

School Council Meeting, 17-10-22

Present: Stephanie Meyer, Katherine Akin, Katha Broschek, Karin Korth, Rita Givlin, Sarah Taylor, Angela Uttley, Joel Leslie, Ross Graham, Nada Mohammed, Wendy Saulesleja, Mike Patterson, Laura McBride, Tara Bedard, Anjali Misra, Sam Estoesta

Regrets: Andrea Maxwell

AdminReport:

Science of Reading: Kudos to our staff who are embracing new learning and trying new approaches with our Stars. Our K-2 teachers are continuing with Heggerty which teaches phonemic awareness and are using sound walls which show students exactly how to shape each sound. A new arrival to their teaching toolbox is the UFLI Foundations: An Explicit and Systematic Phonics Program. Our Reading Resource Teacher, Mrs. Quint, has begun two Empower groups with our grade 2 students and How to Plan Differentiated Reading Instruction Resources for Grades K-3 with two groups of grade one students. Our junior teachers are using a junior version of this resource. Mrs. Lynch, our Junior SERT, has started Corrective Reading with two groups of junior students and she is using Differentiated Literacy Instruction in Grades 4 and 5 with small groups of junior students. In addition, we have 60 Lexia licenses for students who are not in the small groups.

DreamBox: We have ordered licenses for all of our grades 1-4 (and some grade 5 students) and are awaiting the message that we can get those set up and going.

First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Voices in Elementary Language: Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Tortolo, and Mrs. Taylor are currently enrolled in a three-part learning series. Previously we received junior kits with many book sets and this is the PD to support using them in a thoughtful and critical manner. A primary book set is on the way.

Targeted Support Program - Dismantling Anti-Black Racism: Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Lynch, Mme Kraft and Ms. Givlin are attending this 5-part series. As a team, we applied to be a part of this initiative last June.

Celebrating Staff

We celebrated Custodial Appreciation Day on October 2.

We celebrated World Teachers Day on October 5.

DECEs will be celebrated on October 18.

Library Workers Day is October 21.

Off-Campus Trips: It is exciting that our Stars are able to go on class trips once again. We always need written permission forms to take Stars off of school property. If families are struggling with the cost of an excursion, they are asked to reach out to the administration or

classroom teachers. We never want the cost to be a barrier and have school money and support from the school council to make sure that everyone is able to attend.

Facility Updates: Our construction continues albeit with minimal disruption to our students. On Saturday, October 22, cranes will be on-site to lift units up to the roof. This is a big step towards getting this project completed. Painters have been touching up around the windows as well.

Windows: I have reached out on WREA to invite any of my colleagues who have connections to Suddaby in an effort to sell more. We will also be reaching out to Facebook Groups that Dale Wideman thinks might have members who may be interested in our windows.

- I love Waterloo Region
- Vintage KWC Tri-cities
- You Know You're From K-W and environs
- Waterloo Region Heritage
- Waterloo Region Generations
- If you grew up in Kitchener

Anyone interested in purchasing a window is invited to contact the Suddaby Parents Facebook.

Communications Report:

- SchoolDay is now working! All trip permission forms and the majority of our communication comes through School Day. All caregivers are asked to be sure that they are signed up to receive email updates.
- The Suddaby Parents Facebook Group is pleased to report about 115 people have joined it. The purpose and tone of the group are still being established.
- With School Day working again, we will be resuming the biweekly key messages. We would like to put out a call for content from students for favorite quotes to cap each message.

WRAPSC Report:

- The first WRAPSC meeting took place, their focus this year will be Best Practices
- The WRDSB acknowledged that their messaging around Hallowe'en celebrations last year was suboptimal, and intend to have clearer language on the matter this year
- The next meeting will discuss how grant money may be applied for and spent

Financial Report:

School funds:	17 824.40	
WEFI:	4 644.60	
Total in account:		22 469.00
To be held in reserve:	10 000.00	

To be held for Equity initiatives:	3 500.00
Total available to spend:	8 960.00
Still to add: Window sales:	1 092.00
Can be collected: Factory shoes:	675.00

Note: there is another 3 390.00 in the WEFI account that belongs to the school and not Council. This money could be used toward the Kindie playground repair/replacement.

The money raised for the schoolyard revitalization has been spent. There was 426.51 outstanding; this was paid out of our Dance-a-thon WEFI account.

Fundraising Report:

- The Fundraising Committee's goal is to support school initiatives including field trips, workshops, and the purchase of school equipment
- The possibility of repainting the Welcome mural (the word "welcome" in different languages) on the wall inside the Lancaster entrance was suggested
- The Kindie playground in the front yard requires repairs, possibly some replacement

Planned Fundraising Events for the 2022-23 school year:

1. Teacher-led Dance-a-thon - October 28
2. Dance-a-thon - April 20
3. Funfair - June 1
4. Movie Nights - November 17, January 19, April 6. Funds raised through pizza, juice box, popcorn, chocolate sales. *Note: since this meeting, pizza has been removed from this list as we would be unable to offer dairy free cheese, gluten free, Halal etc*
5. Mistletoe Market - to be modified, date TBD
6. Domino's Pizza Wednesdays - dates TBD *Note: since this meeting, Administration has informed us that we are no longer eligible for Domino's Pizza Wednesdays as they are unable to meet dairy free cheese, gluten free, Halal etc expectations of school administration*

Planned Fundraising Sales for the 2022-23 school year:

1. Seed sales - February, date TBD
2. Bulb sales - September 23
3. Spirit Wear: Suddaby Stars merchandise (suggested early May, details TBD)

Ongoing Fundraisers:

4. Factory Shoes
5. FlipGive

6. Mabels Labels

Points were raised for consideration when planning Fundraisers and Community Building Events:

- When canceling events such as the holiday concert, (former) Mistletoe Market, and movie night pizza sales, are we taking away from one group to avoid potentially excluding another?
- Do the benefits of these events outweigh the potential harms?
- Are these evidence-based decisions? Do we have evidence that these events have caused any harm, or would be considered to cause harm by our students or their families?
- Is it realistic to require every event to guarantee equal participation by every student? Is a more feasible approach that not everything can be for everyone, but that all students must have the chance to participate in some events?

Equity Report:

The Equity Committee has established their goals as:

1. Identify Equity issues
2. Identify how Equity is embedded within School Council function
3. Implement Equity

Currently at the information-gathering stage, the Equity Committee is awaiting:

1. The results of the WRDSB demography survey
2. Direction from the WRSB
3. Feedback from the school community regarding what matters to them

Issues to consider:

1. The importance of student leadership regarding the types of initiatives that get supported
2. The possibility of including a Student Representative on School Council

Strongstart:

Strongstart still needs volunteers. For a full description of the Strongstart program, please see the minutes from the School Council meeting of September 19, 2022 or contact Katherine Akins at kakins@rogers.com