

SWO Parents and Guardians,

The School Council recently held its first meeting for the year. This included the election of voting members, the chair, co-chair, treasurer and secretary. We had many new faces at the meeting and a number of these people joined the council, bringing fresh ideas and perspectives with them. Each of the members has provided a short introduction, included at the end of this letter. Feel free to introduce yourself to any of the new council members and to raise with them any issues you feel are relevant to the school.

Our Mandate

The role of the school council is to enhance academic success and encourage parent engagement. We are concerned with issues that affect the whole school, rather than issues specific to any one child or class. We debate policy and propose improvements and allocate funds generated by school council-led activities. In the near future, we will be coordinating a parent focus group to assist principal and vice principal with the School Improvement Plan, and will welcome participation from all parents and guardians.

Events and Fundraising

Although it is not part of our mandate, the school council has traditionally engaged in fund raising and organized community events. These include the Dance-athon and family movie nights. At this time, it is not guaranteed that these events will take place in the current school year as many of the key event coordinators from previous years have left the SWO community. If you believe these events are an important part of the life of the school, this is the year for you to step forward and offer to lead! (Contact the chair, Mathew Gibson, to register your interest.)

Child Minding

School council meetings are open for all parents and guardians to attend and speak at. If you have a matter you wish to have discussed at a meeting, it is best if it can be brought to the chair's attention beforehand and added to the agenda. Free child minding is offered for the meetings. The staff will be board employed, qualified early childhood educators. As staff-child ratios are small, we request that you register before the meeting that you will need the service, so that the right number of ECEs can be arranged.

Meetings for 2018-19

School council meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the school library from 6:30-8:00 P.M. We do not meet in December or March. The dates for the coming year are:

October 17 November 21 January 16 February 20 April 17 May 15 June 19

Your School Council for 2018-19

Co-Chair, Mathew Gibson

I have a son in grade 8 French immersion. I am looking to facilitate greater parent involvement in school policy development.

Co-chair, Katharine Spencer

I have a daughter in Grade 7 at SWO and 2 daughters attending DVSS. I am looking forward to helping improve student achievement.

Treasurer, Phil Moruzi

Secretary, Rebecca Hoo

I have two kids, my eldest son, Jay is in Grade 5 and my daughter, Esther is in Grade 2. I look forward to being a voice for the parents and to contribute towards the best interest of our children, educators and school.

Teacher Representative, Joanne Robar

I am looking forward to supporting a strong partnership between school staff and council. It truly does take a village to raise a child and we are all in this together!

Sherif Abdou

I have a daughter in JK at SWO and a 1.5 year old son. I am looking forward to being an active part of the parent involvement in the school as well as bring a fresh perspective of a new parent in the Canadian education system

Dara Coulter

I have been a member of school council for most of the years that my son has attended Sir William Osler. I look forward to being an active participant of council and support to the school.

Sara Flynn

Ross Harper

Father of two, with my eldest having just started junior kindergarten. I'm eager to learn and help as my kids start their school career.

William Oates.

I have a grand-daughter in grade 8. I look forward to working with the council, school staff and students, assisting as best I can.

Heather Phillips

Claire P. Rivlin

Former council member from Dundana, where I served as liaison for Canadian Parents for French (CPF); looking forward to participating in the SWO council and serving as the CPF liaison again.

Catharine Roberts

I have three children in French Immersion, one at SWO in grade 6, and two graduates of SWO who are now at Westdale in grades 9 and 11. I also sit as a voting member of the HWDSB French as a Second Language Committee (formerly known as the French Immersion Advisory Committee or FIAC). I look forward to sharing information between the two committees and advocating for the interests of our French immersion students.

Dianna Stanley

Sajah Stiller

Sara Van Geffen