

# Westvale School Council Meeting Minutes

Wed., Sept. 19, 2012

Attendance: Principal Bruce Alexander, teacher Steve Ahlberg, teacher Sara James, Cindy Desbiens, Brian Hutton, Mark Nykamp, Sam Mudaly, Stephanie Evans, Tara Wallace, Toby Little-Williams, Meagan Tracy, Heather Berry, Rhonda Smith, Pheobe Montgomery , Vivian Fuchs

1. The following School Council Officers were officially elected :

- Co-Chairs: Cindy Desbiens and Mark Nykamp
- Treasurer: Brian Hutton
- Secretary: Roving position with all members taking a turn taking minutes (Cindy will make up a schedule)

## Principal's Report:

2. Heather Berry reported on the **Parent Engagement Initiative**. Westvale applied for a grant of \$1200 to help parents get “on-board” with learning at home. Step one was conducting the Westvale School satisfaction survey. 92 school surveys were completed out of the 305 Westvale school families. An analysis of the surveys will be completed next week.
3. Sara James reported on upcoming **Breakfast Program**. Notices are being sent home today and tomorrow. Starting on Oct. 2, the program will run Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:15-8:45. There are 24 volunteers to run the program. Sam Mudaly volunteered to contact Sobeys' manager to discuss packaging of our bulk orders. It was decided the menus will vary. In December the school will re-evaluate the program to potentially expand to more days if there is sufficient interest.
4. School Year Planning in the 2012 reality, Bruce Alexander reported that with the passing of Bill 115 the 2012-13 political climate is somewhat uncertain. He stresses the importance of maintaining positive relationships with all of us continuing to work together to try to minimize the impact on students.
5. Due to student population, Westvale will be getting a new grade 4/5 english teacher so there will be a small school re-organization over the next week. This will affect a few students who will change teachers, but ensures lower class sizes.
6. Steve Ahlberg reported on Westvale's **EQAO** results for grade 3s and 6s. Overall Westvale had a strong showing in reading and writing which has been the school's focus over the last 5 years. (More detailed information on the schools' scores is available on the EQAO website.) However, given the slightly lower math scores staff has decided to shift the focus to more math and problem solving. Friday's profession development will incorporate this change.

7. Bruce Alexander outlined the **Progressive Discipline approach** at Westvale school which is based on the CARE (courtesy, acceptance, respect and empathy) expectations. It is a whole-school approach that uses a continuum of corrective and supportive interventions, supports and consequences to address inappropriate behaviour and to build upon strategies that promote positive behaviours.
8. Westvale now has 3 Technology carts which teachers can sign out for use in their classrooms.
9. First Westvale Assembly focused on respect, the first Friday of school and primary students have learned about CARE.
10. Grade 6's had a great time at camp.
11. Kindergarteners' introduction to school has gone smoothly.
12. Fri., Sept. 28<sup>th</sup> will be Terry Fox run at school. Students will have assembly and then run for 45 minutes.
13. Westvale won TV in front hall for being a EcoGold School.
14. Next assembly, Oct. 5 will focus on Initiative.

#### **15. Co-Chair Report:**

- Cindy Desbiens reported on **Meet the Teacher Night**, although it did not make a profit this year, it was a very successful night based on feedback from teachers and families. Left-over pizza put in freezer for any students who forget their lunches, and extra juice is being donated to the breakfast program.
- Volunteers are needed to help librarian, Mrs. Freeman with the 2012 Book Fair (Oct. 15-17). Please inform Cindy or Mrs. Freeman directly if you are able to help.
- Tara Wallace volunteered to layout the School Council newsletter with information that is submitted for publication.
- Mark Nykamp reported on the \$750 **PRO grant**. It was decided to ask parents, through the newsletter, for ideas on helping students learn at home; as well as have junior students design information to be posted online to help primary students. A tie-in with Westvale's focus on math was also identified as appropriate opportunity to reinforce learning.

- Brian Hutton provided fiscal summary of 2011-12 school year and update on current finances.

### **Motions Passed**

- \$1000 Action Fund for principal to use as an “angel fund” upon his discretion.- Motioned by Toby Little-Williams, seconded by Stephanie Evans.
- \$100 for turkey prizes for Turkey Trot. – Motioned by Toby Little-Williams, seconded by RhondaSmith.