



The Waterfront School School Council Meeting #4

Date: Thursday April 16, 2026

Time: 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Location: Via Teams

Attendees:

Principal: Charles

Teacher: N. Sharma

Community Representative (s): Cheyenne

Student Council Representative: Isabelle (Regrets)

Elected Parents/Caregivers: Shahina (Co-Chair), Anett (Co-Chair), Hugo (Treasurer), Del (Secretary), Shaza (Ward Rep), Samantha, Jessica, Mary, Sarah,

Community Members: John, Rose, Seema, Nero, Makoto, May, Linda, Megha, King MAK, Supriya, Laura, JP, Anupam, Kirthi, Kathleen, Lena, Mohammad, Moez,

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Presented by Shahina:

Meeting opened with the land acknowledgement and welcome remarks; council members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

Presented by Del:

Previous minutes from Feb 5 were located and reviewed.

- Motion to approve carried. **Moved by:** Nero; **Seconded by:** Jess.

3. Principal's Report

Presented by Charles:

Planned Earth Week and ongoing ECO activities:

- Charles introduced Ms. Sharma and the ECO School relaunch. ECO activities scheduled for Earth Week include **Boomerang Lunch** (students take home uneaten food/packaging), **Walk to School Week / Walk to School Wednesday**, planter cleanup and perennial planting, whole-school cleanup, Earth Hour, and student-led waste-sorting presentations. These are intended to rebuild habits (waste sorting, reusable containers) and increase student engagement with nature.



Student engagement and Student Voice:

- Charles emphasized student voice as central to program design and noted student-led presentations and competitions (e.g., “Big Crunch,”) are being used to re-engage younger cohorts who have “forgotten” earlier waste-sorting habits.
- Staff professional learning was also outlined, focusing on co-regulation and social-emotional learning through training delivered by occupational and physiotherapy services, with plans to develop a school-wide Social and Emotional Learning curriculum.
- The concept of “belonging versus fitting in” was highlighted as central to student wellbeing, with the goal that all students are able to feel they truly belong at school. Several initiatives supporting this goal were shared, including lunchtime programs such as Math and Science, Chess Club, Lego and Robotics, and Hip Hop, with efforts made to reduce financial barriers by lowering fees by 20% and fully funding approximately 40% of available spaces. He asked Council to advise on which programs to keep, expand, or discontinue.

Facilities and projects:

- Updates include the **Duck docs for Ducklings** wildlife project and a grade 7–8 mural (theme: *Fly Your Own Way*) funded by the airport; Charles will circulate design and placement details and confirm timelines.

5. Treasurer’s Report

Presented by Hugo:

- January 2026, the opening balance was \$7,072.23. During January, deposits totaled \$712.00 from multiple School Cash Online and miscellaneous payments, while withdrawals amounted to \$706.30, primarily for Pizza Pizza payments, a stop-payment fee, and a refund. The month closed with a balance of \$7,077.93.
- February opened with a balance of \$7,077.93. Deposits of \$473.00 were received through School Cash Online, and withdrawals totaled \$2,266.48, mainly for Pizza Pizza payments and reimbursement of juice box costs for the pizza lunch program. The closing balance as of 28 February 2026 was \$5,284.45.
- March began with an opening balance of \$5,284.45. Deposits of \$1,477.00 were received from 17 School Cash Online transactions, while withdrawals of \$1,171.47 were made for Pizza Pizza payments. The account closed at \$5,589.98 on 31 March 2026.

6. Nutrition Program Update

Presented by Charles:

Status and funding



- **Funding:** Charles reported the nutrition program is **fully funded through the end of the school year**; he stated the program covers the remaining school days (noted in the transcript as **~47 days**).
- **Distribution timing and priority:** Snacks are being distributed at/around **9:00 AM** to reach students who arrive hungry; the Council and staff are prioritizing **protein** additions to improve satiety and learning readiness.
- **Move toward a Local Nutrition Program Committee (LNPC):** Charles proposed transitioning to an LNPC/standing committee model that centers **student voice** and parent input for menu choices, procurement, and distribution logistics. This would formalize decision-making and reduce ad-hoc changes.
- **Supplier and menu changes:** The team has trialed suppliers and identified **Millennium Bake House** as a more cost-effective, higher-quality option for carbohydrate items; next steps are to source affordable protein options and pilot them in classrooms.

a. Changes to School Council Bylaws – Vote

- Council will review the proposed changes to the proposed School Council bylaws. Formation of a Nutrition subcommittee was proposed. School council will review and send out proposed changes for review prior to voting on them at the next meeting.

7. Lunch Program Update

Presented by Jess:

Lunch provider (Lunch Pails) paused service due to low daily orders (~10/day).

Options discussed:

- Consolidate to one delivery day (Weds or Fri) to increase orders; however, if the same families order each time that will not solve the low order issue.
- Survey families to identify barriers (price, menu, checkout process).
- Improve communication (calendar items, screenshots of weekly menu, school website), and explore staff participation to boost order counts.

Action items:

- Create and distribute parent surveys to identify barriers to ordering
- Add lunch program info to school calendar and parent communications
- Assess whether staff orders can be included to increase volumes

8. School Events 2026

Presented by Shahina:



a. Dance-a-thon: March 26 - Raised **\$3,500**; top three classes received popsicle/pizza prizes; new foam light-up dance sticks were well received and increased student engagement. Volunteers supported distribution and logistics.

b. AI training: March 31- We had a turnout of 28 community members (likely weather-related) but materials and slides will be shared; feedback form to be circulated and follow-up support from the trainer is available.

c. Games Night Cancelled – Games Night cancelled due to funding and volunteer capacity.

d. Year-end Celebration: June 11 from 3:15 – 6:00. - Carnival-style celebration with age-appropriate inflatables (small bouncy castle for younger students; inflatable maze for older students), inflatable carnival games, and popcorn machine. The plan aims to be a whole-school event with family participation.

- **Budget and funding strategy:** Preliminary budget estimate < **\$2,000**; Council proposed accessing up to **\$1,000** of leftover funds from prior year (confirmed not to conflict with pre-allocated amounts) and raising the remainder via:
 - Donation letters to local businesses (e.g., Loblaws has historically donated \$100–\$200).
 - Small, quick fundraisers (Krispy Kreme donuts; Kernels popcorn sales).
 - Optional family donations via School Messenger (suggested \$5–\$10 per child, clearly optional).
- **Logistics and partnerships:** Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre offered collaboration (use of courts/space); inflatables could be placed on the field with parent volunteers supervising basketball courts and activities. Insurance/waiver and vendor booking timelines must be confirmed.
- **Volunteer roles needed:** event lead(s), volunteer coordinator, inflatables supervisor(s), concessions lead, setup/cleanup crew, first-aid/health lead.

Action items:

- Confirm volunteer roles and event plan for Year-End Celebration
- Develop funding plans (budget, donation letters, small fundraisers)
- Share AI training slides and feedback link with community

9. Caring and Safe Schools Committee

Presented by Jess:

Student survey (grades 4–8) results summarized:

- majority report positive feelings about school but ~4 in 10 students report concerns (tiredness, stress, anxiety, peer conflict, bullying).



- Students requested more clubs, activities, and stronger responses to bullying; most students indicated awareness of available mental health supports.
- Council agreed to use survey results to plan targeted follow-up (bullying discussion session and next steps).

10. Open Discussion

Cheyenne (Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre) presented youth programming (tween & youth cooking, multimedia, lunch programs, summer camp) and offered to circulate flyers and collaborate on events; Cheyenne will share program materials for school distribution.

Concerns were raised about the proposed island airport expansion and potential air-quality impacts — it was suggested that it will be added to the future agenda.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15

Next meeting will be held on June 4, 2026, at 5:30.