

Wellesley Public School - School Council Meeting
Thursday October 27, 2023 - 7:00 PM

In Attendance: Brian Beney, Lindsay Kurt, Jamie Enns, Lisa Windling, Mel Quint, Jasveen Kienitz, Chantel Franklin, Cassandra Pomeroy, Melissa Turner, Tina Gerber, Amanda Schiller, Erin Thaler

Regrets: Rosanne Robinson

September Meeting Minutes

Motion to Pass: Mel Quint

Seconded: Melissa Turner

WRAPSC Update

- October 3rd Meeting (Lisa attended virtually)
- Main Topic: School Safety (next meeting will also be on this topic)
 - A survey was sent out last year to School Council Chairs (only 22 responses); info will be shared with the Board (they will come starting in November)
 - Supervision during Nutrition Breaks was a topic (info will be shared with the Board)
- Many schools are looking to have a translator at meetings so reduce that barrier
- Lots of discussion on how to grow councils; many struggle with retaining members (most offering a hybrid option)
- PRO Grant is coming again this year (timeline not available)
- Next meeting November 7th (Chantel will attend virtually)

Fun Fair/Arts Night

- Wednesday May 22nd 4:30 - 8:00
- Mel, Jasveen, Cassandra, Tina = committee

Presentations/PRO Grant Ideas

- Information will be coming, but we are not sure at this point (timeline is sometimes quite tight) \$500/year
- PRO Grant applications need to connect parents to the school (Lisa will send us a 'blurb' about what the grant is for)
- We will survey parents about topics that they would like to learn about
- Brian will bring a list of PRO grants that were given to other schools to add to our brainstorm of ideas

Field Trip Process

- All trips have to have a curriculum connection (specific expectations that will be addressed through that trip)
- Also want to make sure there is an alternative (with curriculum connections) for students who do not go off property for trips (this has been purposeful for the educators at Wellesley PS)
- Very mindful of the cost; particularly if there are many kids in the family
- Bussing is a significant factor (both cost and availability); trips have to be scheduled within the existing routes (e.g., to and from school schedules)

- Some trips that are planned are School Board offered (e.g., Outdoor Education) and not all classes get accepted yearly - tricky to explain to parents, but it's a system that is in place already
- A Vulnerable Sector Check is required if a parent is driving or if they will be alone with students; is this a barrier?

Playground Planning - Update

- Brian was able to get in touch with the company that has the contract to inspect all playgrounds in the Board; it is the company the school will work with
- If your playground is passing inspection, it will not be torn down and replaced (Brian can ask for an estimate of how long there *may* be left in the life of the existing structure)
- This means we are at looking something much longer term
- To install is a start of around \$20,000 (this does not include the cost of the structure)
- Costs of equipment have gone up by as much as 50%!!)
- There is a need for a 2nd Gaga Ball Pit (about \$4000 all in)

Treasurer's Report

- All outstanding expenses have been taken care of
- \$396.56 was raised from the Herrle's Fundraiser
- General Bank Account = \$4,437.71 (plus WEFI, less designated for playgroup, less outstanding expenses = available Balance \$4,229.43)

Principal/Vice Principal Updates

News and Updates

- Colds/Flu/Lice/Covid - tis the season. General reminders and precautions - please keep your child home if they are sick
- Upcoming dates to note:
 - Fall Colours Day (October 31) - inclusive of everyone (kids can dress up if they like - this is child/parent choice)
 - Humane Society Visits - Nov. 8-9
 - Remembrance Day Assembly - November 10th @10:25
 - PD Day - November 13th (School Learning and Improvement Planning)
 - Progress Reports will be sent home on November 20th
 - Kindess Assembly (Grade 5 - 8) with a focus on Dwarfism

November 'Lunch and Learns' for Caregivers/Parents

- Relationships: Your Child's Relationship With You and With Others
- Sleep 101
- Supporting Executive Functioning Skill Development
- Strategies to Support Your Child in Elementary Math

Next month (Principal Report)

- School Improvement Planning / EQAO highlights

Fundraising

- Herrle's Update - Distribution went smoothly (lots of grade 8 kids who were very helpful)
 - We will need to consider if we want to run this next year
- Big Box of Cards will launch November 2nd
 - Volunteers will be needed to sort the orders
 - We will put this money towards a new Gaga Ball pit

FOR SURE (passed by vote): Read-a-Thon (February), Fun Fair (May), Freezies (June)

Other Options to Explore for 2024-25: Purdy's Chocolates, Muskoka Coffee, Cheese Company, Warren Greenhouse or A&E Greenhouse (will look at poinsettias)

Motion to Adjourn: Jamie Enns

Seconded: Mel Quint

Next Meeting: Thursday November 30 @ 7:00 p.m