

School Council Meeting Minutes

Sept. 22nd, 2025

Attendance: 21 parents and 3 staff members attended.

School Administrators introduced themselves:

Brent Ellery - Principal

Ibrahim Akyol - Temporary Vice Principal

Administrators Shared Vision:

At Grand River PS, we are dedicated to creating a vibrant and inclusive school culture where every student, staff member, and family is valued for their unique backgrounds, perspectives, and strengths. We embrace the diversity of our community as a powerful asset that enriches our learning environment, and we foster an atmosphere where differences are celebrated. Our unwavering focus is on academic excellence, particularly in the foundational areas of reading, writing, and math, ensuring all students are equipped with the essential skills to succeed. Our school will be a place where all students and community members will feel valued, respected and safe so we can all focus on academic and social growth.

Updates from the Principal:

Our main goal for tonight is to make introduction, provide information and guidance, and establish the first ever Grand River School Council Executive.

School Council Is: Parent Lead Council - for the betterment of the school. The principal and vice principal are here to answer questions and give updates about the school, however the meeting is for parents, run by parents.

School Council is a place to contribute to the school community with the ultimate goal of creating a positive community culture. This is a place, where parents can volunteer their time to enhance the school experience of the students.

If there are general questions, or concerns that impact large amounts of students, then this is a place where we can discuss general strategies or plans.

School Council Is Not:

This would not be the appropriate place to bring up individual concerns about your children. That is done through the office and through the classroom teachers. Always start with the teacher to develop relationships.

A parent's role is crucial to the success of the school. We all need to be partners in helping our students succeed academically and socially.

Updates from the school:

- Reorganization - added a classroom- our 2/3 class became a straight Grade 2 and a straight Grade 3.
- Staffing - hired grade 2 - internal - Ms. Grabowski - and Mr. Macdonald in planning time position
- Gym is now in use - still work to be done around the school.
- Student helpers have begun - lunchrooms - office
- Cameras - now functioning - 26 cameras - 9 out - 17 in

- Terry Fox - parents to join for the walk - outside school property
- Cross Country - Jr. and Int.
- Pizza Program run by office - coming soon - volunteers needed -
- Website - we will be adding more and updating
- School Mascot/Colours - This will be a task where we involve the students, staff, families and board staff.

We are beginning the process and will move slowly to ensure we can all be proud of our choices.
Look for more information about this soon.

- Meet The Teacher Night this Thursday - just a reminder this is not a time to ask about child's academic or behavioural needs - staff must remain confidential.
- Photo Day - October 10th
- Wish List - We are holding off on this to see what still gets picked up on the capital budget. This will not include big ticket options like a play structure, but may include line painting on the asphalt or more gym equipment - such as a gaga ball pit.
- School Deficiency Process - This will continue for a few months. - for example, we needed a good rain to see how the field drains - it was not good, so they will have to work on that.
- Snack Program - looking for a volunteer - Safe Food Handling course needed

School Council Executive - (voting was unanimous):

Congratulations and thank you to the following parents who are now our School Council Executive:

- Amanda Rushe - School Council Chair
- Vanessa Barrett - Vice Chair
- Kaleigh Cordeiro - Secretary
- Katrina Graham - Treasurer
- Adam Lyle - Member at Large

Next Meeting Wednesday, Oct. 29th 6:00 - 7:30 PM - all are welcome.