



Sir William Osler School Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting:	Wednesday January 14th 2026	Time:	6:00 PM EST
Location:	Sir William Osler Library		
Attendees:	8 Parents (7 in person; 1 online), 1 Community Representative (Lorraine Robinson, YMCA), School VP (Louise Van der Put), School Principal (Richelle Bratuz)		

Topic:	Discussion:	Action By:
Welcome and Attendance	The meeting begins with attendance being taken both of in-person attendees and online participants. - Leora van der Linden - Ross Harper - Mallory Fry - Tamara Deneault - Lauren Beckett - Connie Brownhill - Breanna Blackburn - Lorraine Robinson - Louise Van der Put - Richelle Bratuz	Lauren
Update on Recent Fundraising	Connie updates the group that the Poinsettia fundraiser we did just before Christmas time was successful in raising \$769.46 in profit for playground updates. She also gave us information on the Cookie Fundraiser from Terra Cotta Cookies which will start Jan15-28th. Cookies will be ready for pick up at the school Feb 11 - Tamara and Lauren volunteered to organize orders and hand them out. Admin will be sending out the email to parents about the fundraiser and Tamara will post to Instagram	Connie
Financial Update	While discussing some costs that the school is anticipating (curtains for the gym, tech, musical instruments), Richelle updated the Council that we currently have \$6534 in the School Council pot. Plus we have \$12,000 from pizza days, \$1900 from popcorn, and \$860 from Rice & Rolls and subway	Richelle



	Richelle this was a comfortable amount but highlighted that costs do add up quickly so we would need to be conscious of that. As of yet, there is no formal Fundraising Plan that the Council is working on or towards which would ideally guide our efforts. Additional money will need to be raised for the Snack Program	
PRO Grant	Leora gave an update on the Grant Process - our school has been awarded \$806 to be used toward the hiring of a guest speaker. Our funds will be paired with \$806 from Dundana for the joint initiative. Leora detailed 2 potential speaker options that she has reached out to - Kathleen Hilchey and Anne Douglas. Kathleen is \$1500 roughly and can present in person or live on zoom. Anne is \$850 plus tax and is only virtual. The group debated the topics that each woman could speak to and wondered if we should keep it broad and discuss bullying, friendships, and parenting tactics, or could hone in more specifically for parents dealing with kids on the spectrum or other neurodivergence issues. We held a vote on which speaker to choose - it was fairly similar but we all agreed that it may come down to which dates these women have available so that we could ensure the best turnout possible. Leora will be taking our thoughts to the Dundana reps and discussing it with them.	Leora
Playground Improvement	Richelle informed the Council that she has 3 interested parties for Landscape architect vendors approved by the Board. In order to move forward with planning stages we would need a fair amount of information prepared on what we are looking for and what would be approved. Connie mentioned that she felt those companies could help us design that and prepare renderings that we could discuss and show the wider parent community. At this point there are many unknown variables about what these companies will provide for us and at what cost (possibly upwards of \$10k). Lorraine shared that in her experience, structures are expensive to maintain and natural options could be explored, although they have their own challenges as well. It is clear that we would also need to factor in issues like field drainage, grading, and how best to maximize that use of the field for multiple age groups and activities. Connie mentioned the idea of private fundraising either through something like a GoFundMe page or other canvassing methods in	Richelle and All



	order to engage the community and businesses and get closer to meeting larger goals. Many Council members felt that the school board would not allow such a thing. Lauren shared her frustrations that it's very discouraging to always hear what we can't do, and not solutions or guidance on what we can do. It is a large commitment of time and energy devoted to being a parent volunteer and it is disheartening when there is a lack of traction or support behind ideas. She felt we need a better understanding of what our options are so that we don't waste time going down paths that aren't fruitful. Connie will be following up with Richelle on contacting Jesse from facilities for further guidance. Ross chatted in a link to some Board policies regarding fundraising and financial reporting School Generated Funds Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board	
EQAO Update	Richelle updated us on positive results from Grade 3 and Grade 6 EQAO testing - with that majority of students being in either Level 3 or 4 in reading, writing, and math. She added that the school has a Reading Specialist as well as the Empower Program. Students and teachers have access to MathUp which is online as well as KnowledgeHook which can be very targeted to students needs. Ms. Wilkens noted the importance of teaching kids how to do multiple choice tests as they get older because it can be a tricky skill for them.	Richelle
Snack Program	Kids were very excited that there were clementines this week. Overall Breanna thinks the quality of produce has been great. \$149 for clementines with all extras going to the office for redistribution. So far we've spent \$919 on the Snack Program. We are currently using Fuel for Kids money but will likely need to pull from other Council funds to cover future snacks.	Breanna & Louise
Next Meeting	The next Council meeting is scheduled for Feb 18th at 6pm	
Meeting Adjournment	Motion to adjourn the meeting by Breanna and seconded by Louise Van der Put.	