



September 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Voting Members Attendance: Mallory Drysdale, Alfredo Cabeza, Midori Miyamoto, Julia De Vuono, Tori, Arturo Fuentes, Shauna Rempel, Jennifer Goodfellow, Carla de Jong, Ashley Wood-Suszk, Kelly Kirkpatrick

Principal: Lovenia Gorman

Teacher: Ivana Simanic

6:32: Intros

6:37: Midori introduces council:

- Notes that current exec are aging out
- All executive positions will be open, will introduce during meeting

6:38: Land acknowledgement

6:40: Upcoming Elections:

- Midori and Mallory are outgoing council exec (chair and secretary)
- Elections will be in October meeting (October 15)
- 3 executive members are recommended: chair (or two co-chairs), treasurer, secretary
- Co-chairs liaise w community members and principal to determine to the agenda. Lots of work is collaborative, makes sure we are following rules for how school council is run
- Treasurer is the most hands on, keeping an eye on the monthly bank statements, reconciliation, tracking the budget
- Secretary tracks meeting minutes and agendas and keeps track of communications materials
- Council hosts some important fundraising events including the Fall Fete and parent social
- Timing of meetings is relatively flexible, and the minimum number of meetings required is set by the bylaws (posted on the howard council website)
- Last year we moved away from monthly meetings (Sept, Oct, Nov, Feb, Apr, June)
- Those interested in getting involved can also be a voting member. Required to come to school council meetings and vote on items

- Council is also made up of committees which lead fundraising and spending initiatives. Some examples of committees include the Fall Fete committee, musical, equity and garden, sports, arts, mental health and wellness.
- Question from group about whether there will be a talent show: yes! The talent show will be teacher-led but may need some parent support in terms of funds and volunteering

6:52: Principal Update

- Continuing to focus on school goals of working together, working towards multi year strategic plan. Consideration of equity, belonging, achievement, revitalization
- We want to ensure children's learning brings joy and that all belong and matter here. Partnership with families is valued. Howard has an active council.
- TDSB policies and procedures are in place and must be followed, can be found in weekly email
- Ms Adeline and Ms Simanic are the PORs who will be on council this year
- Extracurriculars are great at Howard. Cross country is up and running, soccer is coming, more to come!
- The library commons: a big project that began last year, full renovation by the board. There are still pieces to purchase, and continue fundraising this year. Currently reshelving books and will need new books.
- Adeline: the books truly are consumables. Many are damaged and would be great to revamp the collection. The grade 5s last year helped to design it last year.
- Teachers can meet once a month in their divisions to plan according to school improvement plan to build lessons, units, etc and collaborate
- There is spec ed resource support in french and english, especially for those with IEPs
- Reorganization: this is the time of year when all schools looks to reorgs, howard will be reorganizing. We are gaining staff. Nothing has been confirmed yet, so details will be shared once known. Reorg will begin Sept 29
- Terry Fox run is coming up on Sept 25. Sept 26 is the first PD day

7:03 introduction of voting items:

- Ask is 588\$ for busing to cross-country, and an additional 400\$ to create two calming corners in new classrooms
- Question about calming spaces, they are spaces where students can sit in a quiet space where they can read books, do art, listen to music, build quietly etc. Last year, it was decided to bring the space into each classroom to use focus tools, sit in a bean bag chair, relax etc. Since there are two new classes this year, they don't have these materials
- Both votes pass, nobody opposed

7:06: Fall Fete introduction:

- One of the school's main fundraising initiatives
- Currently scheduled for Oct 25th
- Requires leads and volunteers to run all aspects, more info coming shortly

7:10: Parent reps

- Requests for class lists
- Process will be: teacher/office send out request for class reps for each class. Class rep contact information is sent by the teacher to the class families. Class families can get in touch with class rep to be added to the class list. The class rep is welcome to share the list with those who agree to participate.

7:20: Other business:

- Question: what is current enrollment: 421 students from 394 last year
- Meet and greet is postponed to Oct 7
- Broad question: who determines a reorg? Not principal. The MOE determines based on class caps. At the board level, the staffing minister and board members look at it. Reorg happens because initially, staff allocation is based on project numbers rather than actual numbers. Count day is in Sept based on who actually shows up. There is a formula for how it works and it is not very flexible.
- How do individual student decisions get placed? Collective decision with staff. We want to move as few students as possible in the reorg.
- Midori: Debbie King (our trustee) is organizing, and you can get in touch with Midori to discuss.
- Google sheet for voting member nominations will be posted to the howard council website

Contact school council through: **Howardpublicschool.com** and **SC.HowardJuniorPublicSchool@tdsb.on.ca**

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting October 15 - Elections