

Empire School Council Agenda



November 11 6:30 PM
Virtual Meeting via Google Meet:

1) Welcome and Introductions

Present: Krista Mohr Beamish, Julie Turner, Amanda Wickstead, Paul McKinnon, Mary Lou Roe, Justin Faulkner, Evonne Komaromi, Monsef Tahir
Regrets: Shelley Croth, Tenille Bonoguore

2) Role of School Council

Krista

The role of school council is to work together to build a strong school community. This is up to school council- sometimes it involves events, fundraising, liaising between school and parent community.

3) Summary of Last Year's Activities

Amanda

Community Events:

1. Fall Fair- community event, had live entertainment, bike raffle, pizza sales, donations to the food bank and Nutrition for Learning.
2. Bingeman's Fun Night- winter event where tickets were given to the school for free and "sold" to parents. This was a community building event and also raised \$410 for the council.

Fundraising:

1. Fresh from the Farm (fall) - sold local produce and raised around \$600
2. Targetted Holiday FUndraiser (by WEFI donation) - focus on inclusion

4) Election of New Council

a) Chair(s) - Amanda Wickstead

b) Secretary- Shelley Croth

c) Treasurer- Justin Faulkner

5) WRAPSC Updates

Evonne

October - shared School Council fundraising ideas - what funds have/could be raised for at the schools: playgrounds, tarmac painting, fees for online reading programs, welcome kits/bags, phys ed bag/balls for each student, resources to support outdoor learning, etc.

November- parent engagement webinar and focus on parent engagement. Webinar is posted on Parents Engaged in Education (PEIE) YouTube channel if you wish to watch the whole video of Dr. Debbie Pushor.

6) Alexandra Construction

Evonne

Alexandra Road Reconstruction (you can subscribe for updates and give feedback by Tues. Nov. 24, 2020): <https://www.engagewr.ca/alexandra-reconstruction>

There is a video of the new design.

Feedback and comments are needed by November 23

Construction will be between Westmount and Lourdes

Parking will be on the school side of Alexandra (as proposed), wider sidewalks, traffic calming.

Evonne will continue to attend meetings and share concerns as a resident and school community member.

7) Principal Reports

Krista

Staffing

- Two Reorganizations (one before students arrived)- we collapsed 5 classes and transitioned 5 staff to DL based on seniority. This is due to the board wide numbers of families selecting Distance Learning for their children.
- October 26- one more class collapsed and one staff member transitioned to DL
- Next re-organization will be in the new year and will be based on the survey to parents requesting changes in modes of learning. It will be effective Feb 15, 2021.
- VP Lori Williams is now a VP in Distance Learning
- DLP has their own administrators- concerns with this program should be directed at them and parents can access the DLP Handbook:
<https://www.wrdsb.ca/blog/2020/09/18/welcome-to-the-elementary-distance-learning-program/>

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Health and Safety Protocols

- Lots of change in the way we do things in terms of moving through the building and sharing spaces and items
- Much of this change is directed by Public Health and the H & S team at the WRDSB and is shared on the Return to School Website- Guide for Families:
<https://www.wrdsb.ca/returntoschool/return-to-school/returning-to-school-a-guide-for-families/>
- Custodians and Admin have been working since August on getting the facility and protocols in place before we welcomed staff and students to the building
- Students and staff are doing a great job with these new routines and protocols!
- Safe, Happy, Learning- this is our goal for 2020-2021
- Daily screening checklist is still critical for all families and staff to use daily to ensure our safety

- If students have any symptoms, they are to stay home and return to school after being symptom free for 24 hours.

Progress Reports- will go home November 20

Accessible Swing- almost complete! Grant from Rotary Club of Kitchener for \$2000, and the remainder of the expenses were paid for by WRDSB Facilities (over \$20 000)

Nutrition for Learning- started in mid October. Bags are pre-packaged off site, contain non-perishable snacks and are handed directly to students as needed.

PD Day- November 23 all day (it's a Monday).

No extended Day programs operating this day at Empire

Travelling Library- Curbside Model- Mrs. Ribey, or current library clerk is visiting classes to allow library books to be borrowed. If families have any WRDSB library books at home, they can be returned to any WRDSB school.

Next meeting – December 9, 2020 at 6:30 pm