

WHITE PINE PUBLIC SCHOOL

School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: October 5, 2026

Location: White Pine Public School staff room

Attendance:

Lisa Fleet, Principal

Ryan Chisholm, Vice Principal

Heinrich Harder, Julia VanWilligen, Steve Cunningham-Dunlop, Ruchit Patel, Laura Bjerring, Jodie Nuhn, Shelby Hyland and Jessica Elia.

The following executive was elected for 2026-2027:

- President: Shelby Hyland
- Vice-President: Laura Bjerring
- Treasurer: Jodie Nuhn
- Secretary: Steve Cunningham-Dunlop

1. School Update

White Pine currently has **858 students** and continues to experience enrolment growth.

The school has expanded its kindergarten program in response to enrolment, with a seventh kindergarten class now being established. Staffing for the additional class is being finalized. A contract teacher expected to begin shortly.

Space remains a challenge. Several classes are temporarily using shared spaces, including the library. A **third portable classroom** has been ordered and is expected later in October. Once available, the grade 4-5 class currently located in the library will move into the portable.

2. EQAO and Student Achievement

Administration reviewed White Pine's first available EQAO results. Overall results were described as generally similar to Thames Valley District School Board results. **Mathematics is identified as an area for continued growth.**

Administration emphasized that EQAO provides a snapshot of achievement at one point in time. Staff are also focusing on classroom diagnostic information, ongoing assessment and student growth across cohorts.

Staff recently reviewed diagnostic data and will continue to use this information to guide instruction and identify areas requiring additional support.

Acadience literacy screening will take place in October for students in Kindergarten through grade 2. Students requiring additional support can be reassessed in the spring to measure progress.

3. Extracurricular Activities and School Life

White Pine continues to offer a wide range of extracurricular opportunities, including:

- Soccer
- Cross-country
- Basketball
- Lego
- Chess
- Canva activities
- 3D printing
- School productions

The White Pine soccer team recently won a one-day tournament, and the resulting trophy/plaque will be displayed at the school.

The school is preparing its second major production, **Beauty and the Beast**. The production is expected to take place in May.

Council recognized the significant amount of staff volunteer time contributing to extracurricular activities and the positive school culture being created.

The recent book fair generated approximately **\$8,800 in sales**, with proceeds returning to the school to support library resources. A spring book fair is anticipated.

The recent **Meet the Family** event was very well attended, with approximately 800–900 participants. Feedback was positive, and the event provided opportunities for families to connect with school and community supports.

4. School Council Meetings and Communication

Proposed upcoming School Council meeting dates are:

- **November 2, 2026**
- **February 1, 2027**
- **April 5, 2027**

Additional meetings may be scheduled as required.

Council discussed whether changing the regular meeting night might improve attendance. It was noted that changing the evening would likely help some families while making attendance more difficult for others. The current Monday evening schedule therefore remains.

Council also discussed how to make school council more visible to families without creating unnecessary administrative work.

The school's existing weekly communication was identified as an effective way to share council information. Administration confirmed that council messages can also be distributed through **School Messenger**.

Possible future initiatives include a brief **"Meet Your School Council"** introduction and occasional council updates within the school's regular communications.

5. Southwest London Attendance Area Review

White Pine is participating in an attendance area review associated with a **new Southwest London elementary school planned for September 2028**.

The new school is expected to accommodate approximately **900 students**. White Pine currently serves students from areas that may eventually be reassigned to the new school, including a significant number of students east of Wonderland Road.

The timing and boundaries of the future attendance changes have not yet been finalized.

Representatives from the TVDSB have expressed an interest in attending a future school council meeting to present information and engage directly with families. Council will provide potential meeting dates and gather additional information as the process develops.

6. Student Safety and Parking

Parking and traffic safety around the school remain significant concerns, particularly during the dismissal period.

Issues discussed included:

- Vehicles stopping or parking in inappropriate areas
- Blocking crosswalks
- Parking on grass
- Unsafe three-point turns
- Congestion around childcare areas
- Pedestrian safety during dismissal

Council discussed reintroducing **pylons/cones** as visual reminders and continuing communication with families about safe parking practices.

A possible short-term initiative involving **parent volunteers during dismissal** was discussed. Two volunteers on selected days could help reinforce safe pedestrian and parking practices, potentially using high-visibility vests.

Administration will continue to consider appropriate communication and coordination with municipal bylaw enforcement.

The school has also communicated with families about e-scooters and other motorized devices.

7. School Council Communication and Family Engagement

Council discussed ways to increase parent awareness of school council and create opportunities for meaningful family feedback.

Potential approaches included:

- Occasional council information in the weekly school communication
- School Messenger announcements
- A “meet your school council” feature
- Targeted online surveys
- A dedicated council information page or moderated group

8. Playground / Outdoor Play Structure

A potential **playground project** was identified as the most significant possible long-term school council initiative.

Parents have frequently asked about the possibility of a traditional playground or climbing structure at White Pine. Administration confirmed that a vendor has assessed the area behind the soccer field and believes a playground is feasible, subject to Board approval, safety and accessibility requirements, and other site considerations.

Preliminary vendor examples discussed ranged from approximately **\$35,000 to \$50,000+ for equipment alone**. Installation, site preparation, safety surfacing and other associated costs could bring the total project toward approximately **\$100,000 or more**.

Council agreed that the first step should be to determine whether there is sufficient family interest before committing to a major fundraising campaign.

A preliminary family survey could ask:

- Whether families support pursuing a playground
- What types of equipment or outdoor play opportunities are most valued
- Whether parents would participate on a planning/fundraising committee
- Whether families would be interested in supporting fundraising financially

A short information sheet or FAQ could accompany the survey to explain the anticipated process, approximate costs and potential timeline.

Council recognized that this would be a **long-term project** and that Board approval and planning would need to occur before fundraising or construction could proceed.

9. Recess Equipment and Outdoor Play

Council discussed the ongoing loss and replacement of recess equipment, including balls and frisbees that leave school property.

Various approaches to equipment distribution and accountability were considered. Administration noted that assigning equipment to individual students can create additional challenges when equipment is shared among groups.

Improved fencing may also help reduce the amount of equipment leaving school grounds.

10. School Events and Family Traditions

Council discussed the possibility of a **JK/SK holiday or Christmas concert**. Administration will raise the idea with kindergarten staff.

The possibility of future school-wide family events, including a summer send-off in June, was also discussed.

11. Fundraising and Council Priorities

Pizza and popcorn fundraising initiatives are underway and have been well received.

The potential playground project was identified as a possible major long-term fundraising priority, subject first to determining family interest and establishing a committed volunteer group.

12. Next Steps

- Confirm upcoming school council meeting dates.
- Provide potential meeting dates to TVDSB planning staff for the Southwest London attendance area review.
- Develop a preliminary family survey regarding a potential playground.
- Continue communication regarding parking and student safety.
- Raise the possibility of a JK/SK holiday concert with kindergarten staff.
- Continue using weekly school communication and school messenger to improve school council visibility.

13. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at approximately **6:37 p.m.**

Next meeting: November 2, 2026, subject to final confirmation.