

School Council Minutes

Date: September 25, 2025

Location: Learning Commons

Attendees: Miles Weafer, Nikki Young, Jessica Jones, Joe Felix, Holly Kerwin, Bob Hurst, Angela Butt, Natasha Taylor, Kathleena Lannigan, Catharine Keck, Kayla Twyne, Jenny Buac

HWDSB Staff: Mrs. Giardino, Mr. Shearer, Abby Zaitley

Overview

The School Council Election Meeting focused on electing executive members and members-at-large. Holly Kerwin and Angela Butt were elected as Co-Chairs, Nikki Young as Secretary, and Kathleena Lannigan as Treasurer. The board also discussed the increase in student population from 638 to 715, the need for additional teaching staff, and the importance of technology integration. Updates on Bill 33 and the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) were shared, the upcoming school council startup event was confirmed for October 14, and safety concerns during morning drop-off were addressed.

Election of School Council

- Nominations were received for co-chair, secretary, treasurer, and member-at-large positions.
- Secret ballots were conducted for the elected positions.
- Co-Chairs: Holly Kerwin and Angela Butt
- Secretary: Nikki Young
- Treasurer: Kathleena Lannigan
- Members-at-large were elected based on the number of votes received.

Updates from Trustee Abby Zaitley

- Abby introduced herself as the Ward 4 trustee and explained her role in advocating for public education.
- Announced the upcoming school council startup event on October 14.
- Highlighted the importance of the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and shared resources, including the PIC Facebook page.
- Provided updates on Bill 33 and current school funding programs.

Appendix A: Hamilton School Council Connections (Facebook Group)

- Parent networking group for all Hamilton school councils.
- Purpose: Share ideas around fundraising, events, parent/family engagement, and navigating challenges.
- Open to any active parents on school councils in Hamilton.
- Not board-specific or affiliated with any school board/organization.
- **Access:** Via QR code (see attached flyer).

Appendix B: 2025–26 School Council Start-Up (HWDSB Event)

- Hosted by the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC).
- **Date & Time:** Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 6:00–8:00 p.m.
- **Location:** HWDSB Education Centre, 20 Education Court.
- **Agenda:**
 - Tips on running an effective School Council.
 - Explore the 2025–26 School Council Handbook.

- Learn about roles of Chairs/Principals, operating funds, involvement, and fundraising.
 - **Extras:** Light dinner served at 5:30 p.m.
 - **RSVP:** By October 7, 2025 via QR code or hwdsb.info/SCstartupRSVP.
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School Population and Staffing

- Enrollment has increased from 638 to 715 students.
 - The school will receive one additional teacher and one Early Childhood Educator (ECE) to support growth.
 - Discussion emphasized the need for additional resources, including technology and furniture.
 - The importance of a well-stocked technology library for students was noted.
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Fundraising and Technology Needs

- Three major fundraisers are planned for the year.
 - Past successes were highlighted, including the purchase of 50 laptops for \$24,000.
 - Ongoing need identified for more technology resources such as iPads and laptops.
 - Challenges of maintaining devices and ensuring equitable distribution were discussed.
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Meeting Schedule and Community Involvement

- Proposed meeting schedule for the year was reviewed, including teacher breakfasts and other events.
 - Emphasis placed on engaging parents and the broader community in school activities.
 - Council stressed the importance of having a structured and well-planned fundraising strategy.
 - Strong communication and collaboration between the school council and community remain a priority.
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Drop-Off Procedures and Safety Concerns

- Ongoing safety concerns with morning drop-off were raised.
 - Importance of teachers adhering to scheduled duty times emphasized.
 - Suggestions included positioning all adults on sidewalks for improved visibility.
 - Clear communication and cooperation from parents are essential to ensure safety.
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Lego Resources and Robotics Program

- The robotics program requires additional Lego resources.
 - Costs and logistics of entering competitions were discussed.
 - Council reiterated its role in supporting fundraising for extracurricular programs.
 - Balancing resource needs with available fundraising capacity remains a challenge.
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Action Items

- Promote the school council startup event on October 14 to the school community.
- Provide ongoing updates from the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC).
- Schedule the first school council meeting for October 16.
- Develop a detailed fundraising plan with three initiatives to present at the October meeting.
- Advocate for additional Lego and robotics resources to support the robotics program.

Next Meeting: October 16, 2025
Meeting Adjourned.