

# HWDSB

## School Council Annual Report 2021-22 Results

### School Council Successes:

- In-person activities
  - End-of year celebrations, family fun night with 200 attendees, staff appreciation event, guest speaker on post-pandemic parenting, SACHA presentation
- Virtual activities
  - Growing membership while having a majority of meetings online, parent involvement Kahoot night, Woodland Cultural Centre Presentation on Stereotypes and Racism
- Fundraising
  - Outdoor classroom, Dance-A-Thon, Indigo, Boston Pizza and Frozen Yogurt initiatives, winter and summer playground equipment, Big Box Cards, Virtual Scholastic Book Fair, family cookbook, supporting cost of electronics, upgrades to Apple products, FlipGive, new jerseys for sports teams, DFS catalog, Factory Shoe, Fundschrift, plants, pumpkins
- Meetings
  - Positive attendance, brainstorming ways to help enhance the school environment, new school bylaws, continued meeting through Teams
- Social media
  - Updates via Facebook page, launching new platforms, contest to gain new followers

### School Council and COVID-19 Pandemic

#### Lessons Learned:

- Pros and cons of virtual meetings
  - Remote works better for some families, learning to adapt and adjust, considering hybrid meetings moving forward, people able to attend that could not before, easy to share visuals and documents
  - Remote is worse for some families, not everyone has access to technology, virtual meeting fatigue, tough to engage parents, making the most out of the situation
- Events
  - Miss seeing each other, students, and staff in person, difficult to lead events
- Fundraising
  - Lack of in-person events, finding new ways to raise funds virtually though options like Plantables, using Hamilton Foundation for Student Success for support
- Membership
  - Difficult to recruit new members, hard to find time to meet, lack of engagement and participation, being able to connect with staff to determine needs

#### Overcoming Challenges:

- Virtual meetings
  - Difficulty gathering all members, feelings that in-person meetings are more effective, encouraging participation through conversations and screen sharing, lack of community
- Fundraising

- Spreading out opportunities to not overwhelm families, different comfort levels surrounding ideas, finding contactless fundraising, not being able to volunteer in schools
- Events
  - In-person celebrations, in-person PRO Grant event, lack of in-person fundraising
- Membership
  - Recruiting new members, using monthly meetings to stay organized
- Communication
  - Posting to the website, becoming more involved on social media, marketing materials to share information, using digital tools to advertise events, staying connected over email

## **School Council Activities related to Achievement and Well-Being**

### **Student Learning and Achievement:**

- Literacy
  - Funds for Learning Commons, dual-language books, Indigo's Love of Reading/Adopt a School, Scholastic Book Fair, Literacy Night, DRA reading materials
- STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math)
  - Coding materials for students, new technology for students, headphones for EQAO, musical instruments
- Other
  - Student award, kindergarten playground activities

### **Positive Culture and Well-being:**

- Events
  - Attending concerts and recitals, running outdoor Dance-A-Thon, organizing cookbook, Kahoot night, family fun night, lecture about social media safety, helping support commencement, special treats for students and staff, digital intelligence presentation
- Communication
  - Family newsletter, promoting walking/biking/wheeling to school, collaboration with student council, regular updates to families from principal
- Fundraising
  - Meeting place for school teams, playground equipment, treats for students and staff, nutrition programs, landscaping, team jerseys

### **How School Councils used their \$500 Allocation**

- End-of-year celebrations, books, improvement of outdoor space, food/prizes for family events, welcome books for new families, guest speakers, still in the process

### **Communication Strategies**

- Email, Teams, social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram), classroom announcements, letters home, paper flyers, word of mouth, school website, newsletter, events, School Messenger