

CENTENNIAL PUBLIC SCHOOL SCHOOL COUNCIL

Annual Report

June 2025

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Annual Report for the 2024/2025 School Year

June 26, 2025

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and School Community:

The Centennial Public School school council had a very rewarding 2024/2025 school year. The school council held five official meetings on September 23, October 15, November 25, April 7, and May 12. The school council worked on various issues and initiatives during the year, including the creation of a variety of engagement opportunities for students and families (free of cost to families), fundraising for student engagement opportunities, and the establishment of long-term goals to create a more inclusive space outdoors for all students to play. These meetings were open to the public to encourage input from parents, caregivers, and other members of the school community.

The purpose of the school council is to help improve student achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents and caregivers. School councils are advisory organizations. A school council's primary means of achieving its purpose is by making recommendations to the principal of the school and the school board. Boards and principals are responsible for considering the recommendations made by each school council and for advising the council(s) of the actions taken in response to the recommendations.

Accordingly, included with this report is a summary of the advice that the school council provided to the principal (where applicable) and the school board in 2024/2025, as well as the responses from the principal (where applicable) and school board on how this advice was taken into account in decision making.

Additional achievements of the school council in 2024/2025 included the following: Several well-attended engaging events for families, including a Halloween dance, family movie night, family games and crafts night, family creativity night, bottle drive, and family BBQ and funfair. Other achievements in 2024/2025 included the establishment of a priority fundraising goal and initial assessment to improve the accessibility of the outdoor play area for students, efforts to enhance learning opportunities for students and their families in literacy and numeracy, and placement equity as a priority consideration for school council decisions and in building school community engagement. Several fund-raising activities were conducted, including a family Halloween dance, Oliver's labels, bottle drive, and a family BBQ and funfair, and the proceeds were used to fund

initiatives in accordance with school board policies. These fundraising activities are identified in the attached financial summary. Minutes of meetings held are posted on the Centennial PS website.

We wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the many individuals, including parents, caregivers, Centennial PS staff, and community members, who volunteered their time to contribute to the success of the school council last year. Special thanks are due to the following members of the 2024/2025 school council: Christina Helmer (Vice Chair), Emma Barken (Secretary), Adam Jeziorski (Treasurer), Rena Petrick (PIC Representative), Terri Macdonald (Member at Large), Virginia Venditti (Member at Large), Nicole Pitts (Member at Large), Janine Chown, Chris Shaw, Rachael Klinoski, Emily Casey, and Johanna Puckrin. Finally, we would like to wish the best of luck to candidates in the September 2025 school council elections. Issues that we foresee as being important matters for the consideration of the new school council following the September 2025 elections include: early establishment of meeting structure and frequency (schedule), the establishment of a plan in support of an outdoor inclusive play structure(s) at Centennial Public School; establishment of overall fundraising goals for the 2025/2026 school year; early event planning for both family engagement and fundraising events; creation of a plan for the PRO Grant initiative; development of strategies to collectively work to engage a growing and diverse representation of Centennial families on the school council; establishment of a plan for consistent communication with Centennial families including a process to allow for communication to be translated; consider continuation of a staff report model at meetings to involve invitation of council to different spaces and learning about various portfolios; and review of school council by-laws (last amended in May 2025).

Sincerely,

Laura Gillam
Chair, CPS School Council

Copy sent to Deborah Thompson, Principal, Centennial Public School

Copy sent to Patty Gollogly, Associate Superintendent of Education, LDSB Education Centre

Summary of Recommendations from Centennial PS School Council and Responses from Principal/School Board

Recommendation from School Council	Response
(To principal) Place security lights and/or cameras at the back of portables for increased safety.	(From principal) A request had been previously submitted by Principal Thompson and was submitted a second time to the school board on behalf of the school council this school year.
(To school board) Stability in Leadership: Prioritize stability in the appointment of school principals (re: in response to high turnover at Centennial PS, over the past eight years, we have seen four different principals), especially in schools with high needs, such as Centennial PS. Consider longer-term appointments and provide additional support to new principals to help them succeed. As previously expressed in response to frequent changes to the school administration at Centennial, this high turnover rate is particularly troubling given the high level of diverse needs of our school and the absence of a vice-principal to support these transitions. The role of a principal is crucial in establishing a stable and supportive environment for students, families, and staff. It typically takes at least a year for a principal to build meaningful relationships and understand the specific dynamics and needs of the school community. Frequent changes disrupt this process, leading to a lack of continuity and stability that can negatively impact student performance, staff morale and mental health, and parental/caregiver trust.	(From school board) - We understand that four principal changes within eight years is significant, and we recognize how these transitions affect relationships, continuity, and stability for students, staff, and families. We also acknowledge the research you cited about principal turnover and its potential effects on student achievement, particularly in high-needs schools. - Decisions on principal appointments or transfers undergo thoughtful consideration. Principals often need time to form meaningful relationships, assess school-specific needs, and implement effective programs and initiatives. - While we strive to ensure stability, changes sometimes become necessary due to various personal, professional, and organizational factors and can sometimes shorten intended timelines. This includes a significant amount of turnover within our principal and vice principal group in the last five years. - We understand the resulting disruption and know there will continue to be an ongoing dialogue between the former and new principal, the in-school leadership team, and the school supervisor. We will also encourage the new principal to collaborate with staff, students, families, and the School Council to maintain current school priorities and initiatives. - When selecting a new principal, we carefully consider each candidate’s experience, skill set, leadership style, and ability to meet the unique needs of the school. While some aspects of the selection process must remain confidential, we welcome ongoing feedback about the qualities and leadership approaches the school community values.
(To school board) Improved Communication: Establish a clear communication protocol that ensures parents/caregivers are informed of significant changes before they are announced to students. This will enable us to better support our children and maintain trust within the school community.	(From school board) - We understand that communication around leadership transitions is critical. Although these changes are typically shared by the outgoing principal first with staff, followed by an update to the School Council Chair and then to families, we recognize that a delay occurred, causing concern for some community members. We sincerely apologize for any distress this may have caused. - In the future, we will review our protocols to ensure families are promptly informed—via emails and newsletters—so they can better support conversations about these transitions at home. - The School Council’s role in sharing this information is also important, and we will keep you updated so you can communicate effectively with families and support the transition of the new principal.

Summary of Recommendations from Centennial PS School Council and Responses from Principal/School Board (Continued)

Recommendation from School Council	Response
• (To school board) Vice-Principal Appointment for Centennial PS: Appoint a vice-principal to assist with instructional leadership and leadership continuity and support during transitions. Each new principal brings a different approach, which can be confusing and unsettling for students. Additionally, the lack of a vice-principal means there is no continuity in leadership during these transitions, further exacerbating the challenges faced by our school. The absence of a vice-principal (since the 2018-2019 school year) to support the last four principal transitions has been concurrent with a ~50% increase in the student population. The appointment of a vice-principal to Centennial would also support the diverse and increasing needs of a growing student population. Other schools in the district have similar student populations and have a vice-principal to support the needs of the school, including changes in school administration.	(From school board) • Your request for a vice principal has been noted. We continually review the allocation of administrative time and other supports within our schools. The allocation of vice principals is not directly related to student enrolment and is subject to various factors, including central and local Terms & Conditions. • While Centennial does not currently have a vice principal, there are several other supports within the school community. These supports include 2 Multilingual Language Teachers above the regular classroom teacher complement to support the school's 61 multilingual learners (MLL). Although this is a relatively large number of MLL students (second highest number of students in elementary), there is another elementary school in the area with the same number of MLL teachers with more MLL students and similarly, no vice principal. • In September, we were pleased to introduce 0.2 additional Student Support Teacher time (one additional day per week), and a full-time Intensive Support Teacher to support students with complex Special Education needs. The addition of 1.2 SST/IST support has made a noticeable difference in meeting students’ needs in the first term. These teacher leaders play essential roles as part of the in-school leadership team and work closely with the principal to ensure students and staff are supported in reaching our goal of more equitable student outcomes.

Financial Summary for the 2024/2025 School Year

Sources and Uses of Project Funds for the Year Ended June 30, 2025

Opening balance for projects at the beginning of the period (September 1, 2024)					\$3,945.13
Revenues: Net funds raised					\$3,618.01
					\$7,563.14
Expenditures: Project expenditures					\$1,266.43
Balance at the end of the period (June 30, 2025)					\$6,296.71
Net funds raised			Project expenditures		
Activity	Net Proceeds		Project, operating cost, etc.	Net Expenses	
Halloween Dance	\$1,014.86		Funfair BBQ, Halloween Dance, Games and Crafts Night, Creativity Night activities (Inflatables, games, activity supplies)	\$827.92	
Bottle Drive	\$287.15		Office supplies, food supplies and services	\$438.51	
Funfair BBQ	\$1,816.00				
Other	\$500.00				
Totals	\$3,618.01		Totals	\$1,266.43	