

Vista Hills School Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 28, 2019

Where: Vista Hills Public School Library

When: Thursday, November 28, 2019 at 6:30pm

Attendees: Diana Clipsham, Melanie Roberts, Sharon Han, Hajra Hafeez, Anne Plouffe, Meghana Kotwal, Hala Alzain, Milena Krstic, Ajeetha Pandiyaraj, Jhansi Malli, Jerry H, Ms. Fox, Ms. Marshall, Mrs. Sheriff

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Introductions –Shemira

Focus on empathy

2. Vice-Principal Report and Staff Introductions –Shemira

Staff Reps

Ms. Marshall

Ms. Fox

Staffing Update

Head Secretary – Jessica Dufton

Third Secretary – Sylvia West

Librarian – Julie Taylor

.79 LTO (Gr 2, Gr 4/5, FDK planning) – Chrysta Budafalvi

School Activities

Dec 4 – Primary Holiday Concert (*update moved to Dec 5*)

Dec 12-13 – Marketplace

- To help support One4Another International (raised \$4000 from poinsettia sales)
- Open until 5pm on Dec 12th

Dec 21 to Jan 5 holiday break

Jan 6 – First day of school 2020

Book Fair

- \$7000 in sales with over \$1900 raised for VH!
- Thanks to parent & student volunteers and big thank you to Mrs. King
- Mrs. King splitting the money three ways:
 1. More graphic novels
 2. More French books
 3. Home reading program

3. Strong Start Presentation – Jean Stacey

Letter Sounds and Words Program

- Trained volunteers (reading coach) providing one to one support to children
- Volunteers need 4 hours of training (2 x 2hour sessions)
- 30 min per session per child with games focus
- 10 sessions/week

Strong Start in Waterloo Region 2018/2019

- 2000 children helped
- Strong Start in 140 schools
- 1500 volunteers
- 95% improved reading

Strong Start Requests

- Looking for volunteers, can register directly on website <https://strongstart.ca/>
- **Asking school council to consider a financial donation**
 - Strong Start is a charitable organization
 - Cost \$100/student (training and materials)

4. Art Program Presentation – Naomi Fox

- Teaching for Artistic Behaviour (TAB)
- Teaching art for English grade 7&8s, grade 1s and grade 3&4s
- **Request \$250 for glaze and to cover cost of guest artists**

5. Anxiety & Mental Wellbeing – Mrs. Sheriff

Suggested Mental Health Speaker Laurel Crossley <https://laurelcrossley.com/>

- Focus on well-being for students, staff & parents
- Student presentations (JK-grade 5) (grade 6-8) \$500
- Teacher presentation (lunch hour or after school) \$0
- Parent evening presentation \$500
- **Total \$1000 for the 4 presentations**
- **Consider for application for Parent Reaching Out (PRO) grant**

Suggested mental well-being books by author Cathy Gagliardi

- <https://twinklinglynx.com>
- Bellyflies \$20, Gonna Build a Boat \$24, The Chocolate Egg Willow \$16
- **Request for two sets of books (kindergarten & primary) total \$120**

6. Approval of Minutes from October meeting – Jerry

Motion to approve Anne Plouffe, second Melanie Roberts

7. Financial Report – Hajra

October pizza revenue \$1,743.71

Available amount \$10,104.53

Approved requests not spent yet \$7046.19

This amount includes \$2000 for math related items & \$1500 crash mats approved Sept.

Update Swim to Survive Program for grade 7 & 8s now covered

- No longer requesting school council funds to help support
- Cost to each family is \$15 for three bus trips to Forest Heights Community Pool
- **Question? Will the grade 3s be participating in the Swim to Survive program?**

Grade 8 Year End Trip – Bark Lake Leadership Camp Muskoka

- Secured dates June 22-24
- \$410/student (includes transportation of coach bus \$100/student)
- All meals and activities included in the cost (high/low ropes, kayaking, canoeing, archery, hiking, swimming)
- Intermediate teachers would like to provide a parent info night to get an idea of interest
- **Will find out later if any school council funds are being requested to support year end trip**

Funding Approvals:

Donation to Strong Start

Keep in mind for future fundraising opportunities

Art program at VH

Motion to approve \$250 for the art program Hajra Hafeez, second Sharon Han

Mental Health Presentations

Motion to approve \$1000 Hajra Hafeez, second Milena Krstic

- Start with student & teacher presentations and then decide about parent presentation
- **Will also apply for a Parent Reaching Out PRO grant to help cover cost of presentations**
- May receive up to \$250-500 application due in December
- Needs to benefit to community, school, all students

Mental well-being books

Motion to approve two sets of books \$120 Diana Clipsham, second Anne Plouffe

School lunch program

- Discretionary fund \$500 already approved
- Snacks currently being provided are not high in protein
- Front office staff looking more for meal replacement
 - **\$100 made available to front office staff to use as needed**
- **Will discuss more at Dec meeting**

8. Other Business

PIC Update – Anne

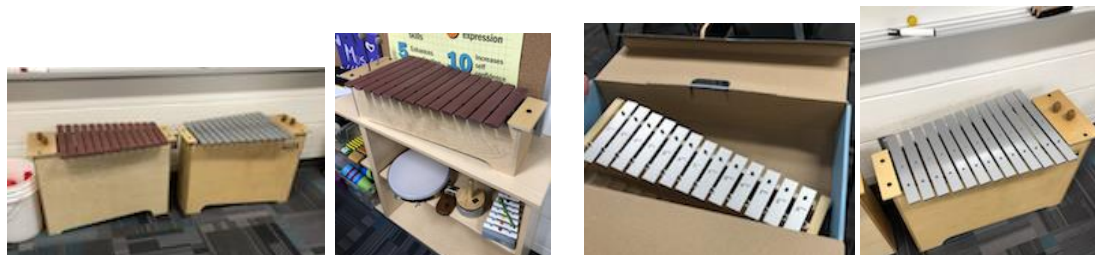
- Funding from the Ministry for PRO Grants is down significantly from previous years. WRDSB was given \$36,478 - \$10,000 for annual PIC parent event and \$26,478 will be divided among the individual schools. A committee has been set up to accept and review applications from schools wishing to receive PRO Grant funds. The committee is made up of 2 members of PIC, 2 members of SEAC, 1 school board Trustee and WRDSB staff. Applications are due by Dec 20 and decisions will be made in Jan 2020.
- PIC Subcommittees: A reminder that any parent can participate in the Parent Involvement Committee's Subcommittees. Current subcommittees are: Membership, Governance (rules and terms of reference), Communications (Outreach and Immigrant Engagement), SCIS (Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools) and PRO Grant Annual Event (planning all parts of the event). If you are interested please contact Anne Plouffe.
- Planning for the PRO Grant Annual Event in April 2020 has started. The format will be the same as the 2019 event: 2 evenings and 1 weekend day, 2 hours each day, 4 speakers on each day with a question panel. The topics we are exploring so far are Mental Health, Digital Footprint, Vaping and SCIS. Please contact Anne Plouffe if you would like to suggest one or more topics for the PIC Annual Event.
- Next **PIC meeting is Tues Jan 28, 2020 at 7 pm** at the Education Centre in Kitchener

WRAPSC Update – Melanie

Forest of Reading Festival – Melanie

- Save the date: Wed. May 6, 2020 10am to 2pm, Kitchener Aud,
- Tickets on sale in January 2020, www.forestfestivaloftrees.ca

After the meeting we took a “Field trip” to the music room to view the musical instruments that were purchased with the proceeds of the Walk-a-thon!



Reminder of ongoing school council fundraisers:



Mabel's Labels Fundraiser online at https://mabelslabels.ca/en_CA/fundraising/support/ and search for Vista Hills

COBS Bread at The Boardwalk

Mention Vista Hills Public School when you order and Cobs will donate 10% of your order to our school.

Thank you for your support!