

September School Council Agenda



Expected Attendees: Freda Vanopoulos, Alex Zych, Jonathan Yantzi, Jessica Taylor Charland, Lauren Tomson, Kelsey Phillips, Amy Dodds, Andie Morton, Krista Craig, Kimberly Hall, Sonja Kovacevic, Lisa McLaren, Debra Orrell, Heather Jepson, Mareika Smith (Principal), Zara Moazzam (Vice Principal)

Regrets: Tania Laurie (Staff Rep)

Time	What	Minutes
7 pm	<p>Land Acknowledgement</p> <p>We begin by acknowledging the land and our responsibility to care for and respect all that provides us with life. This land upon which HDSB is situated is on the ancestral, treaty and title lands of the Anishinaabek Ojibwe Michizaagiig Nation, now known as the Mississaugas of the Credit. Michizaagiig territory in the past and present continues to host both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.</p> <p>The HDSB is committed to continuous knowledge building with respect to actions that address and resolve the ongoing impacts of colonialism. We do this by learning and understanding the true history, treaty obligations, duties and responsibilities and Indigenous Rights while actively maintaining mutually beneficial relationships and collectively respecting and caring for the land.</p>	
7:05 pm	Introductions	Attendees introduced themselves by name and their children at the school
7:10 pm	2025 -2026 School Council Election Process	<p>No election required. 14 self-nomination forms submitted prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Co-chairs: Freda Vanoloulos & Alex Zych Treasurer: Amy Dodds Secretary: Jenny Green</p> <p>Attendees requesting and approved to join as voting members: Danielle Leahy Laughlin and Tulika Patankar.</p>
7:15 pm	Principal and Staff Report	<p>Portables Scheduled inspection occurred to inspect the portables; there was mould in the subfloor of one unit. An abatement company has been procured along with a general contractor. Anticipated duration for repairs is 2-3 weeks. The class will be moved temporarily to the Core French classroom. No risk to the students.</p> <p>Upcoming dates:</p> <p>Terry Fox Run on 22 Sep 2025 Open House on 25 Sep 2025</p>

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		<p>Q&A with Mareika held re: next steps for the school, and previous successes.</p>
<p>7:30 pm</p>	<p>School Council Initiatives/Fundraising Plan</p>	<p>Monthly parent coffee meetings will continue, starting October; may pair with other initiatives e.g. fundraisers</p> <p>Tuck Crew WhatsApp will continue through the coming year</p> <p>Open House Tent School Council to have a presence with a tent and a mini town hall (including sign-up sheets for various initiatives)</p> <p>Movie Nights School Council to renew the license for movie nights; council pays for the popcorn, need a volunteer to purchase and bag the popcorn for the kids in advance. Volunteers: Alex Zych & Tulika Patankar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Popcorn comes from Kernels in Burlington Mall. - Consider Grade 8 volunteers to hand out popcorn at the event. - Group discussion landed on Lilo & Stitch - Mareika can pay the movie license from school funds, and it can be settled later on - Members requested a day other than Thursday. Per Mareika, the school currently only has rentals on Mondays; typically the school is allotted 1 day a week (Thursdays), <p>Motion from Krista to approve funding for movie night at est. \$1000 for movie license, \$132.21 for popcorn. Passed.</p> <p>Pizza Days on Thursdays Will continue to offer cheese & pepperoni @ \$2.50/slice (cost \$1.25 approx). Gluten free not advertised, but people generally ask personally. Service provider will be Gino's Pizza. Orders placed twice a year, in the Fall and the week of Family Day. One attendee suggested slices from the Appleby & New St. location may be larger.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mareika will enter as two separate line items; Term 1 Pizza & Term 2 Pizza - Mary Catherine and Robin Settler to reach out to Gino's re: pricing; can have an email ready to go out to parents on Friday (Sep 19) with a plan to start pizza on Oct 2. -



Subway Days on Tuesdays

Payment taken 3 times a year. **Ann-Marie Wilson** will set up Subway orders & connect with the restaurant. **Heather Jepson** volunteered to assist.

Yearbook

Jackie Lenko leading again this year; Shauna will assist. They can set up the layout, but need more photos, specifically sports events and field trips. Can be provided via Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp, jtyearbook@gmail.com. Email address to be provided in Tuck Crew WhatsApp and in Principal message monthly in the weekly or monthly emails.

Giving Back

Krista suggests building on fundraisers we do within the school, that we organize and identify a monthly schedule for fundraising for organizations outside in the community. Discussed existing initiatives.

- September: Terry Fox Run
- November: Clothing Drive
- December: Fill the Tuck Truck Food Drive (has been Compassion Society or Burlington Food Bank) and gift card drive.
- June: Competitive donation drive (e.g. diapers, class-based competition and points scoring system) was well-received last year.

Tulika Patankar and Krista Craig to provide lists of local charities and confirm with Mareika based on need and on alignment with Halton Board principles and ongoing themes within the school. Will also communicate in emails to families, including upcoming fundraising calendar and successes and impact after the fact. Parties to connect and put together a proposal for the next meeting.

Digital Health & Wellness

Per **Heather McNeil & Freda**, Digital Health & Wellness community movement is inspired by the book *The Anxious Generation*, which contains tools for students and parents and teachers to be less dependent on Social Media; Heather has contacts at McMaster to gamify the school community to study, improve, and measure the initiative. This is a longer term vision.

Tennis

Tennis Canada is currently being vetted by the school board,

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		<p>targeting end of October. Current alignment will be with grade 4 & 5 programming, as these are the earliest grades that focus on sport-specific skills. Intramurals need a staff member volunteering time outside of working hours (need both Parent and Staff present for the duration. Current intramurals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noodle Hockey (grades 1-2) - Track & Field (grade 3+) - Run Club (grade 2+) <p>If parents are interested in running a club, let student's teacher or principal know and she will see if a teacher is available to be physically present outside school hours.</p> <p>Dance-a-thon (Feb/March) Per Jessica, all materials and contacts ready for fundraising and organizing, just needs coordinator and lots of parent volunteers. She needs assistance this year. \$15k raised last year. Signup sheet to be provided at Open House.</p> <p>Scholastic Book Fair Ms. Mills deals with scholastic for the event. Jessica to organize parent volunteers side (i.e. cash register and helping kids choose books). Date set: week of November 24-28, 2025. Late night on Thursday (families in the evening) and Friday morning is set aside for parents/families.</p> <p>PIC - Parent Involvement Committee \$500-750 Can be combined with Parent Engagement funding. Typically an event for parents to come in with students. Suggestions requested, for event to be held in May. Last year's event was Cookie Decorating, prior years have been robotics. Consider engaging a presenter for the Digital Health & Wellness initiative</p> <p>Cookie Decorating planned for the first week of December.</p>
8:05 pm	Treasurer's Report	<p>School Council Funds Primary fundraising lines are Subway Day, Pizza Day, and the Dance-a-thon. Questions re: available funds. Clarification on current fund amounts and availability to be provided by Mareika to Amy Dodds.</p>
8:15 pm	Other Business	<p>Teachers' Wish List Mareika asked the staff and grouped requests into themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - STEM initiatives (e.g. kits for class, or competition prep) - Visual & Music Arts - renewal of their items

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">- FDK - Funds to renew their outdoor space (e.g. metal plates)- Chromebooks- Phys Ed - resources to support programming- Literacy Resources <p>Agreement to be specific about the category we are funding from each fundraiser; include some of the items in the wish list so families know what is being funded. Bilal recommended we differentiate into consumables, replacement and upgrades. Full costing to be obtained from teachers by Mareika and brought to November meeting.</p> <p>Teacher Support \$100/teacher last year, but only \$2900 spent across 40 teachers. Mareika noted that spending needs to be used on things students will use, consume, or participate in, so is somewhat restricted. Check in at mid-year to confirm need and adjust.</p> <p><u>Motion</u> to give teachers \$100 for teacher support. Debora seconded. Passed.</p>
8:53pm		<p><u>Motion</u> to Adjourn: Lisa. Seconded: Amy. Passed.</p>