

Northlake Woods School Council
Monday September 27, 2021 DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome and Attendance
 - a. Present: Brittany Karen, Dave, Melynda, Lindsey, Steph, Jen W, Chris, Maria, Sheryl, Rebecca, Johanna, Cedric, Deanna, Klaudia, Adam, Matt, Lilly, Meagan, Nick, Sid, Tavia, Sherry
 - b. June minutes passed and seconded by Maria
2. Teacher Report (Chris Schroeder is a grade one teacher at NLW school.)
 - Thank you parents for your ongoing support throughout this past year
 - We are starting the year with a strong emphasis on “social/emotional learning” and building safety in the classroom through consistency, structure, compassion and understanding
 - Celebrate students resiliency and help students feel more comfortable taking risks and exploring new concepts. It is important for students to build positive relationships with peers and staff by providing a safe and supported learning community
 - Staff has been spending a lot of time getting to know each student individually to better understand where they are academically, socially, and emotionally
 - Continuing safety protocols
 - Covid screening before school
 - Hand washing/sanitizing
 - Wearing masks and staff PPE
 - Physical distancing, cohorts, and consistent routines
 - Managing nutrition breaks
 - Cleaning and ventilation
 - Some loosening of restrictions has started with advice from Public Health and WRDSB
 - Students more actively engaged with friends
 - Gym and library are now open for regular use
 - Outside mask breaks when physically distanced
 - Hands on tools like math manipulatives
 - Students can share some learning resources
 - Modified Home Reading programme
 - Music classes
 - Creative climber is now open
 - Wednesday, September 29 Terry Fox Event
 - Thursday, September 30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/orange shirt day
 - Monday, October 11 Thanksgiving holiday
3. Principal Report

- This has been a traumatic learning time for students. There is a lot of stress, anxiety, and concern about this time. Our focus is helping students to feel that sense of normalcy back at school and re-establishing the classroom setting and following protocols.
- Enrollment right now is 336 students in the building and 12 students who are learning remotely.
- New Teachers: Mrs. Weber is in grade $\frac{3}{4}$ and Mrs. Pavlonis returned and is in grade $\frac{3}{4}b$ in room 12. We have 2 new DECE (Ms. Yang room K and Ms. Risotto room 1) teachers supporting our extended day program and kindergarten classrooms. Jennifer Seal is in room 8 with our ace class.
- There are 16 classrooms in total and 2 sections of extended day for students in grades kindergarten to grade 6
- Splits in the primary grades are unavoidable in a smaller population school. The school must organize in numbers of 20 in all classes from grade 1-3. In a split class there must be a minimum of 4 students for any of the grades. I do think splits will be part of how things move forward with a smaller number of kindergarten students. This means signs of a settling community and population. Grade 8's will still be prepared for high school and the grade 7's will work on their leadership skills because they will become the grade 8's in the next year. There is no degradation in quality of education in split classes vs. straight classes.
- Indoor recess- every measure is being taken into consideration when opening outdoor recess. We are still responsible for a vulnerable sector.
- Protocols remain as they were last year. Library is opened for cohort only and cleaning measures are taken on returned items.
- Students are doing an amazing job at complying to protocols and procedures. Mask wearing compliance is exceptionally high.
- School Day is our number one means of communication. Over 95% of parents have been signed up in our school community. If you know of anyone who needs assistance with School Day, Susan has walked through with families to make it easier
- Still waiting board direction on things like class trips, pizza days and assemblies
- Grade 7/8's have 1:1 devices. We have run into the issue of some end-of-life devices. Board will not support the repair of them and many of them have been purchased through council. Below grade 7, we are looking into a 2:1 ratio.

4. Questions?

- Call or email anytime if you have a questions or concern.

Lilly- input from school for parents about ways in which to discuss Truth and Reconciliation Day with children in an age-appropriate way so they understand the importance of the day.

Dave- What is most critical about this is the teachers are addressing it in the class in an age-appropriate way. There are resources available on the board site. A lot of adults, teachers included are beginning to understand, reflect and delve into this. There will probably be more conversations this year as teachers are better equipped now to talk about this in an age-appropriate way and encourage parents to do the same. This day is about reconciliation and truth, not about making the students feel badly or feel scared.

Jen W- Taught kindergarten and grade one for many years and the way I have approached it is talking about kindness. What does it look like to be kind to each other, how do we treat each other? Excepting and celebrating differences is another approach I've used. This tends to be the approach that the early primary teachers take.

- We have a wide range of volunteers and whatever capacity you can volunteer is always welcome. It takes time to get into your comfort zone and seeing where you want to participate and how you can contribute.

5. Council Positions

- We will be addressing more detail regarding moving forward and voting in members at our October meeting
- These are the current positions available with council. We do have a few that have been filled but are not permanent until voted in October meeting.
 - Treasurer – Karen
 - Secretary – Brittany
 - Chair – Open
 - Co-Chair – Open
 - PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) Representative – Allie
 - Fundraising Coordinator – Open
 - Volunteer Coordinator – Steph + Melynda
 - Communications Coordinator – Lindsey
 - Pizza + Milk Coordinator – Maria

Lilly in interested in helping with pizza and milk

Our next meeting is Monday October 18, 2021 @ 7pm

Once we adjourn the meeting, the call will remain open for anyone who would like to discuss anything council related or not.

Adjournment 8:06pm