMARKED BUT NOT YET PAID

Jungle Sport	\$3,000.00
--------------	------------

Total YTD Current School Council Funds Available to Spend	\$3,568.25
---	------------