

October 14, 2021

Attendance: (Marc Lehmann, Sara Aitken, Emily Jaarsma, Leah Mortensen-Milmine)

Welcome and Introductions

- (School Council handbook shared with attendees in Google calendar agenda)
- Nature of our Avenue Road School Council meetings is typically informal. Expectation of tone to be respectful and unified to accomplish the purpose of supporting our students.
- What School Council is:

(1) The purpose of school councils is, through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. O. Reg. 612/00, s. 2 (1).

(2) A school council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations in accordance with this Regulation to the principal of the school and the board that established the council. O. Reg. 612/00, s. 2 (2).

A school council is an advisory body that functions within the parameters of Ministry of Education and Board policy. School councils provide an opportunity and the means to advise the principal and the Board on any matter pertaining to improvement of pupil achievement and enhancing the accountability of the education system to parents/guardians. The ultimate responsibility for the administration and management of the day-to-day operation of the school rests with the principal. -WRDSB School Council Chairperson's Handbook

- What School Council is not: *A school council is not a place to pursue your own agenda or advocate for your own child. Individual issues should be pursued through the classroom teacher and/or principal or through your superintendent. Guidelines for parents/guardians to communicate with the school system related to individual issues are included in the School Council Handbook. -WRDSB School Council Chairperson's Handbook*
- Roles and Responsibilities defined (chair/co-chair, treasurer, teacher representative, community representative)
- Vacancies/Elections/Appointments: Leah Mortensen-Milmine and Sara Aitken appointed as School Council co-chairs for 2021-22; Emily Jaarsma appointed as community representative for the year
- Proposed meeting dates approved: Nov. 11, Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 10, April 14, May 12

Community Representative's update update (Emily Jaarsma):

- See update in School Day
- <https://greenwaychaplin.com/programs/> is the link to access our neighbourhood association's website; Executive Director's email is emilyj@greenwaychaplin.com
- Haunted Centre: Friday Oct. 29 and Saturday, Oct. 30

Principal/Vice-principal update

- Our school start-up has gone well, all things considered. Most of our students have returned to in-person learning. We have a new Kindergarten class that started this past Monday as a result of our high numbers.

- Construction update (rooftop units to provide ventilation/AC, demolition and rebuilding of intermediate end vestibule, removal of intermediate end wall board and replacement with brick wall)
- Most everyone is being responsible with COVID-19 protocols (masking, distancing, cohorting, hand washing/sanitizing, etc.)
- Visit yesterday from our new director, Mr. Jeewan Chanika who dropped in to pass along his appreciation for the work done by all staff in supporting students' return to school
- Some restrictions are slowly being lifted and programs are starting
- School traffic safety enhancements are being monitored for efficiency; by-law officer were present this week and ticketing for infractions
- Emergency drills: we have had our three modified fall fire drills, tornado drill and lockdown drill. Three more fire drills will take place in the spring, including a combined fire/bomb drill
- School Wraparound support will be starting on October 27. Admin will be attending a meeting outlining details for Avenue Road next Wednesday
- Special Education support (ISST, MDST) continues to support the needs of all students
- Microforest project will take place at Avenue Road with details being shared tomorrow at a meeting between Sustainable Waterloo Region, the WRDSB, city of Cambridge and GRCA
- Our butterfly way station is another environmental project starting this year. The location will be at the front of the school
- Tim Hortons Camp Program (gr. 7 & 8) takes place next Tuesday and Thursday
- [Staff, student and community spiritwear](#) order window closes October 22nd

Financials:

Current School Council balance is \$3,644.00

Any Other Business:

- Pizza days are on pause for now
- The WRDSB message around Halloween is that *"it is important to recognize that Halloween costumes are not essential for learning. We are advising schools to avoid school-based Halloween celebrations including, but not limited to, decorations, costume day, distribution of treats and other expressions of this tradition."*

Next meeting: Thursday, November 11, 2020 6:00-7:00 pm