

Wellesley School Council Meeting October 29, 2020

Attendance/Regrets

Attendance: Chantel Franklin, Erin Agnello, Jamie Enns, Suzanne Krahn, Lisa Windling, Melissa Turner

Regrets: Brian Beney, Melissa Quint

Pass Minutes from Last Meeting

Melissa Turner, Suzanne Krahn

Elections

Chair: Chantel Franklin - acclaimed

Treasurer: Suzanne Krahn - acclaimed

Secretary: Melissa Quint - acclaimed

Communications: Melissa Turner - acclaimed

Waterloo Region Association of Public School Councils (WRAPSC)

- Attended meeting held on Oct 6, 2020 (Zoom).
 - Meeting was structured with breakout rooms to discuss various school types/subjects:
 - Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, High Schools, Distance learning, Tips for running online parent councils – including voting and other aspects that are more complicated online, Equity and Inclusion – what events do school councils participate in that support equity and inclusion, and what events might inadvertently have a negative affect?
 - I attended “Distance learning” > the two of us discussed our experiences and wrote up some opportunities for improvement that we shared with WRAPSC to pass along to the board.
 - Haven’t yet received minutes, so I can’t share details from the other breakout rooms
 - New steering committee for WRAPSC was chosen
- Next meeting Nov 3, 2020 (Zoom)
 - Director of Education and Senior Staff attending for Q&A of pre-provided questions
 - PhD student from UWaterloo attending to discuss research on COVID and class sizes
 - Vote on donation to People for Education Summit 2020
 - Final meeting of 2020 -> next one on Jan 12, 2021

ACTION ITEM: Chantel to share November 3 WRAPSC meeting details with Suzanne.

Fundraising

Reviewed fundraising plans that were approved by committee in June. Updated committee that due to safety we were not able to run the Herrle's produce fundraiser for Sept/Oct as we had hoped.

Discussion regarding mid-November fundraising campaign to Waterloo Education Foundation Incorporated (WEFI). Erin explained that funds raised through WEFI cannot be transferred into a school or the Council's account. Instead, invoices for purchases are paid directly by WEFI. Sandra completes the paperwork for these. Sandra can also easily check WEFI balance so that Council is able to identify total funds raised through a fundraising campaign.

Committee agreed to move ahead with the mid-November campaign for donations through WEFI. School currently has limitations on dealing with paperwork and cannot process cash or cheques. Sandra can pass along cheque donations for WEFI, but online donations from families is preferred.

ACTION ITEM: Chantel and Melissa T. to connect to plan communications for November fundraising campaign (encourage online donations). Erin can support with messages through School Day and Twitter account.

Treasurer's Report

Report was presented, showing us in a deficit of \$121.33 once the playground reserve and minimum balance of \$1000 is removed from our current account balance. This was due to the total cost of the grade 8 grad signs exceeding our available spending amount. Sandra is arranging a transfer of \$121.33 to correct that deficit.

Council was reminded that in June 2020 Council approved the excess cost of the grad signs could be taken from our \$1000 minimum balance reserve.

Council discussed the need for a \$1000 minimum balance. History was shared that Council used to keep a \$2500 minimum balance in the past. Members felt those dollars were better spent on items to benefit the children/school rather than held in an account.

Motion by Suzanne to no longer require a \$1000 minimum account balance. Seconded by Jamie. Four votes in favour, zero votes no, zero abstentions. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEM: Jamie and Erin to consult with teachers on wish list for this school year.

Vice Principal's Update

Nima Hashi, our grade 4A teacher, received a permanent contract at another school. John Roberts is the new teacher and began last Thursday.

Reorganization occurred last Thursday. Three classes were collapsed and others changed to split grades or straight grades. Three teachers were assigned to distance learning, based on seniority. Teachers with the appropriate qualifications then filled those positions. The next deadline for parents to request a change to their child(ren)'s mode of learning is January 15th. The change would take place in February at the beginning of term two.

We have held three fire drills and a lockdown drill this fall. Drills are not practised as a whole school due to the need for physical distancing. Instead, school-wide announcements were made followed by teachers speaking to their class about the procedure and walking them through it at some point during the day. We will have three more fire drills and a tornado drill in the spring.

Important Dates:

Progress Reports go home November 20th

PD Day on MONDAY, November 23rd

Last day before holiday break is December 18th

November Agenda Items

Discussion of teacher wish list.

Next Council Meeting

Thursday, November 26, 7pm. Brian or Erin will set up the Google Meeting