

**Westvale School Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, February 16, 2012**  
**7:00 p.m.**

Attendance: Phoebe Montgomery, Bruce Alexander, Ruth-Ann Thwaites, Mark Nykamp, Cindy Desbiens, Lora Feltham, Stephanie Evans, Hari Stirbet, Karsty Gregoire, Friederike Schlein, Stephanie Lorenz, Sandra Schmidt, Nancy Côté, Genevieve Hamilton, Yennifer Yessis, Vivian Fuchs

Cindy read a Thank You note from Kathy Haddock. Kathy thanked council for her parting gift. She also wrote that she was pleased to hear of the success of the music CD and concert put on by the children.

**Financial Report**

There is a little over \$7000 in the council account. There is still some (minimal) revenue expected from Lunch Lady, milk, possibly TCBY.

Bruce will look at technology wishes with the staff, and come up with proposals for a budget of \$5000, and for \$5500. Council will then decide what amount to allocate to technology purchases.

NB. The Optimist Club has already donated \$1000 (included in the balance of \$7000) towards a technology purchase. Nancy asked that a note be placed on the board in front of the school, thanking the Optimist Club for their donation.

**Teacher's Report**

- Class skating trips are continuing.
- There are 45 students involved in the hockey club.
- The grade 6 classes are working on Junior Achievement. Classes held flea markets, sold hot chocolate. More than \$300 was raised to help Romanian orphans. Other funds are being donated to Kidsability.
- February 27 is scheduled for Family Writing Night.
- Students will be working on The Story That Never Ends. This project will take the form of a 'writing tag'. Classes will follow each other in developing sections of a story.
- The computers in the lab have been changed to dual platform, supporting both Mac and PC. The teachers were trained on Monday.
- The March 2nd assembly will be Impersonation Day. The character trait for the month is Integrity.

- On hold until spring: George Mazurkevitch has requested funds to have five large landscape stones installed in the restoration area.

### **SWOT Analysis continued**

Bruce led break-out groups in analyzing the ideas generated in last meeting's SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) analysis. The groups looked for convergence between Threats and Weaknesses, and between Strengths and Opportunities. Conclusions regarding trends were identified. A main theme was 'communication'.

A staff SWOT analysis is also in progress. A staff SWOT committee has been created. Bruce suggested getting parent involvement in this committee.

### **Parent Engagement**

Bruce created four break-out groups to look at information on the following:

1. Parents Matter - how parents can be involved with, and support, their children's life at home and at school.
2. Bullying
3. Full-day Kindergarten
4. Shared Solutions - preventing and resolving conflicts; programs and services for students with special education needs.

### **Equity**

An LGBTQ video on equity and inclusion, pertaining to homophobia, was shown. The main message was that the phrase 'That's so gay' is hurtful.