

In Attendance: Jen Antonowicz, Danielle Vines, Cassandra Muhlbock (in attendance for part of the meeting due to connection issues), Coosje Weber, Elizabeth Skilling, Sarah Brown, Jessie White, Katie Hoedl and Sophie Zivku

Regrets: Holly Smith (Coosje Weber in their place)

Getting Started:

A motion was made by Coosje to approve the December meeting agenda, seconded by Beth. Motion carried. Approval of November's minutes was made by Sarah, seconded by Jen.

Principal/Teacher Reports

Principal:

- Coosje has been filling in for Holly since November 26. Holly will be back on January 25th, 2021.
- JD held a virtual assembly in November with a theme of cooperation that Danielle organized. Full class participation. Each class provided words and Danielle created a story with them and read it at the end of the assembly. This was a nice opportunity for students to see each other.
- Got to Draws are continuing.
- JD is celebrating social responsibility this month.
- Continued communication going out to remind parents of the importance of daily COVID screening. Any concern, err on the side of caution and keep the student home.
- Some families are going to quarantine early so they can see grandparents over the holidays. Reminder that these families can refer to WRDSB web resources to continued learning
- Message was sent to parents about snow ball making in the schoolyard. Many students needed to work together with their heads close to move snowballs. As a result, it was decided to have students wear their masks outside with three weeks left before winter break. Less concern if they need to be close on the playground. Staff seem relieved. Several schools have had mandatory masks outdoors since the start of school. Students have been great at cooperating. Going to space out lineups outdoors. Want to make sure we go into the winter break safe and happy, with everybody healthy.
- Holly says hellos and sends her greetings

Teacher Update:

- Danielle: Staff were missing one another so JD tried a virtual spirit day.
- On the snow day, teachers decided to do another spirit assembly the week of December 14th with a theme of social responsibility, and spreading joy like snowflakes. Students are being asked, how can they share joy or be socially responsible with other people?
- Virtual or real food drive for the Food Bank of Waterloo Region is currently underway. Have raised almost \$500. While this food drive was not brought to council, Katie did approve as this was a collaborative community item and she felt it was right to move forward with the drive. WRDSB has sent out a protocol in partnership with the food bank with direction on how to handle tangible items brought into the school.

- Katie noted that the health and safety of students is first and foremost and is thankful to Danielle and the staff for keeping the students safe and happy.

Initiatives

Online give back event for school community

- Katie and Jessie shared the give back opportunity which is a virtual activity, acknowledging that we are looking for ways to spend money. Suggested a family virtual event potentially an added element to raise money for in school and distant learning families.
- Council suggested we host an event in February as it can be hard to get out around this time with winter and CVOID. Family Day weekend (February 15, 2021) was proposed as the tentative date. Katie mentioned the possibility of hosting two events as there is budget, possibly two things in one weekend. Want to be considerate of all ages, ensuring the content is not too young for older students.
- Danielle also noted that not all families may have internet access so supplementing a virtual option with something tangible would be inclusive to all families.
- Council decided to meet again in January to finalize details for the event.
- Each member will email ideas, cost etc. for potential event ideas over the next few weeks.
- Katie proposed a meeting on January 11th at 6:30, Coosje will send out the meeting invite. Danielle or Coosje will also email the number of families who will attend the event which will help with quotes.
- Some ideas presented that were presented include; virtual paint night (Katie), virtual concert or a yoyo performer (Coosje), magician or live concert online (Sarah/Cassandra), gift boxes with products from local companies (Jen), Drayton or Stratford festival play (Jessie) or Centre in the Square performance (Cassandra).
- Beth and Jesse suggest the local artisan box could be a great fundraising idea for the Spring. Often, people are bombarded with donations over the winter season, so spring may be a better option for a donation drive.

Memorial Tree

- Jesse noted that a parent mentioned a memorial tree that was a planet for a student was removed when work was done to the front of the school. The tree and plaque are now gone.
- The question from the parent is there a plan to replant and put the plaque back? Small school community so things like this do get noticed. It has been a while since the work has been done. May have happened before this fall.
- Danielle will chat with Wayne for an update. Council agrees as it was removed, it should be replaced.

Letter on school Sign

- Jessie noted there is a letter missing from the school sign itself, not sure which letter. Coosje will look into this building matter.

Staff Financial Request

- Danielle has a financial request. In continuing with the theme of spreading joy, Mr. Siegfried and her were discussing ways to have students “spread joy”.
- They have suggested that the primary division (grade 1, 2 and 3) create kindness cards with a little message and mail them to our distant learners to remind them that they are still part of our family and that we miss them. Requesting that council will cover the cost of stamps. Proposed fee is around \$50, Council agrees this is a fantastic use of budget.

- Suggest that every child get an individual card, even if they are in the same household.
- Homeschool families will not be included as they are withdrawn from the school roster and are no longer in the system. Students can make extra ones and hand deliver to home school families if they know where those children reside.
- Katie called a vote. Approved by council. Council funds will be used to pay for stamps.
- Katie also called a vote for council to pay for all children to get a card (even if in the same household). Approved.
- Danielle will purchase stamps and provide the receipts directly to Sarah.

Treasurer's Report

- The Board hasn't moved all funds into this year's accounts yet. Once rolled over, the new school year balances will be the same amounts as the end of last year \$5885.02 and \$8886.07 (totalling 14,771 of available funds).
- Sarah will send a copy of the report to Sophie or and Coosje so it can be included in the meeting minutes for January.
- Jessie reminded that while it is not common for council to support teacher requests, we do have that option this year to support some teacher-led items. Danielle agreed and will follow up with staff.
- Sarah reminded the council that if there are any needs from families in our school that school council can also support those needs. It's been a difficult year for many. We want to support our community. Office is usually made aware of these needs and Coosje will follow up to see if there are needs. If there are, Coosje will bring it to the school council for a vote.

Call for any last business items was made by Katie. No new items.

Next Meeting: January 11th, at 6:30 PM

Meeting Adjourned: 7:23 PM