

## **School Council Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 6:30pm

**Attendees:** Andrea Hitchcock, Nermeen Malik, Amy Telford, Hillay Nabi-Shaikh, Jenny Seto-Vanderlip, Stefan Strecker, Ashley Buligan, Sophie Weigang Yin, Fatema Bhabrawala, Makarim Siralkhatim, James Ramkissoo, Amirita Ramkissoo, Lousie Yourng, Julie Hope,

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

The purpose of the school council under the Education Act Regulation 612, is “through active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.” School Councils provide input to the principal or the board on school-wide matters. The Principal is ultimately responsible for activities related to the school and therefore is responsible for school council activities. The school council is governed through bylaws created by the council, which are aligned with the Ministry Regulation

### **2023/2023 Election Results:**

Co-chairs – Andrea Hitchcock and Amy Telford

Treasurer- Sophie Weifang Yin

Secretary- Hillay Nabi-Shaikh

Voting Members: Louise Young, James Ramkissoo, Amrita Ramkissoo, Nermeen Malik, Julie Hope, Fatema Bhabrawala, (note: one voting member per family), Makarim Siralkhatim

### **Principal's Report – Presented by Principal, Jenny Seto-Vanderlip, VP, Stefan Strecker**

School Re-Org:

- 2023/2024 school year current count rests at 60 staff, 685 students
- Possible re-org, the decision will be made next week depending on the Ministry set cap sizes
- If re-org is required, it would be communicated via letter to parents of students impacted.
- Students / classes affected would be effective October 6<sup>th</sup>

Reimaging Wellness:

- Daily for 6 weeks, guidelines/curriculum for teachers to build a sense of community and create an inclusive environment.
- Starts September 6

Escalating Concerns:

- The HWDSB expectation is that any concerns are first brought to your child's teacher's attention. In most cases it's best answered by the teacher.
- Escalation of matters to VP/Principal that have not been brought to the teacher's attention yet will be redirected back to the teacher as the initial resolution process.

#### Nutritional Breaks:

- No food delivery services will be accepted by school (Uber Eats/Skip the Dishes). Suggest students/families save these orders for when they are at home.
- Students in grades 7/8 can (with parents signed permission) go home for second nutrition break for specific circumstances as discussed with administration. For safety reasons, students are to go straight home to eat and back to school, and not to any other destination during this time.

#### Parking Lots:

- Blocked off during busy drop off and pick up times (9am-9:15am, 3:20pm-3:40pm).
- Roundabout is reserved for buses during these times.
- Front parking area is blocked off during drop off/pick up times for safety (people were parking in emergency lanes) and creating dangerous situations for pedestrians. The exception is daycare access. Families with kids enrolled at the daycare can enter.
- Please walk to school where possible and/or park on side streets. Crossing Guard:
- Have been trying to get an additional crossing guard at corner of Robertson. Trustee is aware of need. Ultimately a city decision, community voices matter, encourage everyone to give the city a call to prioritize this matter.
  - o Question from parent (Amy): School does bus safety can they also conduct walking safety? Concerned that some kids cut across streets diagonally, not paying attention to cars, could cause accidents.
    - Response from Principal (Jenny): will look at incorporating walking safety key messages in assembly/announcements, but strongly encourage parents to help educate this message with their children.

#### Teacher's Report – Presented by Educator, Ashley Buligan

- Fall potted Mum's fundraiser is now complete and was a great success.
- Laura Secord chocolate fundraiser initiative is next up. Forms went home this week. \$5 per bar of chocolate, great raffle prizes/incentives for top sellers. Cases will go home on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 30 bars per case. \$60 profit goes to school per case of chocolate bars sold.
  - o Question from parent (Hillay): Operating in good faith that unsold chocolate and/or cash will be returned to school?
    - Response from Educator (Ashley): Correct. First box is provided without payment. Assuming some risk but other schools have run this initiative without issue and this model has worked. If someone wants more than 1 box upfront, must pay \$150 for each subsequent box.

- Question from parent (Amy): Concerned that this may take away from School Council Fundraising opportunities/windows. Want to highlight as Co-Chair that in the past Council has been asked why fundraising dollars were less and want to note that any Teacher led Fundraising takes away from Council's ability to plan initiatives (timing wise as to not over-burden families and not have competing initiatives running at the same time).
  - Response from Teacher and Principal: Teachers use fundraisers as a teachable, all money goes to school. Suggest that Co-Chairs attend Fundraising Council meetings to better coordinate initiatives between the two groups. This year, staff are creating a fundraising calendar to space out these initiatives.
  - SC to create an annual plan for fundraising in Oct. and will share with the fundraising committee at school
- Question from parent (James): Is there a list of targets/fundraising needs?
  - Response from Principal: The Principal and teachers come together to decide where fundraising dollars go and will outline priorities at the start of the year, this would include SC fundraising events. All fundraising goes to school enhancement.
- Cross Country starts October 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Parent question (James): can this be a fundraising opportunity? Sell lunch. Kids have noted being hungry after this run.
    - Response from VP, Ashley: different times for all kids so would be difficult to coordinate. This is a HWDSB event.
- Softball
  - Boys started today, girls next week
- Terry Fox Run
  - September 27<sup>th</sup>, \$2 per student. Students run in blocks by grades.
- Dances, 1<sup>st</sup> one is Halloween
  - Parent Question: Christmas Concert?
    - Principal: may have Winter Celebration Assembly but requires teachers to host. Will share the request with staff.
    - Amy Co-Chair: Movie night was to bring the community together, not a huge fundraiser \$200-\$300 in profit.
    - Parent (James): Food trucks on Garner 10% profit would go to school
      - Interested to learn more, a parent will bring more info next meeting

## Chair's Report

- Pizza Day
  - Will begin in October, start date to be shared
  - Every Wednesday
  - Going with Dominos again as students voiced preference for the taste/shape/sizing. Dominos provides a discount and adjusts the slice sizes for us.
  - Need parent volunteers to come in for 2 hours every Wednesday to facilitate Pizza Day.
    - Fatema volunteered.
  - Pizza Day is the most profitable fundraising initiative that school runs. \$1 profit per slice.
    - Parent Question, can we add a button in School Cash Online for parents to add a donation to the school when they order pizza lunches?
      - Response: Amy and Jenny would need to look into this
    - Parent Question : Can we sell milk as well to go with pizza?
      - Response: Amy and Ashley: Chocolate milk is sold out of Tuck Shop (white milk was not selling well)
    - Parent Question (Fatema): Can we ensure non-dairy alternatives and/or sugar free alternatives are offered for students with allergies/intolerances.
      - Response: Ashley: Tuck shop has popcorn, but we will keep this feedback in mind for future
  - Question from Educator (Ashley): Teachers would like to run another hot lunch day unless Council wants to take this.
    - Response (Amy): Please go ahead as Council does not have capacity to run another lunch initiative in addition to Pizza.
    - Board has a HWDSB SC email address, Amy to share with the committee. Prefer to use this over Facebook as not everyone has Facebook. **HWDSB recommends using the email to use for SC business.**

**Next meeting date:** October 18, 2023, 6:30pm

\*Request that Council members come up with Fundraising initiative ideas for the next meeting, email Amy Telford or Andrea Hitchcock at **TiffanyhillsSC@hwdsb.on.ca**

\* Amy will email the list of attendees to the committee in attendance. If you have fundraising ideas, to save time and prepare for the next meeting, please share them with Amy prior to the next meeting.