



The Waterfront School Council Meeting Minutes #6

Date: June 23, 2026

Time: 5:30 - 6:30

Location: Virtual via Teams

Attendees: Principal: Charles

Teacher: (Regrets)

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

Community Members: Kathleen, JP, Zarana, Megha, F. King,

1. Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Presented by Shahina:

Shahina called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees to the final School Council meeting of the 2025–2026 school year.

A Land Acknowledgement was shared.

The Chair expressed appreciation to Principal Charles for his leadership throughout the school year, noting the positive school climate, increased family engagement, support for School Council initiatives, and student-centered approach.

School Council also extended thanks to:

- School Council members
- Parent and caregiver volunteers
- Pizza lunch volunteers
- Fundraising and event volunteers
- The broader school community for its participation, advocacy, donations, and support throughout the year

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Presented by Del:

The minutes from the May 4, 2026, School Council meeting were reviewed.

Motion: To approve the previous meeting minutes as presented.

Moved by: Shahina Sayani

Seconded by: Anett

3. Principal's Report

Principal Charles provided updates on recent school activities and priorities.

Student Learning and School Initiatives

- Grade 7 students completed a five-week collaborative art project with VIBE Arts.
- Students created a mural celebrating individuality and community. The mural will be installed once repairs to the upper floor are completed.
- EQAO assessments for Grades 3 and 6 were completed.
- Staff have been supporting students in developing effective test-taking and problem-solving strategies.

Social-Emotional Learning and Student Well-Being

- The school plans to implement a more intentional social-emotional learning approach.
- Staff have begun using Common Compass language to help students distinguish between conflict and bullying.
- Early feedback indicates students are beginning to use more accurate language when describing peer interactions.
- The school will continue building staff capacity in conflict resolution and emotional regulation.
- An itinerant Child and Youth Counsellor will support students and staff next year.

Grade 8 Graduation

- The Grade 8 graduation trip was successfully completed and was well received by students.
- Principal Charles reported that the graduation ceremony was a meaningful, student-centered celebration.
- Appreciation was extended to staff members who organized and supported graduation activities.

Academic Priorities for 2026–2027

- The school will continue focusing on data-informed instruction and intervention.
- Greater emphasis will be placed on small-group instruction and targeted supports.
- Special Education staff will increasingly work within classrooms to support students and teachers collaboratively.
- A pilot phonological awareness program was conducted with Senior Kindergarten students to identify learning needs and provide targeted intervention.

Technology and Screen Use

- The school will continue exploring alternatives to screen-based free time and encourage more active, creative, and collaborative activities for students.

Looking Ahead

Key priorities for the coming school year include:

- Expanding mental health supports
- Developing a school-wide social-emotional learning framework
- Supporting staff professional learning
- Increasing access to counselling supports
- Utilizing the Harbourfront soccer pitch regularly for student programming

4. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Hugo presented the financial report.

April 2026 Financial Summary

- Opening Balance (April 1, 2026): \$5,589.98
- Deposits: \$595.00
- Withdrawals: \$2,151.45
- Closing Balance (April 30, 2026): \$4,033.53

Deposits consisted of School Cash Online revenue.

Withdrawals included:

- Pizza Lunch Program expenses
- Volunteer reimbursements and approved School Council expenditures

May 2026 Financial Update

An updated balance for May was shared verbally:

- Opening Balance (May 1, 2026): \$4,033.53
- Closing Balance (May 31, 2026): \$4,219.09

A detailed breakdown of May transactions will be included in the School Council Annual Report.

5. Carnival Year-End Celebration

Presented by Shahina:

School Council reflected on the success of the year-end Carnival Celebration.

Highlights included:

- Inflatable attractions, including a bouncy castle and obstacle course
- Strong attendance and community participation
- Increased scale and scope compared to previous years
- Significant volunteer support from parents and caregivers

Council thanked all volunteers, staff, families, and community members who contributed to the event's success. Community members were encouraged to share feedback and consider volunteering for future events.

6. By-law Amendments

Presented by Shahina:

School Council reviewed and discussed proposed amendments to the School Council Bylaws. The revisions were intended to clarify Council processes, strengthen governance, and better support School Council operations.

Key amendments included:

Council Composition

- Clarified the composition of School Council to include:
 - o 11 representatives in total
 - o 1 Principal
 - o 2 Teacher Representatives
 - o 2 Community Representatives
 - o 1 Student Council Representative
 - o Parent/Caregiver Representatives

Clarification of School Days

- Updated language throughout the bylaws to explicitly define timelines and requirements based on school days.

Vacancies and Elections

- Amended the election process to establish a clear procedure for filling vacancies on School Council in accordance with Sections 4(b–l) of the bylaws.

Term of Office

The following revisions were made to Section 4:

- The term of office for all School Council representatives will run from the date of election until the first meeting of the newly elected School Council.
- Members may seek re-election or re-appointment if eligible.
- Council members will remain in office until the first meeting of the newly elected Council, ensuring continuity of School Council operations between school years.

Executive Structure

The bylaws now formally establish the following executive positions:

- Chair, or two Co-Chairs (must be parent members)
- Secretary (recommended to be a parent member)
- Treasurer (recommended to be a parent member)

Financial Controls

Section 11 was amended to strengthen financial oversight.

- School Council will maintain a bank account for all Council funds.
- All Council payments will be made through the Council bank account.
- Cheques and withdrawals will require the signatures of three elected executive members.
- Two of the three required signatures must be those of the Treasurer and the Chair/Co-Chair.

Committees

The bylaws were amended to provide a framework for School Council committees.

- Council may establish committees as required to support Council projects and provide recommendations.
- A Fundraising and Parent Outreach/Engagement Committee will be established and chaired by an elected Council member.
- Committees will make recommendations to Council regarding fundraising activities, parent engagement initiatives, and related expenditures.
- All committees must be chaired by an elected Council member and remain open to parents and guardians of the school.
- Committee meetings, including Fundraising Committee meetings, will be open and accessible to the school community.

Following discussion, a vote was held.

Motion: To adopt the proposed bylaw amendments as presented.

Result: Carried by majority vote.

The revised bylaws will be shared with the school community.

7. Caring and Safe Schools Committee Updates

Jessica provided an update on the Caring and Safe Schools Committee.

Highlights included:

- The committee met twice during the school year.
- Members discussed the purpose and role of the committee.
- The committee focused on reviewing student well-being and school climate data.
- A student survey was conducted to better understand student experiences related to belonging, engagement, well-being, and access to supports.

Three key areas were identified as priorities:

1. Readiness for learning
2. Belonging and well-being
3. Student engagement

Plans for 2026–2027 include:

- Expanding mental health supports
- Supporting development of a school-wide social-emotional learning framework
- Building staff and student capacity through Common Compass and related programs
- Utilizing available counselling and support services

Principal Charles thanked Jessica for leading the survey initiative and noted that the survey will be repeated in September to include incoming students and support data-informed planning.

8. School Council Annual Report 2025–2026

School Council presented a summary of fundraising activities and expenditures for the year.

Fundraising Highlights

- School Concert Bake Sale: approximately \$650 raised
- Dance-a-thon: approximately \$2,500 raised after expenses
- Pizza Lunch Program: approximately \$1,000 raised
- Hot Lunch Program: approximately \$100 raised
- Colonel's Popcorn Fundraisers: approximately \$300 raised
- Krispy Kreme Fundraisers: approximately \$600 raised

- FlipGive Fundraiser: approximately \$120 raised

Parent Engagement Events

Parent Engagement funding was used to support:

- Family Movie Night at the Waterfront Neighbourhood Centre
- Movie licensing costs
- Community-building activities

Year-End Celebration

Funding sources included:

- Approximately \$1,000 in direct community donations
- School Council fundraising proceeds
- In-kind contributions

School Support Expenditures

School Council funding supported:

- Enhanced classroom resources and supplies
- Day of Pink activities and anti-bullying initiatives
- Yearbooks
- Grade 8 graduation activities
- School sports banner development
- Carnival expenses

In addition, School Council members secured a grant of approximately \$1,500 to support an Artificial Intelligence education session earlier in the school year.

Final financial figures will be included in the completed annual report once year-end reconciliation is complete.

9. Follow-up to School Safety Discussion from June 4 Council Meeting

An update was provided regarding the Waterfront School revitalization project and ongoing school safety concerns.

Updates included:

- City staff continue to work through two outstanding design issues, including the accessibility ramp.

- The Superintendent's office indicated that discussions are ongoing and additional information will be shared when available.
- Deputy Mayor Malik's office continues to advocate for updates and timelines regarding the project.
- While no firm construction dates were available, communication with relevant stakeholders remains active.

Council thanked community members for their continued advocacy and efforts to advance the project.

Principal Charles expressed appreciation for the ongoing engagement and advocacy of parents and community members working to keep attention focused on the revitalization project.

10. Volunteer Appreciation

School Council formally thanked:

- Parent and caregiver volunteers
- School Council members
- Pizza Lunch volunteers
- Event volunteers
- Fundraising supporters
- School staff and administration

Council acknowledged that the success of programs and events throughout the year was made possible through the significant contributions of volunteers and community members.

11. Open Discussion

Community members were invited to raise additional questions, concerns, and suggestions regarding school operations, facilities, community engagement, and priorities for the upcoming school year.

No additional discussion items were raised.

Adjournment

The meeting concluded with closing remarks from School Council leadership, thanking attendees for their participation and support throughout the school year.