

## **Suddaby School Council Meeting, September 19, 2022**

**Present:** Rita Givlin, Sarah Taylor, Stephanie Meyer, Katherine Akins, Katha Broschek, Karin korth, Andrea Maxwell, Angela Uttley, Wendy Saulesleja, Joel Leslie, Sam Estoesta, Michael Patterson, Aaron Lynett, Anjali Misra, Laura McBride

**Regrets:** Nada Mohammed, Tara Bedard

### **Introduction: What is School Council**

School Councils are an important part of our school communities. The focus of a School Council is to improve student learning, achievement, and well-being and enhance the accountability of the education system to parents. School Council is:

- An advisory role committee only; the ultimate responsibility for the administration and day-to-day school operations rests with the Principal
- A means to advise the Principal on any matter pertaining to pupil achievement
- A voice to provide input to the school Board when asked for input on policies, plans etc.
- A channel to address issues affecting all, or a significant portion of the school population
- A group with a shared interest, working together with parents, students, community members, staff and administration to build a strong school community.

School Council is not:

- A forum to address individual issues pertaining to one student or class.

All members of a School Council are:

- Advocates of a strong School Council
- Supportive of the actions and decisions of the School Council
- Encourage parents and community to become involved in School Council activities
- Serve to represent their respective groups by providing assistance and ideas to and from School Council All members should:
- Participate regularly in School Council meetings
- Participate in information and training programs related to School Councils
- Act as a link between the School Council, the community, and their respective group
- Provide input to the recommendations and advice made by the School Council to the Principal

If you would like to get involved, please contact [sud-schoolcouncil@wrdsb.ca](mailto:sud-schoolcouncil@wrdsb.ca)

Please note that there are ways to participate to meet any level of commitment. If you are only able to attend a few meetings, you are welcome as a non-voting council member. If you do not wish to be a member but would like to contribute to a specific goal, there are subcommittees to join. At present these are:

- Fundraising Subcommittee
- Equity Subcommittee
- Communications Subcommittee

If you would like to volunteer, Strongstart is also looking. Please see the description, contact info, and links at the end of these minutes.

## **Admin Update:**

### **2022-2023**

We are super happy to have welcomed 467 Stars to Suddaby this year. We have 4 and a half sections of kindergarten, 7 English classes and 8 French Immersion classes. Thanks to our families who graciously waited until the first day of school to learn class placements.

A challenge for us in the office is that our secretarial hours were cut by 10 hours per week. This impacts how quickly we can respond to families. Thanks for your patience.

### **Open House**

It was absolutely wonderful to be able to once again welcome our families into the building and we are grateful for the amazing turnout on September 15. The positive energy was incredible. Thanks to the members of the school council who sold some of the old Suddaby windows and thanks also to the many families who purchased the windows for future projects. Windows are still available for families who may have missed out on the opportunity to own a piece of Suddaby.

### **Transportation Challenges**

Kudos to our Stars who have patiently waited for the bus to arrive for many days. There have been several very long waits. STSWR continues to work through the challenges to ensure that our students can get transported safely home in a timely manner.

### **Facility Updates**

Construction is ongoing and dampers need to be installed. Most of this work is done in the attic but we may have a few short disruptions where an individual class may need to move to the library for an hour or two. The new windows are beautiful - there is just a bit of trim painting and a few adjustments to be made. We hope for an end-of-October completion date. (There is a planning meeting for the next construction project this September as well.)

### **Every Child Matters Crosswalk Unveiling**

Several of our classes participated in the Every Child Matters Crosswalk unveiling on Friday, September 16. Mrs. Stewart was quoted and photographed for an article by the CBC.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/kitchener-waterloo/every-child-matters-crosswalk-unveiled-downtown-kitchener-1.6583946>

### **Safety Drills**

Our Stars did a fantastic job on the first fire drill of the year and our construction workers did a great job as well. Another fire drill, a fire/bomb drill and a lockdown practice are scheduled in September.

## Upcoming Opportunities

On September 30th, Stars are invited to participate in the Every Child Matters Walk organized by The Healing of the Seven Generations.

We are organizing with Scott Norton, a guest speaker from The Healing of the Seven Generations, to have a primary and a junior assembly in October.

## Upcoming Events

Sept. 23 - Terry Fox Run, Photo Day with Pegasus

Sept. 30 - Every Child Matters Walk/ Orange Shirt Day/National Truth and Reconciliation Day

Oct. 10 - Thanksgiving

Oct. 28 - Suddaby Stars singing at the Ranger's game

## Financial Report:

Total in account : 33 245.54

Still have to pay: Benches:	4628.48 (pre rebate)
Spec ed:	1849.35
Nutrition for Learning:	462.18
Outdoor equipment:	431.56
<i>Total:</i>	<i>7371.57</i>

To be kept in reserve: 10000.00

Reserved for Equity Initiatives: 3500.00

Total to spend: 12373.97

## Teachers' Report:

- Thanks to Council and to Sue Campbell for supplementing Nutrition for Learning to cover the first 2 weeks of school.
- Special Education equipment has been ordered
- Ms Lynch requests an additional \$50 for the Spec Ed order to cover timers  
*Motion to release \$50 for Spec Ed timers PASSED*
- Teachers note that the cost of field trips has risen significantly, especially if transportation is required, and this raises the cost per child. The School has a "field trip fund" to subsidize students as needed, Council agrees to top up this fund when required, to be addressed if the need arises.

## **Communications Report:**

- Schoolday is still offline
- Suddaby School Council is using a Facebook account to communicate with parents; the communications committee has yet to meet to decide on the goals and direction the account should take.

## **Fundraising Report:**

- Approximately \$800-\$900 were raised selling Suddaby's original windows at the Open House, and windows are still available for sale.
- Monthly fundraisers such as Movie Night in the gym may be possible again (they were put on hold due to COVID), the fundraising committee will meet to discuss further.

## **Equity Report:**

- The Equity Committee was given \$5000 in 2021-2022 to fund equity-initiatives. So far they have paid out \$1500 to Scott Norton of the Healing of the 7 Generations. The Committee will meet in October to discuss future initiatives.

## **Strongstart:**

- Strongstart is an early literacy support program run by volunteers in the school. Volunteers will be paired with children for 10 30-minute (typically weekly) sessions. Training is provided (and mandatory), free of charge.
- Given the pandemic-induced disruptions of the last 2 school years, a higher need than usual is predicted.
- If you can help, please see the link below, or contact Katherine Akins at [kakins@rogers.com](mailto:kakins@rogers.com)

Strong Start Link for trainings

<https://strongstart.ca/programs/letters-sounds-and-words/training/>

The WRDSB now requires all volunteers to complete the volunteer interview form and reference check below, and to provide a Vulnerable Sector Check by the WRPS. There is a fee for the WRPS check of \$20 if you indicate that it is required for a volunteer position. If you wish to volunteer and require assistance covering the WRPS fee, please contact Suddaby administration.

Volunteer Interview Form

<https://staff.wrdsb.ca/policyprocedure/files/2020/02/Appendix-A-Volunteer-Application.pdf>

Volunteer Reference Check form

<https://staff.wrdsb.ca/policyprocedure/files/2020/02/Appendix-B-Reference-Check.pdf>

WRPS Vulnerable Sector Check:

<https://www.wrps.on.ca/en/services-reporting/police-vulnerable-sector-check.aspx>

## **Administrative Roles, Council 2022-2023:**

The following roles were resigned by last year's representatives:

- Co-chairs (Stephanie Meyer and Katherine Akin)
- Treasurer (Katha Broschek)
- Secretary (Karin Korth)
- WRAPSC Representative (Kate Leslie)

No one wished to be nominated for (Co) Chair, Treasurer, or Secretary and the 2021-2022 members agreed to continue on in these roles.

The role of WRAPSC Representative will now be filled by Joel Leslie, nominated by Karin Korth

## **School Council Meeting Schedule, 2022-2023:**

October 17, 2022  
November 21, 2022  
January 16, 2023  
February 13, 2023  
March 20, 2023  
April 17, 2023  
May 15, 2023  
June 19, 2023