

JSPS School Council - October 25 2017

In attendance: Andrea Michelutti, Stephanie Morris, Cinnamon Abdallah, Jennifer Poortinga, Meaghan Smith, Aniko Kasos, Lori Peebles, Christine Bunz, Amy Humphrys, Disa Hansen, Amber Wooldridge, Chris Ryan, Taupti Lad, Vivalkumar Lad

Call to order - Andrea 6:02pm

Minutes from Sept. approved

Discussion around voting privileges

- Andrea clarified that according to 1997 By laws WRDBS Employees are allowed to vote at council meetings, as long they are not an employee at the specific school for which they are a council member.

Principal's Report (Andrea)

Behaviour update:

- It's been observed that some students are have a difficult time taking ownership for their choices and behaviour both on the school yard and in the classroom
- There has been a lot of physical behaviour during nutrition breaks - wrestling or pushing or sports games that end in physical contact
- The school resource officer came in to talk to grade 6 and 7 students to reiterate what self defense is and reinforce the values school staff are trying to implement in regards to problem solving and conflict resolution (WITS)
- Admin has also highlighted honesty as the best policy when discussing incidents that occur on the school yard
- Suspensions have increased among the intermediate grades this fall (specifically around the issue of using profanity with teachers) This is also an issue Andrea and Amy are addressing and hope to begin to see a decrease in occurrence

By Law update:

- Council is looking for a copy of the Council By Laws to update and review (Steph Morris has a hard copy - I can't find a digital copy.)Lori - could you facebook Nicole for a digital copy?

Suicidal protocol:

- If there is concern that a student may be having thoughts about self harm the school will call in the social worker immediately
- The Social worker has had a large increase in the number of students she is seeing in regards to this issue this year
- JSPS admin are working on supporting students and families dealing with this issue

Boundary update:

- A brief review of the 4 scenarios presented at Tuesday's Boundary meeting was shared
- To read more about this topic please visit:
<https://www.wrdsb.ca/planning/boundary-studies/fischer-hallman-huron-study/#.WfYzXGiPIdU>

- The new principal for the school in the new community will attend the next boundary community meeting so she can share a little about the vision for the new school

Financial support for families in need

- There was a note put out on School Day asking for parents to indicate if there is a financial concern in their family
- Families are encouraged to communicate through this means if they have a need so that the school can support them appropriately

Chairs Update: (Chris)

- Thanks to everyone who helped with Family Fun Night last June. It was a huge success and made approx \$9000 for our school community!
- Most recent fundraiser - "Fresh from the Farm Campaign" it was also very successful (students sold over 380 bundles which means the school made over \$2100)
- Volunteers are needed to help bundle and hand out product -If you're interested please e-mail Chris (christopher.ryan1@me.com)
- We should hear back any day about when our delivery will be

Dance A-thon

- Is scheduled for Friday Feb 23rd this year - NOTE: it will not be a Hallowe'en activity this year due to scheduling conflict
- The fundraising goal for this event is \$6000

Pizza lunches

- Thanks to Meghan who has been organizing the pizza orders behind the scenes
- Opening the orders back up added another \$900+ to our earnings
- The next order session will be after Christmas

Wish List Items to purchase (Andrea)

Greening Project - \$30 000

Discussion Followed:

- Chris would like to see this broken down into a little more detail (\$20 000 for mulch, stones and 5 trees)
- Recommendation from Rob from the board - rocks for the bottom of the little slide
- Mulch for little areas around playhouse etc.
- Add mature trees that are 10 inches in diameter and \$2000 a piece
- Fields could be re-sodded if the school can guarantee to keep students off the field for the year- with the boundary review the school would lose probably 4 portables so this would be more feasible
- Right now a climber structure would not currently fit on the field - (\$75 000 for a climbing structure)
- Could we look into a grant? - these open mostly in Dec. - Grade 6 and 7 and 8 students are going to work on applying for a greening grant that Andrea found. They will also apply for the toyota grant.
- Who is responsible to maintain and care for trees? - school council's responsibility for anything we plant

- The school can ask for work orders to remove trees etc., but can not do the daily upkeep of new trees. If we want enhancements school council has to maintain
- Eco club is going to be doing some gardening working on smaller projects
- WT Townsend has a day in the spring where parents come to help spread mulch - we could try that here
- Andrea put out a call for a gardening committee last year and no one responded
- Some schools offer a small honorarium to students to look after watering trees
- These details will need to be looked at before we go ahead with any serious planting initiative

Upgrade to tech and sound equipment (\$5000)

- Some replacements and upgrades are required to continue to support tech initiatives

Graduation - \$500

- Discussion around how much grade 8 students participate in school council fundraising activities

Carry over to start next year's budget- \$3000

Chris made a motion to commit to spending \$5000 on tech and sound equipment and \$15000 on greening project (for now). Jenn seconded the motion.

Vote occurred, motion passed.

School climate (Andrea)

- Point of interest - Admin has changed the look of the front foyer to be a little more welcoming
- Are there other suggestions to help make parents feel more welcome?
- Kindergarten classes are doing open house - Try open houses in older grades
- Council bulletin board - Display information about what council is doing
- Consider unlocking doors for major events like teacher interviews or concert nights 10 -15 minutes before the actual event time so families can congregate in foyer and halls - view art..we could also have a school council booth set up to share about recent activities and sign up new volunteers
- We need to educate our community about what school council does - in some countries school councils are not part of the educational culture
- A call was put out earlier this year to have a yard duty helper - maybe we need a welcome committee?
- The school received a \$1000 grant to do a math program for kindergarten families. There will also be a sleep coach attending to talk about healthy sleep habits and sleep hygiene for students. (Date TBA) Council should attend this event to have a presence and recruit Kindergarten parents

New Discussion Items:

- Concern about the lunches of some of the older students. Nutritious lunches are important for learning (Check out our facebook page for related articles)
- Concerns about supervision in the portables during nutrition break - Andrea explained supervision is there 1 adult per three portables or inside 1 staff circulate from classroom to classroom if they are in the pods

NEXT MEETING: Nov 22nd, 6:00 in the library

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

January 24th, 2018

February 28th, 2018

April 25th, 2018