

**Harbord Collegiate Institute**  
**Minutes of Parent School Council Meeting**  
**November 25th, 2024**  
**6:30-8pm In person at the library at Harbord School**

**TDSB Land Acknowledgement** – Chirag Joshi

**Welcome and Attendees:**

Principal: Steve Yee

Chair: Chirag Joshi

Co secretaries: Sarah Warden & Ann Marie Murphy

Student Rep: Masaki Lee

Jacky Oza

Sarah Layton, Care and Safe Schools rep

Mei Burgin, Grade 9 rep

Maggie Kinner

Leea Puntanen, Ward 10 rep

Ingrid Card

Maria Lira

Mary Haitas

Cindy Chiu

Mary Romeol

Cynthia Pay

1. Approval of the agenda and minutes from October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024
2. Apologies from Sarah Warden, Shammy Singh and Catherine Williams

**3. Principles Report: Steve Yee**

- Steve informed us about the literacy test November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> which was going well. Snacks are available for the students during this test.

Question: how does Harbord Collegiate do in relation to other schools? Steve replied that the scores are good, above the TDSB average generally.

Fall season had lots of extensive extracurricular activities. Winter season: athletics is commencing, now as is varsity hockey, indoor soccer, basketball, swimming, volleyball, wrestling and cheer.

Question 1. Can parents and students watch home games? Steve said yes, students are welcome, and they are checked in with school ID and parents are permitted to.

Question 2. Are there any sports at a beginner level? Steve replied yes, through the clubs which Mr. Sturgeon can help with.

Question 3. Can students start a new club if they are interested? Mr. Sturgeon is the person to go to again for this; he is the staff advisor on this matter.

The following questions were asked at the last parent council meeting and are being answered now.

Question 4. Question about chrome books. These are issued to grade 9 students. The first wave went out earlier in the school year, second wave November 19<sup>th</sup> and third wave goes out in December.

Repairs are now absorbed by the students and new cases are supplies by the school.

Question 5. Regarding carpooling to games. Coaches are looking into this.

Question 6. Cafeteria question regarding nutrition. All food is nut free, staff are looking into the use of sesame oil and if labels can be prepared along with a survey regarding food sensitivities.

- Attendance and absence: parents are required to notify the school with the reason why their child is absent. Harbord Collegiate is now being audited as part of a pilot project. There is an app called school messenger to report absences. Schoolmsgr app

#### 4. **Caring and safe schools update, Sarah Layton:**

There was concern about an Instagram account, which was set up by a group of Harbord students. It was shut down for the second time as it was seen as a bullying platform. The committee is trying to come up with other ways to share concerns. The police were also made aware of this platform.

Question- is there any accountability? Very difficult as people use fake names. Child and youth workers have also been involved. A cyber bullying talk is being arranged.

Vaping is still an ongoing issue. An assembly is being arranged to focus on the washrooms and how students feel, possibly using skits as one format and possibly a health nurse coming in to speak to the students.

#### 5. **Ward 10 update by Leea Puntanen**

Leea reported that she attended two meetings, one on October 17th and one on November 21<sup>st</sup> in person, at Jarvis Central Collegiate.

There is a supporting student learning and literacy strategy happening now, which is trying to get students to create, to think critically and to basically level the playing field.

Deadline for commenting on the cell phone policy in the TDSB is December 10th.

Leea suggested that at the next school open house a table might be set up to inform parents what actually happens at school council meetings.

December 19th is the next Ward 10 meeting.

#### 6. **Student Report by Masaki Lee**

Masaki thought that a table informing prospective parents about the parents' council was a good idea. Parents are encouraged to pay the SAC fees.

A relay for youth is proposed instead of a colour run in the spring, more on that to follow later.

The SAC community has questions about the vending machine that's in the basement and has been inactive for years. If it was operational the students feel it may help students in general to stay on the school property. Steve said that the concern is regarding their nutrition policy. There's a possibility of a concession stand being set up at home games to fund raise. At lunchtime students are permitted to leave but not during class periods. Another possible fundraiser is sweaters for alumni.

#### 7. **School statement of needs, Chirag Josh**

This needs to be prepared in case Steve leaves but this is not happening right now 😊.

Chirag feels that the order should be changed to 1,2,6,7 then 3,4 and 5 and the rest stays the same.

A new school council account has been set up and Sarah Layton volunteered to be the second person to access it.

#### 8. **Grade 9 rep update, Mei Burgin**

Mei is concerned about students and their body image. She suggested the possibility of trying to get the school council innovation grant to get an expert in, to talk about this subject. Jacky Oza and Mei are going to work together regarding the grant. Discussions around getting small groups with expert facilitators, health education through the physical education department, possibly making connections with the university of Toronto and meeting the guidance counsellors.

#### 9. **Advisory council members suggested discussion items:**

The question was asked about having community members on our meetings which is mandated by the TDSB by law.

Leea suggested we think about what we might like to do with the \$500 that's the parent council have.

10. **AOB:**

Masaki said the police were involved in the hate comments and hall monitors are also around observing but they also have other responsibilities.

**Adjournment**

Steve Yee adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm.

**Next School Council Meeting:** Tuesday, December 17th, 2024 at 6:30pm - 8:00pm. This meeting is a **virtual ONLY meeting**. Please join us remotely on Google Meet, the link is: [meet.google.com/tzh-cnr-xus](https://meet.google.com/tzh-cnr-xus)