

WHB School Council Minutes
Date: February 20th, 2025
Location: Learning Commons

Attendendees: Miles Weafer, Nikki Young, Katheena Lannigan, Jessica Jones, Joe Felix, Holly Kerwin, Bob Hurst , Jenny Buac, Corina Hitchcock

Regrets: Taylor Simic, Holly Coish, Natasha Taylor

HWDSB Staff: Mrs. Giardino, Mr. Shearer, Ms. Fletcher

Overview

The meeting covered various topics including parental involvement, school improvements, fundraising efforts, and upcoming events. Discussions included plans to enhance community engagement, safety concerns, and future initiatives to support the school's growth and student success.

Guest Speaker

- Churchill Vice Principal spoke about the importance of joining the Churchill community and encouraged more parental involvement.
- **Music & School Engagement:** Discussions on increasing student enrollment through music and other trade programs.
- **Transition Days:** More opportunities are needed for students to visit the school, particularly for music and trade programs.

School Improvements & Housekeeping

- **Bike Rack:** Holly connected with the city, and the first order is placed. Installation is expected in April, with Dinard overseeing the process.

Fundraising Updates & Concerns

- **Current Fundraising Challenges:**
 - Parents expressed dissatisfaction with the chocolate bar fundraiser on the school's Facebook group, citing concerns over upfront payments. Approximately 10-15 parents voiced concerns.
 - School administration accommodated cases individually.
- **Chocolate Bar Fundraiser:**
 - 73 boxes sold q week into fundraiser, generating \$4,000.

- Funds to be used for purchasing technology, including iPads.
- **Future Fundraisers:**
 - **Big Box of Cards** – \$11 profit per box, potential fundraiser for October/November.
 - **Read-a-thon, Dominos/Little Caesars, Andy's Subs** – Possible fundraising ideas for next year.
- **Krispy Kreme Fundraiser:**
 - Scheduled for May 26, with an additional option on May 27th.
 - Limited to 800 boxes a day. No limit on family sales order.

Safety & Parking Concerns

- Teachers and parents reported ongoing issues with snow buildup and single-lane traffic during drop-offs.
- Continued push for safety bylaws and parental awareness.
- Parents and school staff encouraged to report issues to city officials, including Tammy Hwang- City Councillor for ward 4.
- **Walking Initiative:** Encouraging walking to school through programs like walking buddies.

Meeting Frequency & Future Planning

- **Paul Davis Event on Social Media Safety:**
 - Scheduled for May 27th.
 - Planning an outreach push to feeder schools and Churchill students.
 - Flyers will be distributed via Instagram, Facebook, and school newsletters.
 - \$900 PRO Grant allocated for the event, with up to 10% available for light refreshments
 - Joint meeting to be scheduled before the event to finalize logistics.

Principal's Report

- **Kindergarten Registration:** 24 new students registered this month.
- **Fund Allocation Transparency:**
 - Fundraiser allocation is shared with the council every October.
 - Budgeting for the library and other school improvements was discussed.
- **Buddy Bench:** Ordered and will be installed by the school board. Claire to confirm installation date.

School Improvement Plan

- **EQAO Testing:** Dates to be sent to families soon.
- **Math & Literacy Programs:** Ongoing efforts to improve student performance.
- **Indigenous Education & Reach Ahead Program:**

- Grade 9 students can earn geography credits before June.
- Goal: 25 students to complete their credit before high school.

Fund Report

- **Current balance:** \$653.78 (positive from December).
- **Smoothie Day Revenue:** 369 sold, with 10% (\$187.50) allocated for reinvestment.
- **Chocolate Bar Fundraiser:** Runs until March 5th.

New Business & Community Outreach

- **Board-Hired Nutrition Consultant:** Grant applications will now be centralized.
- **Aspired Bakery Partnership:** Biweekly case deliveries will continue.
- **Forge School Match Program:** Bob to reaching out to establish a connection.
- **Road Closure Pilot:** Strathcona successfully piloted a road closure program for school hours; discussion on implementing something similar.

Action Items

- ☒ **Create a poster for the Paul Davis social media safety event** and distribute it to other schools.
- ☐ **Confirm logistics** for the Paul Davis presentation, including the use of Churchill's space and refreshments.
- ☐ **Schedule an additional parent council meeting in early May** to finalize plans for the Paul Davis event.
- ☐ **Continue pushing parking safety initiatives** and communicate concerns to city officials.
- ☐ **Plan future fundraisers** and review the success of past efforts to improve profitability.
- ☐ **Increase student engagement in transition programs to Chuchhill** by organizing more visits and trial days.

Next Meeting: TBD – Prior to the Paul Davis event.

Meeting Adjourned.