

Harbord Collegiate Institute
Minutes of Parent School Council Meeting
January 27th, 2025
6:30-8pm Online

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
Mei Burgin, Grade 9 rep
Magdalena Kinner
Leea Puntanen, Ward 10 rep
Maria Romeos
Cindy Chiu
Cynthia Pay
Kalil R
Jason Applebaun
Shammy Singh
Shiraz Valley
Michelle R

1. Approval of the agenda and minutes from December, 2024
2. Apologies from Sarah Layton and Catherine Williams
3. **Principles Report: Steve Yee**
 - Steve informed us about the exam period, which went fairly smoothly. The students in general seemed happy with their exams. Exam review periods are held for students to connect with teachers regarding exams and it is also an opportunity to say goodbye to their teachers and to thank them.
 - For the second semester students can access their TDSB connect apps for the most updated schedule; this will be available on Thursday, February 1st around 4pm. Friday morning, February 2nd is the first day of semester two.
 - Report cards will begin to be distributed Monday, February 3rd.
 - February 7th there will be a course fair to help students with their course selection. This happens over an extended period. Students can look at possible course selections and speak to different departments. The number of students selecting courses determines what is offered. Co-op students can select two courses a.m. or p.m. In class learning happens first, safety issues are addressed etc. Teachers can help students regarding placements and will visit to determine if certain placements are appropriate.

Question 1: Why do some subjects not have an exam? Steve explained that it is partly to get the grade 9 students used to an exam environment and not all subjects require an exam, for example art. This process slowly allows students to adjust to writing exams. Grade 12 schedule is different to a grade 9 schedule.

Question 2: What can students do if they do not have exams? Steve suggested that students could use this as an opportunity to connect with their previous elementary school, they could also do some volunteer hours and relax and recharge for the second semester.

Question 3: Is there a curriculum night for the second semester? Steve explained that the curriculum night at the beginning of the year is more about introducing the students and parents to the school.

Question 4: Is there a night to discuss co-op? Steve said Co-Op starts in grade 11 and it is not for younger grades. The course fair is a great opportunity to find out more about Co-Op. Placements such as hospitals, are done centrally and are a separate process.

Question 5: Is there a full day Co-Op program? Yes.

4. Caring and safe schools update:

Parents asked questions about a reported physical altercation (involving violence) in the school where bear spray was used, and police was contacted. Parents said that they saw videos of the incident from their children. Because of confidentiality and privacy, Steve can not share details of the incident however, he shared that in general, unfortunately teenagers do not always act in the most appropriate manner. If safety is an issue (e.g. if there's an altercation or a fight), the school's priority is to make sure that everyone is safe. Students are attended to if they require medical attention. Consequences (discipline) for actions are applied to individuals who are involved with hopes of learning and prevention of future occurrences and repeated behaviours. Depending on the incident/situation, police may be notified as per our TDSB policies and procedures. For example, if coyote spray is used for a purpose that it was not intended, there are consequences, and the school does follow through. Parents of the specific students involved are notified (especially if their child is injured, hurt in any manner, or is the offending individual). Parents asked some further questions and Steve reassured that if violent incidents occur, the school follows TDSB Caring and Safe Schools policies and procedures. Additionally, reminders about school code of conduct and expectations would be shared with the student body and parents via electronic communication.

5. Ward 10 update by Leea Puntanen

Leea reported that NDP has a nine point plan to address incidences of violence, which have increased. There seems to be a need for more mental health care and discussion in schools. Topics addressed and how these subjects are dealt with in schools are in place at Harbord School. All ward 10 meetings are recorded and available.

6. Student Report by Masaki Lee

Masaki reported that the SAC merchandise for the hoodie is popular, Valentine projects are underway, Winter Activity Day is happening February 12th, and semi formal and prom are being arranged. Question 1: Some parents are wondering if clubs are running each week? Masaki said he would ask McKenzie about this. Steve also mentioned that parents could email the administration and the heads of clubs.

7. Chirag Josh: Housekeeping.

Trustee D Williams would like to attend a School Council meeting. Steve stated that she is more than welcome to do. PIAC evenings are very interesting and if anyone is interested in attending, please let Chirag know.

8. Grade 9 rep update, Mei Burgin

Mei is looking into 90-minute workshops for parents and students regarding mental health with NEDIC, National Eating Disorder Information Centre. Steve to check out if there is a cost involved.

Adjournment

Steve Yee adjourned the meeting at 8:10pm.

Next School Council Meeting: Monday, February 24th, 2025, online at 6:30pm - 8:00pm.