

**John Darling Public School  
School Council Meeting Minutes  
March 7th, 2016 6:30pm**

**In Attendance:** Katie Hoedl, Beth Skilling, Andra Assaf, Kim Schmidt, Jenn Fleet, Jackie Teixeira, Darlene Shantz, Aimee Tyrrell, Mandy Dahmer, Gillian McKenzie

**1. Getting Started**

A motion was made by Beth to approve the agenda, seconded by Kim. Motion Carried. A motion was made to approve the minutes from February's meeting by Darlene, seconded by Jackie. Motion was passed.

**2. WRAPC UPDATE**

\*See attached email for minutes and dates/times

- Looking for new and innovative ideas on how to spend the grant money.
- Sat April 16 - PIC Event – See <http://jdp.wrdsb.ca/> for more details. Register in advance if you want to take part
- How can our school help support the Syrian Refugees? There are a variety of options. Financially, donation backpacks, food and cleaning supplies, supportive welcome letters and drawings from classes.

**3. Principal/Teacher Report**

- Second term IEP going out this week
- Cinderella Play - all the ages enjoyed it. The actors use French terms, hand gestures and english translation to keep children engaged. Duffle bag Theatre did a good job \$439 cost.
- Kindergarten Registration Update: Online registration piece made the visit much quicker for families. Currently we have around 21 newly registered Kindergarten students.
- Extended Day Program will be putting out a message to parents to indicate interests about participating.
- Term 1 report cards went home on the 19th, if parents need to discuss, at any time, please contact teacher.
- PD Day on 26<sup>th</sup>; Staff spent the day focusing on school improvement. Focused on mathematic strategies that could be used to support helping the teacher to recognize and assist students with understanding the process. The teachers have the Effective Guide to Mathematics to help them understand what strategy the child is using and helping them to grow from that. Encouraged to review this guide and to assist children with recognizing the math they are doing and to share concepts and strategies with their peers.
- Bullying Prevention: Peggy Humphries from Lutherwood came to speak with staff about early identification and implementation strategies. Tools for life (posters, manuals) for teachers are provided. Keep the message and language consistent. Jamie from John Howard Society will share a Power Pledge in her Bullying prevention booster session in each class.
- Technology: In the process of switching from desktop to portable devices. Traded 11 desktops for around 27 chrome books and 5 iPad minis.
- Survey from Gillian Family Math Night - would this be something that would be of value in our community?

- Jump Rope for Heart is our charity this year. Danielle Vines is spearheading the event. The demonstration skipping team will be presenting this year (early May). The campaign will run for 2 weeks. The actual jumping day is May 27th.
- April 22, next PA Day - organized by Elementary Teachers' Federation
- Revised Health Curriculum: Parents are encouraged to read over the revised health and physical education curriculum. A handout will be coming home with students shortly to provide information regarding the curriculum. If any family is uncomfortable, or has further questions, please connect with Gillian McKenzie.

**4. PRO Grant (Parent Reaching Out Grant):** Application Due End of May and they are looking for (and giving preference to) schools with new ideas. Ideas from parent council: Science Fair, Math Night, Social Night (Card night, Games, Positive Family community activity) Achievement (can we tie in the kids activities that aren't involved i.e. lego, basketball etc.), Lego Room, Presenter (reader etc), Family Scavenger Hunt, Education Animal Event, Technology Evening (Learn about Apps)

**5. Team Building - out of time so will complete next meeting.**

#### **6. Committee Updates**

**Fundraising:** No update. Herrles food boxes should be added next year.

**Book Fair:** \$3245.95 in sales total. \$2113.11 of books have been put into the school, including 2 bags for DarlingFest. Teacher took approx. \$100 worth of books for each classroom. Feedback was given re: stock and book selections. \$233.21 coupon rebate will be used by school at a later date.

**Health & Wellness:** The event was great! Soup recipe cards could have had quantities on them. Soup recipes could be added to the website or school day for those families interested. Probably 60-70 families in attendance.

**DarlingFest:** No Update

**Rink:** Done

**Movie Night:** Friday, May 6, 2016. Popcorn has 2 new flavours.

#### **7. Treasurer's Report**

Paid for Cinderella & Health and Wellness evening. Currently negative \$433 (but getting grant). PRO Grant report needs to be completed to access grant money.

Summary: \$14,916.86 in account. Budget Allocation: just over \$12,000).

**Next Meeting April, 4th, 2016**

**Meeting Adjourned 8:07pm**

February 29, 2016

Dear Administrator and School Council Chair,

WRDSB staff and the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) of the WRDSB have collaborated to provide you with the following information regarding how your school community can become involved in supporting refugee resettlement within Waterloo Region. Approximately half of all Syrian refugees are children... WRDSB schools want to help!

As you are aware Waterloo Region is one of the six Ontario communities selected to support Syrian refugee reception. The ongoing conflict in Syria has triggered one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world today and millions of Syrians continue to be displaced due to conflict in their home country. The WRDSB will have the great pleasure of welcoming approximately 400 new Syrian students by the end of this school year. This is in addition to the 200-300 newcomers from around the world that the WRDSB welcomes each year.

Your school may be welcoming many of these new students. Members of your school community may be involved in sponsorship efforts. Your classes may have held a winter clothing drive. *However, many parents, staff and community members may want to do more to help, but may not be aware of where help is needed most.* We'd like to share the following opportunities in which your school community can help support Syrian newcomers and other newcomers to our school board. Please keep these ideas in mind on a school or classroom level and please consider School Council fundraisers as well as staff fundraising (e.g. dress-down Fridays).

Financial support

The WRDSB "Newcomer (Refugee) Welcome" board-wide fundraising initiative continues until March 31. This initiative allows for financial contributions to be made to the K-W Community Foundation through the WRDSB website. Please go to [www.wrdsb.ca/wefi](http://www.wrdsb.ca/wefi), select "Donate Online" and then choose "Newcomer (Refugee) Welcome" in the drop-down. The K-W Community Foundation has made a commitment to match all donations up to \$400,000. These funds will be distributed where they are most needed for refugee resettlement in Waterloo region.

Welcome students with a fresh start

Since the start of 2016, the WRDSB Welcome Centre has been providing new backpacks to all newcomers to Canada who are in need of a backpack when they begin attending a WRDSB school. They have already given out almost 200 backpacks, but they are all out and are looking for groups who are interested in helping them to re-stock. The Welcome Centre will happily take donations of new water bottles and lunch bags as well.

To donate to the Welcome Centre, please contact 519-576-3018 to arrange to drop off.

The Welcome Centre is located at: Margaret Avenue Public School 325 Louisa Street, Kitchener The entrance to the Welcome Centre is on Wellington Street; please ring the access bell for entry.

## Food and Cleaning Supplies

As would be expected, the Foodbanks in our region are facing an ever growing demand as more and more newcomers arrive. We all want students who are well fed and ready to learn attending our schools. Here is what the Foodbanks have communicated about donations:

“Financial and food donations will be accepted at the Foodbanks. There is a special need for Halal foods, cooking oils, dry milk, tomato sauce, canned beans/fish/vegetables and dry goods (beans, rice, chickpeas, etc.) Food donations can be dropped off at:

Foodbank of Waterloo Region, 50 Alpine Court, Kitchener, 519-743-1380

Cambridge Self Help Food Bank, 54 Ainslie Street South, Cambridge, 519-622-6550”

We can all understand that food is an ever present need. A food drive would always be appreciated. The community may not be aware that cleaning supplies have also been identified as something that will always be in demand. Cleaning supplies can also be donated to the Foodbanks.

What else is needed? How else can PIC help you?

In order to support schools that may wish to do more, or something different, for our new Syrian neighbours and community members, PIC has reached out to develop a list of other items (some new, some gently used) that are in high demand by the organizations supporting these newcomers. If you are interested in learning about these other items that are needed please contact PIC at [pic@wrdsb.on.ca](mailto:pic@wrdsb.on.ca).

PIC would also be happy to help distribute welcome letters or drawings from a class to newcomers or to assist your school in connecting with community members who could share information about Syria in order to add to the educational component of a class or school fundraiser.

Links where your students can learn more about the Syrian humanitarian crisis and our region’s response:

Government of Canada, Global Affairs: [http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/humanitarian\\_response-situations\\_crises/syria-syrie.aspx?lang=eng](http://www.international.gc.ca/development-developpement/humanitarian_response-situations_crises/syria-syrie.aspx?lang=eng)

Waterloo Region Welcomes Refugees: <http://www.wrwelcomesrefugees.ca>

“European Refugee Crisis and Syria Explained”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RvOnXh3NN9w>

“Europe’s Refugee Crisis Explained”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v13kTeAHY4c&feature=youtu.be>

Thank you for considering the opportunities presented here as you make plans for school activities

between now and the end of the school year. Please direct all questions or concerns to [pic@wrdsb.on.ca](mailto:pic@wrdsb.on.ca)

or Graham Shantz, Superintendent of Student Achievement and Well-Being

Sincerely,

Laurie Tremble, PIC & WRAPSC Co-Chair, Christine Rose, PIC Co-Chair