

Williamsburg School Council Meeting

Monday, November 25, 2019 | 6pm in the Library

Minutes recorded by Steph Groh & Kim Thompson

Attendance

Patricia Betts-Malcolm	P	Sue Lawrence	P	Angela Onuora	
Courtney Caskanette		Richard Li	P	Lori Peebles	P
Idaia Carrasco	P	Sarah Meiers	P	Jamie Russell Reilly	R
Lindsay Glass	R	Ivy Ng	P	Kendra Schmale	P
Steph Groh	P	Rose Noonan	P	Gewton Teixeira	
Miguel Guayasamin		Laura Obal	P	Kim Thompson	P
Erin Jamieson		Betsy Olsen	P	Nickey Wiles	P
Vashti Latchman					

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome to our November meeting!

HERO GEM affirmation – Gratitude!

Approval of Minutes

Review of October meeting minutes. Approved by Sue Lawrence, seconded by Steph Groh.

Guest Speaker

Presentation by Jean Stacey from Strong Start. She provided a presentation and overview of what Strong Start is, and Williamsburg's involvement. They are always looking for new volunteers and financial support.

Principal's Report

Provided by Rose Noonan

HERO Gem Update

- December's Gem will be Efficacy

Progress Reports

- Progress Reports have gone out. Parents are encouraged to connect with teachers if desired. If you missed the parent/teacher interviews in November, you can connect with them at any time. Please call the school or write a note in your child's planner to set up a meeting time with your child's teacher.

Winter Clothing Drive

- Thank you to the School Council for assisting the Climate Strike Awareness group with the Clothing Drive. Our community was invited to pick up clothing first, with the remaining going to another school.

Book Fair

- We had a very successful Book Fair, having record sales. The funds raised will be used by Mrs. Branje for upgrades/updates to the library.

Home Reading/Math Kits

- A reminder that these programs have started, and students/parents are encouraged to participate in these great resources

Extra-curricular update

- Lots of activities on the go within the school including PALS, 2 choir groups, Environmental Club, and the Climate Strike Awareness group
- The choir will be singing at the Williamsburg Community charity event
- The Holiday Concert is on hold for now and smoothing may take place in the new year.

Attendance Review

- An attendance review is underway, to reach out to families with above average days absent. Attendance is a critical key success factor for all students!

Job Action

- Rose provided an overview of the situation. Parents can refer to the WRDSB's website under Labour Updates.

Treasurer's Report

Provided by Sue Lawrence

- Little Caesars Pizza Kit Fundraiser in the fall did approximately the same as the spring, raised \$2336. If we were to do this again, we would do it once per year.
- Mabel's Labels fundraiser update – we have received another cheque. Total sales so far of over \$200. Will provide flyers to Kindie classes and reminder to Facebook for winter push.
- Spending allocation: \$9600 for field trips, \$914 for headphones, \$913 for outdoor shed
- Current balance is \$3314.19
- Future discussion points to include adopting a school and a donation to Strong Start

WRAPSC Update – Provided by Kim on Lindsay's behalf. Please see Appendix 1

Safe Caring and Inclusive Schools Committee Update

- This committee has met and developed some key activities for this year. This includes School tours/buddies for new incoming students and a welcome kit. We will also be doing Spirit Days.

The next meeting will be January, to act as a planning session for the Move-a-thon.

Adjournment – 7pm

APPENDIX 1 – WRAPSC November Summary

We met on Tuesday, Nov. 5. Our first speakers were from The Museum, located on Homer Watson. It was first opened in 1995 and revamped in 2003. They rebranded in 2009 with the line, "We are a new kind of museum - one of ideas and experiences." The Museum is open to the public, as well as school groups. They offer STEM based camps and 20 curriculum based educational programs that range from kindergarten to grade 12 and are 60-75 minutes in length. Their exhibits are linked to our school curriculum and what is

happening in the community. They're trying to get this info out to the public and to schools to help promote educational based fun for school trip ideas and family time.

Our next speakers were from the board: the Director of Education, the Superintendent, the Associate Director and Coordinating Superintendent of Business Services. They came prepared to answer 5 questions that were given to them ahead of time. One of the questions was regarding split classes: How does the Board decide when to have split classes? Will the change in class size levels affect this and create even more splits? The answer: The Ministry has established rules regarding elementary class size and boards must adhere to them and report on them at a set time in the year established by the board. In March, the board starts the process by tallying the estimated number of students per school and per grade. Human Resources looks at where the students will attend and then how to distribute them across grades and classes. Final decisions are made by the administrator.

One of the other questions was about the grants: How the Provincial Government changed the PRO and PIC grant structure? The answer: the PRO grant is the same process, however it is now done through the board and not the Ministry. Schools are not obligated to apply for the PRO grant but are encouraged to do so. Less funds will be available. The \$500 Parent Involvement grant will still be available to all local schools.

Finally we heard some board updates, which are available in the minutes that I will send to Kim.

This was the final meeting of 2019. Next meeting is in January.