

## School Council Minutes

Date: October 16, 2025

Location: Learning Commons

**Attendees:** Miles Weafer, Nikki Young, Jessica Jones, Joe Felix, Holly Kerwin, Bob Hurst, Angela Butt, Kathleena Lannigan

**Regrets:** Natasha Taylor, Taylor Simic, Catharine Keck, Kayla Twyne, Jenny Buac

**HWDSB Staff:** Mrs. Giardino, Ms. Cummings and Ms. Sormaz

Megan Benfield, Education and Outreach Coordinator, Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra (HPO)

### 1. Overview

The October School Council meeting opened with a presentation from the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra (HPO) on the Adopt a School Program, followed by school and council updates, fundraising discussions, and community partnership initiatives.

The HPO Adopt a School Program provides a year-long educational experience combining music, storytelling, and cross-curricular learning. Seventeen schools applied this year, and one was selected based on readiness and vision. The chosen school will participate in nine educational modules that include classroom workshops, concerts, and musician collaborations. The program aligns with the HPO's mission to enrich children's lives through the arts and community engagement.

The council also reviewed upcoming fundraising events, explored new initiatives such as a movie night and math family night, and discussed continued literacy and technology partnerships with Amazon, KPM, and First Book Canada.

### 2. HPO Adopt a School Program Presentation

Highlights:

- The program began in 2016 with support from the Hamilton Community Foundation.
- This year, 17 elementary schools applied, and the selected school will receive nine modules.
- Modules include:

- Welcome session and introductions to HPO musicians
- Brass quintet concert
- Cross-curricular acoustics program
- “The Spirit Horse Returns” education concert, featuring an Indigenous knowledge keeper and a French horn musician
- Rehearsal support from HPO musicians within the school band
- Workshop on musical hosting led by new HPO Music Director James Kahan, who is fluent in French

Funding:

- Supported by the Hamilton Musician’s Field and the Music Performance Trust Fund

### **3. School and Council Updates**

- New Teacher Representatives: Ms.Cummings and Ms Sormaz were introduced as teacher reps covering multiple grade levels.
- Milk & Popcorn Programs: Milk Day will continue under Mrs. Haber’s coordination. The popcorn program will also resume. With Mrs. Morrison leading.
- Robotics Program: Council approved supporting a second robotics team, led by Mr. Shelter, the math facilitator, and Mr. Pinard- Brown and our remote teacher Ms. Slater.
- Budget Review: Remaining council funds from last year will go to supporting a second robotics team.

### **4. Fundraising and Community Partnerships**

Fundraisers Planned:

- Big Box Cards fundraiser to launch in the coming weeks.
- Domino's Dough Raiser pizza night.
- Movie Night under consideration (licensing, concessions, and ticket ( logistics to be Confirmed)

#### Community Support:

- Continued partnerships with Amazon, KPM, and First Book Canada have provided hundreds of donated books.
- Council discussed exploring Presto cards for field trips to reduce transportation costs and increase accessibility.

### **5. School Improvement Plan and Literacy Focus**

- The school continues to prioritize literacy development, with the Acadian assessment program used to measure reading growth and guide student groupings.
- Council reaffirmed the importance of parent engagement in improving reading outcomes.
- Plans for a Math in Motion or Family Math Night event are being explored to be used for our PRO grant this year.

### **6. Action Items**

1. Big Box Cards Fundraiser: Contact company to finalize and launch the campaign.

2. Domino's Pizza Night: Send promotional details to the school community. Scheduled to be on Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 2025.

3. Movie Night: Explore logistics, including licensing, concessions, and ticket sales.

4. Math Family Night: Develop event plan in alignment with SIP goals.

5. Council Program Funding: Apply for HWDSB School Council PROgrant to support the math event.

**Next meeting January 15<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 6pm**