

Queensdale School Council Meeting Minutes | October 24, 2024

Time: 6:00pm

Place: Hybrid (Library & Teams)

Completed by Amanda Levesque, Secretary

Voting Members in Attendance: 17 of **20** Quorum Reached (50%+1): Yes

Voting Parent Members 1 Jennifer Baillie-Rouse, Chair 11 Asad Pirzada 2 Lisa E. Van Keulen, Vice-Chair 12 Jessica Kelley 3 Nicole Hughes, Treasurer 13 Ananya Pandey 4 Amanda Levesque, Secretary 14 Ali Burton 5 Karlee Uens 15 Andrea Aylward 6 Brendan Knapman 16 Natalie Wood 7 Kristine Wachmann 8 Ahmad Jahed Behroozian 18 9 Helen Athanasiou 19 10 Jenny Tran 20	Non-Voting Members and Representatives Stacey Johnson, Principal Laurie Huurman, Teacher Representative Mary-Jane Sorima, Community Representative
Parent Regrets: 17 Candice Laughlin 18 Sara Gray	Parent Members and Guests Stephanie Robinson Gawahir Ahmed Angie Hernandez Sobrado Anders Dorbeck
19 Amy Pender Holly Chriss	Not in Attendance: Isobel Havens Nidhi Lath

- Call to Order** - Called to order by Chairperson Jen Baillie-Rouse at 6:15pm
- Land Acknowledgement** - Read by Principal Stacey Johnson.

Last year as a school community, a group of 6 – 8 staff decided to read a book together called “Seven Fallen Feathers”. There were many emotional moments that inspired reflection about privilege. Each chapter brought some new knowledge and spurred questions for indigenous learning.
- Voting-in of 2024/2025 Queensdale School Council**

At the previous meeting, the number of attendees interested in being a voting members on council was beyond what our bylaws allow for membership and the member selection was deferred to this meeting. All names were placed into a hat and 16 names were chosen to be voting members.

Motion to accept all nominees as voting members: Moved by Jen, Lisa. **Carried**
- Adoption of Agenda**

Agenda distributed by Chairperson by email ahead of the meeting, and to in-person attendees.

Motion to approve the agenda: Moved by Jen, Kristine. **Carried**
- Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes from meeting on September 23rd, 2024: Moved by Andrea, Natalie. **Carried**

Motion to approve minutes from meeting on April 17th, 2024: Moved by Jen, Nicole **Carried**

Queensdale School Council Meeting Minutes | October 24, 2024

Time: 6:00pm

Place: Hybrid (Library & Teams)

Completed by Amanda Levesque, Secretary

Voting Members in Attendance: 17 of 20 Quorum Reached (50%+1): Yes

Motion to approve amended minutes from meeting on May 23rd, 2024: Moved by Nicole, Lisa. **Carried**

Action: Amanda will forward approved minutes to the to be posted in the binder and on the Queensdale School Council page of the website.

The QR code linking to the council WhatsApp community was shared as an optional supplementary tool to facilitate subcommittee operations.

6. **Principal's Report** – Stacey Johnson

- a. School Goals: Principals have a School Improvement Plans that aligns with the school board's multi-year strategic plan. Of the five goals in the board's plan, Stacey has identified the three goals that Queensdale will be focused on this year. This plan was made through consultation with staff at the school.
 - i. Literacy and Numeracy: Teaching staff do diagnostic assessments for both numeracy and literacy. This year there is a new province-wide literacy assessment for students in grades 1 and 2. EQAO continues for grades 3 and 6, and that data along with math diagnostic assessments in class help to plan and work towards these goals, which could include professional development, bringing consultants in, moving to complete work in smaller groups.
 - ii. Ensuring well-being: The goal is to have every student to come to the school and feel safe, supported, and accepted. Staff is working towards this goal by building relationships with students to try and know them and their needs. There is a new Positive Space Group. The group invites all allies of the LGBTQ community to join together to create an accepting and safe space. There is also a new social worker on site for a half day once a week.
 - iii. Engagement: Another goal is to keep students engaged in learning. The school look at things that can cause lack of engagement (phones, tech) and how they can work towards keeping students engaged – such as a cell phone policy, and promoting attendance and punctuality. Staff at the school are integral in helping identify barriers for students and providing their input to Stacey for a collaborative approach to the Annual School Improvement Plan.
- b. EQAO scores: Stacey shared the trends in EQAO results over the last two years. Queensdale school scores have jumped significantly between the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 school years. The largest increases were for writing in grade 3, and for math in grade 6.
- c. The student population has increased this year from 368 to 407, and 41% of our students are ESL (English as a Second Language) students. A survey is being sent out on Monday that is available in multiple languages. The survey was drafted by the members on council last year.

7. **Educator's Report** - Laurie Huurman on behalf of the teaching staff team.

Queensdale School Council Meeting Minutes | October 24, 2024

Time: 6:00pm

Place: Hybrid (Library & Teams)

Completed by Amanda Levesque, Secretary

Voting Members in Attendance: 17 of 20 Quorum Reached (50%+1): Yes

- a. Ms. Murray's grade 3/4 class is doing the "Roots of Empathy" program again this year. She has already had Baby Quinn (2 months) and mom Michelle in to visit with the class. Silas (Public Health nurse and Roots of Empathy teacher) has been in to meet with the students and they are very excited. There is a bulletin board in the junior/intermediate hallway about the program and baby Quinn.
- b. Extracurriculars:
 - i. Cross Country took place earlier in October and was great! All Queensdale had a great time and supported each other. (Ms. Morrin, Ms. Murray, Ms. McKechnie)
 - ii. The junior boys' volleyball team has had 2 wins this year (Mr. Szpiech).
 - iii. Both junior and senior girls' volleyball have started. The junior team is grades 6 and 7, and the senior team includes grades 7 and 8 (Mr. G).
 - iv. The positive space group has begun their meetings. This is a student led group aimed at making schools safer and more inclusive. (Ms. Carey, Heather McKenzie – social worker).
 - v. The junior swim team has started their practicing. There are about 20 students on the team in grades 3 to 5. The swim meet is on Thursday November 7th (Ms. Novasad, Ms. Hurman).
 - vi. Planning to run the junior choir again this year for students in grade 3 to 6. The group will be looking to start after Halloween and will practice into the holidays (Ms. Hurman, Ms. Eaton, Mr. Hahn – ESL teacher).

8. **Queensdale Ambassador's Report** - students Jordan, Ibrahim, and Daya

There are 29 student ambassadors that make up the Student Community Ambassadors (SCA). They are trying to make the school the best it can be. Student ambassadors have signed up for one or more committees: the Equity & Social Justice Committee (Ms. Blanchette), the Special Days Committee (Mr. Hahn), and the Events Committee (Mr. McAllister).

First Spirit Day was fun. SCA decided on the first spirit day to be "Fun and/or Favourite Hat Day". They visited all classrooms to get student voice on all the other spirit day ideas.

The SCA members have chosen one class in the school and will act as a liaison between the SCA and the students in that classroom.

- a. The Equity & Social Justice Committee: The team has already met to determine the rest of the spirit days for the year. So far they have picked "Classroom Colours" on November 29th, and December 20th will be comfy and cozy with a stuffy day (pjs or comfy clothes/bring a stuffie). This team is also working on dates for a Food Drive. The SCA is always looking for ideas from students.
- b. The Events Committee: The team is working on the Fall Dance for students in middle school (grade 6 – 8). Decorations are being made by students in these grades. There will be a games room for anyone that can't attend the dance. Ms. Blanchette and the Equity

Queensdale School Council Meeting Minutes | October 24, 2024

Time: 6:00pm

Place: Hybrid (Library & Teams)

Completed by Amanda Levesque, Secretary

Voting Members in Attendance: 17 of 20 Quorum Reached (50%+1): Yes

Team is assisting with coordinating the music. This will be the last block of the day on October 31.

- c. The Special Events Committee: The team is working hard on the Remembrance Day assembly. They also did an incredible project for Orange Shirt Day. This installment will be ready for the school community to see very soon!
- d. Two SCA members have taken positions at the HWDSB Senate: Avery and Kamar. Three SCA are now the liaisons with the Queensdale School Council: Jordan, Ibrahim, and Daya.

9. **Treasurer's Report** - Nicole Hughes

- a. She shared her information and encourages anyone with questions not answered in this report to contact her.
- b. Important notes on Council purchasing:
 - i. Keep receipts: If you don't keep your receipt, you won't get reimbursed. Requisition forms are available at the office, but Nicole will have copies at every meeting if needed. It is helpful to take a picture of the receipt/requisition form just in case. Let Nicole know as soon as purchases are made and try to ensure that the receipts are to be dropped to the office in a timely manner (either at the event or the following day).
 - ii. Any money spent must be approved first before anything is purchased. Subcommittees may have a budget, and then they can allocate purchases within that budget.
 - iii. When in doubt – contact the treasurer Nicole.
 - iv. The office has a special account for Amazon purchases. If there is an item on Amazon that council would like to purchase, the office can process this.
 - v. Council needs to vote on the microphone purchased to help facilitate hybrid meetings.

Motion to approve the purchase of a microphone for approximately \$40: Moved by Nicole, Lisa. **Carried**

vi. Review of event fundraising last year:

- Krispy Kreme: profit \$2702
- First Aid Kit Fundraiser: profit \$2062
- Fun Food Fridays: profit \$325
- Poinsettia (2022): profit \$474.96
- Movie Nights: profit between \$200-\$400 each year (includes the license)
- Fun Fair: last year was a deficit, but previously this has been a successful event year over year (2022/2023 profit was \$1260)
- Holiday Market: profit \$508.58

10. **Overview of Parents Reaching Out Amount (formerly PRO-Grant) for 2024/2025**

Queensdale School Council Meeting Minutes | October 24, 2024

Time: 6:00pm

Place: Hybrid (Library & Teams)

Completed by Amanda Levesque, Secretary

Voting Members in Attendance: 17 of 20 Quorum Reached (50%+1): Yes

- a. There is an initiative from ministry to identify and address local parent needs and to remove barriers. Schools can receive up to \$1000 of funding, but it is an application process. Applications are due November 22. The chair is looking for ideas. The parent survey that goes out on Monday does ask how parents would like to engage at the school, and has a question about what would engage parents/families. The floor was opened to brainstorm ideas:
 - i. Math night: SAC commented that they could have students make math games
 - ii. Workshops – Spec Ed and students with special needs
 - iii. Mental Health Supports, children’s mental health
 - iv. Festival of Lights
 - v. Math/coding/bingo
 - vi. Coding Boot Camp by grade
 - vii. Social media/phones/tech
- b. Jen pointed out that we can either vote tonight or wait until the survey has been completed. Council unanimously agreed to wait until the survey has been in.

Motion to extend the meeting by 30 minutes: Moved by Jen, Nicole.

Carried

11. Overview of Annual Fundraising Plan and School Priorities

12. The school would love support this year for two specific needs:

- a. Subsidizing trips and buses: This initiative is so helpful because it helps parents. The cost per bus is \$400. 10 buses would cost \$4000.
- b. Technology – iPads: The long term goal would be to have two students per iPad, and any iPads purchased by council will help reach that goal. The cost of 10 iPads is \$4100.

13. Overview of HWDSB Guidelines regarding Fundraising/Events

- a. From HWDSB’s Equity and Inclusion department. There are some key things to think of when planning a school event/activity purpose of the day/event? Is it accessible to all – is there a cost? Multiple entry points (can all students come at different times)? Is it meaningful? Does it create a shared positive experience for all students? The council will keep these questions in mind while planning throughout the year.
- b. The school is committed to the following for the duration of this school year:
 - i. Pizza on Wednesday: raising funds for trips and transportation, tech, student engagement
 - ii. Kernels Popcorn: FDK classes are raising funds for outdoor play resources
 - iii. Frozen Yogurt: New this year by grade 8 students raising funds to go towards commencement and the grade 8 trip
 - iv. (Halloween) Dance a thon: tech/student engagement

14. QSC 2024/2025 Annual Plan Development

- a. Annual plan for council
 - i. Identify priorities to support

Queensdale School Council Meeting Minutes | October 24, 2024

Time: 6:00pm

Place: Hybrid (Library & Teams)

Completed by Amanda Levesque, Secretary

Voting Members in Attendance: 17 of 20 Quorum Reached (50%+1): Yes

- ii. What income is needed: What goal does the council want to set for how much profit we will bring in this year?
 - Last year council brought in \$5525, and previous year brought in \$1260
 - Jen proposed to set a goal for \$7000. Council was unanimously in favour.
- iii. Brainstorm events:
 - Big Box Cards - \$35/box, \$11 from each box goes to school (31.4%). No minimum order.
 - Mabels Labels is already set up for Queensdale
 - Krispy Kreme: a date in February was secured last year
 - Dominos pizza night
 - Indigo
 - Winter Fair (community)
 - Movie nights (community)
 - Singalong (community)
 - Winter Market – was reviewed that this event has too much disruption on students (with the use of the gym), and it doesn't align with the schools goals.
 - Multi-cultural event - maybe a food market
- iv. Link fundraisers to causes: Technology, Buses/Transportation, Student Engagement

Motion to approve the council's goals for the school year: Moved by Lisa, Jen. **Carried**

Note: On School Cash Online (SCO) there is an item for a family to donate/cover the cost for another student if they choose to do when paying for a field trip.

15. Establishment of Subcommittees and Leaders

Motion to do big box cards to raise for transportation/tech: Moved by Jen, Helen. **Carried**
Subcommittee lead: Natalie.

Motion to move forward on Movie Night to raise for all three identified goals: Moved by Jen, Andrea. **Carried**
Subcommittee lead: Nicole/Amy.

Motion to move forward on Fun Food Friday between now and December: Moved by Jen, Lisa. **Carried**
Subcommittee lead: Lisa.

Motion to combine Winter Fair/Winter Sing-A-Long/Market ideas into one free community event before the winter break: Moved by Jen, Amanda. **Carried**
Subcommittee lead: Amanda/Ali.

16. Adjournment – meeting adjourned 8:34pm

Next Meeting Date: November 14, 2024 @ 6:00pm