

June 18th Spring Valley School Council

Date & Time: 2025-06-18
Location: Spring Valley Elementary-Library
Attendees: Tina Verbinnen, Leslie Montreuil, Adam Kappheim, Sobia Amir, Jelena Urosevic, Lisa Veloce, Jason Manson (Teacher) Barb Mcvittie (principal)
Online: Daniel Cheong (DSR), Nadine Parry, Vanessa

Fundraising, Financial Tracking, and Purchasing

- Fundraising numbers have been submitted but not yet deposited; several purchases are pending, but all transactions are tracked.
- Big Yellow Bag fundraiser yielded low sales due to late advertising; will be discontinued next year.
- Wholesale donuts fundraiser planned for fall with a local vendor; no sign-up fee required.
- Popcorn sales (Rico brand) are more profitable than Kernel, with increased profit margins.
- Robotics club fundraiser will be coordinated for next year; suggestion to map out all fundraisers in advance.
- Bake sale and barbecue were highly successful and will be repeated.
- Estimated available funds for allocation are just under \$14,000, with outstanding expenses including TCBY and others.
- Discussion about purchasing a 10-pack of iPads with keyboards for approximately \$6,500; keyboard cases are about \$170–\$180 each.
- Surplus funds are available for musical instrument purchases; finalized list pending.
- Digital copies of purchase orders for canopies and jerseys need to be sent for record-keeping.
- Doughraiser event needs better advertising next year.
- Bus subsidy idea was not implemented this year but may be revisited.
- School cash online and Parent Portal are considered unreliable by some parents.
- Request for approval submitted for Square Tap payment system for easier in-person payments, awaiting confirmation for use in elementary schools.

Graduation, Event, and Extracurricular Planning

- Graduation ceremony logistics include a morning party, rehearsal, procession, and a slideshow of memories.
- 49 graduates this year; the ceremony aims for a duration of under or around one hour.
- Audio-visual equipment purchased and used for graduation, improving sound quality.
- Light controller acquired through a different supplier due to limited availability.
- Talent show was a success, with growing interest and participation; auditions ensured appropriateness, but all students were included.
- Track and field events for seniors and juniors were held; ongoing trips and celebrations continue.
- Scheduled play day for grades 1–6, with grade 7 students supporting; alternate plans in place for rain or excessive heat.
- Dunk tank featured at the barbecue, with anecdotal stories shared.
- School barbecue picnic was a major success, with positive feedback from 30–40 families and increased participation.
- More volunteers needed for event cleanup at future events.
- Refreshments for the Paul Davis event coordinated between schools; invoice approximately \$1,580, with \$900 from the current budget.

Facility Improvements and Equipment

- Playground improvements and playthings targeted for completion by early July or August.
- Ribbon-cutting ceremony considered to celebrate playground completion.
- Playground project ongoing for two years; only commercial-grade equipment considered due to liability concerns.
- Bench 12 inches off the ground costs nearly \$500; commercial sandbox (4x4 with lid/benches) priced at \$1,400–\$1,500.
- Long jump pit installed quickly, following OPHEA safety guidelines; annual sand top-ups needed.
- Student-built accessible bench accommodates two wheelchairs per spot; part of the Zen Den project.
- Bike storage and security concerns remain; suggestions for a bike locker or chain link enclosure near the bus turnaround.
- Plastic bins purchased to store canopy parts; additional wheeled dollies may be needed for easier transport on grass.
- Equipment delivery and assembly for the kindergarten area was delayed due to supplier issues; a new supplier was identified.

- iPads logged and distributed to primary classes; sand for sandbox delivered and stored until new equipment arrives.
- Insufficient bike parking at schools is identified as a barrier; concerns about frequent bike thefts.
- Suggestions for permanent locking mechanisms or indoor bike storage; grant opportunities mentioned.

Classroom Allocations and Staffing

- Classroom allocations for 2025–2026 finalized, with 19 classes (an increase of one).
- Some room switching will occur; Chris Cook moving to art room for grade 6 to lead innovation den.
- Jason leaving for STEM-related role; new grade 8 teacher hired.
- Kindergarten over capacity in two classes; prediction is expansion to three full classes next year, pending staffing email in October.
- Grade 5 and grade 8 classes at 27 students each; primary classes capped at 20.
- Hard caps: Kindergarten at 29, grades 1–3 at 20 (with 10% of grade 1 classes allowed over capacity).
- No movement planned for downstairs classrooms.

Facility and Storage Limitations

- Storage for choir stands remains a challenge due to a lack of dedicated space under the stage and no exit stage left; all performances must use stage right.
- Stackable or nesting choir stands are suggested for next year.
- Cookbook fundraiser lacks an organizer for next year.
- Uncertainty regarding kindergarten expansion until the staffing email arrives in October.
- Bus subsidy idea may need further discussion.
- Volunteer participation for event cleanup is insufficient.
- Unclear responsibility for maintaining the extracurricular activities document.
- Details about council access and use of the new school website are unresolved.
- Ongoing uncertainty about timing and impact of RE-ORG on pizza day scheduling.
- Access to the chair's email account has not been resolved; possible unanswered messages

Community Engagement, Documentation, and Communication

- School website scheduled for major update, expected to go live in November; discussion about council section on website.
- Old WordPress site not updated in 14 years; more information about new site forthcoming.
- Online document for staff to record coaching and club involvement agreed upon; will be shared with community via website and possibly Facebook.
- Document to be updated throughout the year and submitted with meeting minutes for easier end-of-year compilation.
- Election notice for school council voting members to be sent by September 11; open house set for September 18, first council meeting September 25.
- Pizza days scheduled for September 16, with orders placed by September 11; reorganization (RE-ORG) in second week of October may affect scheduling.
- Coordination with office administrators and updating class lists discussed for pizza day organization.
- Multiple expressions of gratitude to staff and volunteers, including Krista (Ms. Max) for ongoing support.

Transportation, Safety, and Infrastructure-DSR

Presentation

- DSR presented on active transportation initiatives for students in Hamilton, focusing on walking and biking to school.
- Mission is to understand barriers to active travel and promote safe, convenient, and desirable routes for students.
- Ward 12 review is being scoped, with plans to engage school communities and city staff.
- Mapping walking routes, analyzing travel modes, and advocating for improved connections between neighborhoods and schools.
- Example: City purchased property to maintain a walking connection between a new development and Redeemer University.
- Survey results at Spring Valley: 20 students live within walking range, 76 are eligible for bus, and 4% classified as driving due to being out of bounds.
- Younger students (JK/SK) more likely to be driven; older students show increased walking and busing.
- Walking is most common for families living 10–15 minutes from school; driving is prevalent among families with children under 10 in the “gray area.”
- Barriers to walking/wheeling include safety concerns and late school bell times.
- DSR plans to include recommendations on optimizing bell times to support walking.

- Insufficient bike parking at schools is identified as a barrier; concerns about frequent bike thefts.
- Suggestions for permanent locking mechanisms or indoor bike storage; grant opportunities mentioned.
- Parents face challenges coordinating school commutes due to work schedules; a community marketplace for walking groups or babysitting is discussed.
- Problematic routes and crossings identified: Lovers Lane, Lloyminn Avenue, Jerseyville Road, Rembrandt, Meadowbrook Drive, Taylor Road.
- Traffic calming interventions discussed: speed bumps, flashing pedestrian crossings, narrowing roads, lane narrowing, center islands.
- Ward review process explained as main avenue for bringing safety concerns to city officials; success depends on engagement from councilor's and staff.

- School-specific focus groups planned for regular updates and communication.
- Short-term solutions (pilot projects) can be implemented quickly; long-term infrastructure changes may take years.
- No outcome data yet on whether interventions increase walking or biking rates.
- Plans to create a school webpage sharing route information and updates for the community; webpage will include route maps and estimated walking times, with signs posted along routes.
- Classroom activities at ambassador schools involved counselors, teachers, and students sharing experiences and ideas for improving routes.

Action Items

- [] Include recommendations on optimizing school bell times in the Ward 12 review.
- [] Explore grant opportunities for improved bike parking and security at schools.
- [] Consider establishing school-specific focus groups to facilitate ongoing community engagement and updates.
- [] Post event reminders and sign-up information on Facebook and coordinate with Panabaker parents.
- [] Confirm refreshments and budget details for the Paul Davis event.
- [] Monitor delivery and assembly of kindergarten area equipment; coordinate with site supervisor upon arrival.
- [] Send digital copies of purchase orders for canopies and jerseys for record keeping.
- [] Obtain finalized list of needed musical instruments from Tom by Friday.
- [] Get quote from Long and McQuaid for musical instruments once list is received.
- [] Conduct e-vote for approval of musical instrument purchases.
- [] Consider purchasing wheeled dollies from Costco for canopy transport.
- [] Double-check Booster Juice menu for lower sugar options and compliance with nutrition guidelines.
- [] Map out fundraising events for next year, including robotics club fundraiser.
- [] Compile purchasing list for iPads and other items, then distribute for e-vote.
- [] Follow up on approval for square tap payment system for elementary school use.
- [] Draft and circulate an online document for staff to record their extracurricular and coaching activities.
- [] Send election notice by September 11 for school council voting members.
- [] Coordinate with Krista to set up online pizza ordering for the first day of school.
- [] Order pizza by September 12 for the first pizza day on September 16.