

# The Waterfront School

## School Council Meeting #2

**Date:** Thursday, November 27, 2025

**Time:** 5:30–7:00 pm

**Location:** Via Teams

### **Attendees:**

Charles (Principal)

Alberto (translator)

Zahra Mirali (Staff Member)

Chase (Waterfront Community Centre member)

### **School Council Members:**

Shahina (Co-Chair), Anett (Co-Chair), Hugo (Treasurer), Del (Secretary), Shaza (Ward Rep.), Nadine, Sarah, Samantha, Rosa, Jessica, Mary

**Community Members:** Azza, John, Kathleen, Seema, Cheryl, Laura, Nero, YM, Zarana, May, Megha, Megumi, Linda, Simon, Kirthi,

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### **1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement – *presented by Shahina***

Shahina welcomed all attendees, expressed gratitude for everyone's participation, and delivered the Land Acknowledgement. She introduced Chase from the Waterfront Community Centre and informed the community that the staff will rotate meetings, and Isabelle, the president of the student council, who was not able to join. She thanked the community for their ongoing engagement and support.

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### **2. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes – *presented by Del***

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.

**Motion to approve:** Passed with no objections.

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### 3. Principal's Report – *presented by Charles*

#### School Updates

- Charles shared general updates from the school, noting ongoing efforts to support a positive, safe, and inclusive environment.
- He acknowledged continuing challenges but emphasized that strong relationships between staff and families have already contributed to improvements this year.

#### Bullying Definitions and Supports

Charles provided an overview of the Ministry of Education's definition of bullying:

- Must be **repetitive** or have the **potential to be repetitive**.
- Includes **harm or intimidation**.
- Students must feel safe and that they belong.

He clarified the difference between **bullying** and **general conflict**, emphasizing the need for continued education on conflict resolution.

#### Bullying Reporting Line

- Charles highlighted an underused tool: the **TDSB Student Safety Reporting Line**, located on the TDSB website under *Elementary School* → *Supporting You* → *Bullying* → *Reporting It*.
- Submissions go directly to the Caring & Safe Schools Department.
- The link will be added to the school website; staff will discuss responsible use.

#### Next Steps for Addressing Persistent Bullying

Parents asked what they can do when a student continues to bully others despite intervention.

Charles explained:

- Cases are handled **individually**, with privacy limitations.
- Some behaviours stem from **underlying factors** that influence how discipline can be applied.
- Many incidents occur during **unstructured times**; the school plans to introduce more structured recess activities.

- **Support for younger students:** For children in lower grades (Grade 3 and under), parents are advised to reach out directly to the principal or staff to discuss ongoing concerns, as solutions may require targeted strategies.
- **Positive changes:** Feedback from the community indicates that bullying reports are decreasing, thanks in part to new administration and proactive approaches. However, continued attention is needed for persistent cases.
- The Caring & Safe Schools Committee will help develop these supports.
- **Shared responsibility:** Parents, caregivers, teachers, and students are encouraged to collaborate in creating a safe environment. Charles emphasized that collective action and changing the school environment are critical in helping children take ownership of their behaviour.
- Parents are encouraged to reach out to him when concerns persist.
  - Follow-up emails are welcome if his inbox fills up.
  - Meetings can be arranged to discuss next steps and collaborative solutions.

He reaffirmed the school's commitment to continuous professional learning around early identification and intervention.

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#### **4. Treasurer's Report – presented by Hugo**

A financial update was provided, covering two months of recorded statements:

- **September:** Opening balance was **\$1,443.42**, and the closing balance remained the same.
  - **October:** Opening balance was **\$1,443.42**. There were no withdrawals, and a deposit of **\$5,375.00** was made, resulting in a closing balance of **\$6,818.42**.
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#### **5. New School Council Members and Roles – presented by Shahina**

New members were welcomed, Nadine, Sarah, Samantha, Rosa, and Jessica as general members to the School Council.

Shahina shared that having a parent or caregiver on the **Caring & Safe Schools Committee** is strongly encouraged by TDSB to support alignment and communication between the committee and School Council.

She explained:

- It would be helpful if the representative had relevant experience.

- This could be a meaningful opportunity for a newer council member.

No objections were raised. The group agreed to proceed with assigning a council representative.

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## **6. Changes to School Council Bylaws – Vote – *presented by Shahina***

The School Council proposed to change the number of members from 5 to 11. A vote was held; the bylaw changes were approved.

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## **7. School Council Survey Results – *presented by Anett***

Anett presented the results of the first School Council Survey of the 2025–2026 year. She thanked the 76 respondents — the highest participation to date — noting that strong response rates help the council understand community needs and priorities.

### **Response Timeline**

- Survey sent: **November 11**
  - Majority of responses submitted on **November 12**
  - Reminder sent: **November 16**, which prompted a second wave of responses
  - Final total: **76 responses**
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### **Question 1: Interest in Free School Council Events**

**“If the School Council organized free events for families, which would you attend?”**

Top selections:

- **Movie Night – 64%** (Highest interest)
- **Games Night – 50%+**
- **Paint Night – 50%+**
- **STEM Night – 50%+**
- **Workshops/Trainings – 46%**

Additional suggestions included:

- Dance programs
- A community Sports Day for students, parents, and teachers

- A welcome or mid-year social event to meet staff, School Council, and learn about yearly activities

Anett noted strong support for movie night and enthusiasm for bringing back successful pre-pandemic events like Games Night.

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## Question 2: Interest in Fundraising Activities

**“Which fundraisers would you like to see this year?”**

Top choices:

- **Book & Bake Sale – 79%**
  - Council held its first last year during the Holiday Concert, and it was very successful.
- **Spring Carnival – 60%**
- **Read-a-thon – 43%** (new and exciting for many families)
- **Krispy Kreme Fundraiser – 38%**
- **FlipGive – 21%** (already active throughout the year)

Additional community suggestions:

- Movie Night as a fundraiser (though Council prefers to keep it a free event)
  - Thrift sale or winter clothing drive
  - Dedicated book sale (for those wishing to skip baked goods)
  - Fun Fair
  - Direct monetary donations
    - Charles confirmed that **direct donations require a formal fundraiser**; money cannot simply be gifted to the school.
  - School T-shirts or jerseys
  - Spring seedling sale
  - Purdy’s chocolates fundraiser (requires more research)
  - Raffle baskets
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## Question 3: How Should School Council Spend Raised Funds?

**“How should funds be allocated this year?” (check all that apply)**

Top priorities:

1. **Class Field Trips – 75%**
2. **Enhanced Classroom Supplies – 74%**
3. **Nutrition Program – 66%**

4. **Yearbooks – ~50%** (significant interest in bringing yearbooks back)
5. **Student Presentations/Performances**

Additional categories:

- Anti-bullying initiatives – 32%
  - Sports-related needs (buses, tents, banners, branded jerseys) – 20%+
  - Music instruments
  - Cleaning supplies for classrooms
  - Beautifying school walls with murals/paint
  - Grade 8 graduation supports
  - Robotics program or club
  - Allocating a fixed percentage to athletics
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#### **Question 4: Interest in a Hot Lunch Program**

**“Would you be interested in an additional affordable hot lunch program?”**

- **Yes – 78%** expressed interest.

During discussion:

- Sarah shared that School Cash Online allows direct donations to specific schools and provides tax receipts.
- Shahina added that during Dance-a-thon season, a special donation link is typically shared for families wishing to make tax-receipt contributions.
- Charles agreed that this is something the school can revisit for future fundraising initiatives.

A council representative reviewed key themes from last year’s SSON and parent survey:

- **Bullying** was identified as the top concern.
- Families have noticed **positive improvements** this year with the new administration.
- Concerns continue particularly in early grades and in situations where families of students who are engaging in harmful behaviours may be unresponsive.

These findings will guide council priorities for 2025–2026.

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## **8. School Council Fundraising Events (2025–2026) – *presented by Shahina***

Based on survey results and past revenue, fundraisers and fundraising targets have been developed for this school year:

- **Pizza Lunch Program:** ~\$1,500 (Nov–Jun)
- **Dance-a-thon (March):** \$3,000
- **Book & Bake Sale (December):** \$500 (last year ~\$650)
- **Read-a-thon:** \$1,000 (New initiative; schedule TBD)
- **FlipGive:** \$200 (last year ~ \$200)
- **Carnival:** New event; proposed replacement for the year-end celebration.
  - Not structured as a fundraiser.
  - Council will seek donations to offset costs.

**Fundraising target:** ~\$6,200

**Current available reserve:** ~\$1,000–\$1,500 (to remain untouched unless needed).

**Estimated total usable funds:** ~\$7,200.

FlipGive details were shared; Hugo is preparing printed materials for the December event. Council will also arrange for the transfer of the previous year's unused FlipGive balance into the school council bank account.

Proposed Spendings

Based on survey results, fundraising dollars will be used to support the following items, which are in order.

## BUDGET FOR FUNDS RAISED

THE WATERFRONT  
SCHOOL COUNCIL  
2025 - 2026

DATE	ITEM	AMOUNT
ONGOING	SCHOOL TRIPS	\$500
APRIL 2026	ENHANCED CLASSROOM SUPPLIES	\$2,800
ONGOING	NUTRITION PROGRAM	\$1,000
MAY 2026	YEARBOOKS	\$1,000
ONGOING	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS	\$600
FEB 2026	ANTI-BULLYING/ DAY OF PINK	\$200
AS NEEDED	TENT, BANNER, BUSES	\$700
JUNE 2026	GRADE 8 GRADUATION	\$400*
TOTAL		\$7,200

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### 9. Free Events for the School Community (2025–2026) – presented by *Shahina*

Based on the results of the School Council survey, the top three free events that the council intends to offer this year are:

1. **Movie Night** – First held last year, this event was very well attended by many families. Council has a good understanding of the logistics required to organize it.
2. **Games Night** – A popular choice that will require additional planning and coordination.
3. **Paint Night** – This event also requires more detailed preparation and may be held virtually or in-person. Previously, an Indigenous Paint Night was offered virtually with paint kits provided to families.

Council members encourage parents and caregivers with ideas, resources, or experience to reach out and support these events.

## Funding and Logistics

- Funding for these free events comes from Ministry of Education grants and other school-provided funds, not from donations or fundraising events. Typically, the council receives around **\$800 per year** (\$300 from TDSB and \$500 from the Ministry).
- **Movie Night:** Licensing costs approximately \$400, plus additional costs for popcorn. Council is exploring a partnership with *Professor Jams*, a vendor who can provide licensing and popcorn at a reduced cost.
- **Games Night & Movie Night Venue:** The Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre (attached to the school) generously provides space, helping reduce costs.
- **Paint Night:** Previously offered virtually, the event included paid instruction from an Indigenous artist and paint kits for families who needed them. A virtual or in-person option may be offered this year.

Council emphasized that event planning will depend on funding availability. If necessary, adjustments will be made to prioritize the events with the highest interest.

## AI Education Session Grant

**Shaza and Del** provided an update on the grant application for an AI educational session for families.

- Application was sent last week to fund parent and caregiver AI education.
- Results are expected **December 12**.
- If successful, the session will be scheduled for February of next year.

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## 10. Lunch Program – *presented by Shahina*

There was overwhelming support for introducing a lunch program. Families have requested this for years.

- **Proposed Program:** The Council is exploring **Lunchbox**, a TDSB-approved program available via School Cash Online.
- **Next Steps:** Principal Gordon will meet with Lunchbox providers and Council members on Friday to finalize details. The program is flexible and experimental; other options may be considered in the future.

### Program Overview:

- Orders placed online through School Cash Online, no paperwork required.

- Parents select lunches weekly by Sunday noon; food will be delivered daily to classrooms.
- Local restaurants (e.g., Mr. Sub, Quiznos, Pita Pit) provide lunches; options vary each day.
- Flexible participation: families can order 0–5 lunches per week.
- Distribution may involve a few Grades 7–8 volunteers.

**Nutritional Standards:**

- All vendors comply with **PPM 150** regulations to ensure appropriate nutritional content.

**Additional Notes:**

- Council will share updates and further details after Friday’s meeting with LunchBox.
- Families unhappy with the program can opt out while the Council explores alternative options.

A caregiver raised a question about the City of Toronto’s plan for **universal lunch programming by 2026/2027**:

- She asked whether the school has begun long-term planning, including infrastructure needs for daily meal preparation.
- She offered to support or brainstorm based on her experience.

Charles acknowledged the inquiry and will explore planning considerations.

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## **11. Parent Engagement – presented by Shahina**

### **a. Caring and Safe Schools Committee**

Shahina shared that having a parent or caregiver on the Caring & Safe School Committee is strongly encouraged by TDSB to support alignment and communication between the committee and School Council. This could be a meaningful opportunity for a newer council member. No objections were raised. The group agreed to proceed with representative(s) from the school council.

### **b. School Improvement Plan**

Principal Charles and council members will discuss parent/caregiver engagement for the SIP.

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## 12. TDSB Anti-Bullying Resources and Supports – *presented by Charles*

- Charles presented online resources available through TDSB.
  - Bullying - [Bullying](#)
  - Student Safety Line - [Student Safety Line](#)

### Parent Toolkit

· A caregiver created an Anti-**Bullying Toolkit** during last year's anti-bullying campaign, with:

- resource lists
  - TDSB links
  - grade-specific reading suggestions
- It was never distributed due to approval delays under the previous principal.
  - She shared the draft with Charles during the meeting.
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## 13. Open Discussion

### Safety Concerns Near the Shelter

A caregiver raised concerns about drug paraphernalia and unsafe items occasionally found on school grounds.

Key points:

- The nearby shelter's lease expires in September and may be renewed.
- Charles will follow up with the Superintendent.
- Current safety measures include:
  - Shelter staff patrols at **7:45am, 1:00pm**, and sometimes **before dismissal**
  - Caretaker ground checks

Additional context:

- Shelter operator is **Homes First**.
- Their staff (often in orange vests) can be approached for assistance.
- Relevant contact numbers will be shared with the council.

### Needle Safety Resources

Shahina posted the City of Toronto's **needle safety guide** in the chat and suggested printing posters to display at the school.

Needle Safety – City of Toronto - [Needle Safety – City of Toronto](#)

## **Community Safety**

Hugo shared a safety information screenshot and will resend full details for confirmation before posting.

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## **Adjournment**

Shahina thanked all members, the principal, educators, parents, and new council participants for their thoughtful engagement.

The meeting ended with well-wishes for the evening at 7:00 pm.