

Westvale School Council Minutes

September 26th, 2018, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Library

Welcome: Jodie Meyer and past chairs Tonya Veltman and Krista Luft

New Ongoing Fundraiser – Cobbs Bakery Owner Steph Steers

WHENEVER YOU SHOP AT COBBS BAKERY, TELL THEM YOU ARE A WESTVALE PARENT!!!

- Advise Cobbs upon any purchase that you are a Westvale Parent and the school will receive **10% of total sales pre tax**. No additional charges apply to your purchase.
- Join the Cobbs Facebook page for frequent updates.
- Note that the program is only for immediate family of Westvale students.
- Thanks to Steph for sharing amazing treats to the meeting!
- Tonya motioned to approve, Bobbie Joe 2nd and none opposed. We will go forward with this fundraiser.

Elections – Jodie Meyer

Executive:

Co-Chair – Tonya Veltman

Co-Chair – Krista Luft

Secretary – Ruth Frei-Bean

Treasurer – Elizabeth Flynn-Dastoor

Members at large (Voting Members)

Rick Foucault

Tammy Lee Hauser

Bobbie Joe Seitz

Naeem Mohammed

Stephanie Evans

Laura Gillians

Doertre Schulr

Congratulations to all the “Winners”

Members at Large:

Kristy Gall

Laura Kirkland

Cristina Strub

Taryn McKinnon

Christina Kroeker

Ahmet Samuk

Tum Yu

Ina Radzikowski

Nida Khan

Mohammad Yaser Naanoua

Jennifer Benninger

Corinna Lafrance
Heidi Holmes
Heather Gerlich
Amber Fitzgerald

Principal's Report – Jodie Meyer

1. We've had a smooth start to the 2018-2019 year. We are up by two classes this year and our enrollment is up just slightly over last year at 400 students.
2. I would like to give a special "public" thank you to Ruth Frei-Bean, Kathleen Seigrist and Anne Richards for all their work to make our front gardens look so beautiful! Ruth, Kathleen and Anne spent hours upon hours weeding, edging, laying landscape fabric, planting plants from their own gardens and finally mulching to greatly improve the curb appeal of Westvale. Thank you so, so much, ladies!
3. We had our first Westvale Way assembly of the year, where we introduced our theme of "Respect" and the little Westvale Way coupons the kids can earn to put into a draw at our October assembly. We then headed out onto the back field for a "scavenger" hunt where classes worked together to find as many little coloured gem stones in the (very long) grass as they could. Each colour of gemstone was worth a different amount of points and classes tallied up their totals for the prize of extra outdoor play time, which the top 5 classes were awarded.
4. In keeping with WRDSB policy, we've practiced our fire alarm drill 3 times now. Staff and students have done a wonderful job of evacuating the school quickly and quietly and assembling on the field where we do attendance. The first drill was preceded by an announcement, but the other two were surprises. Tomorrow, we will be practicing our Lockdown/Hold and Secure/Shelter in Place drill, again as required by policy.
Question from Heidi: is there any policy on running as opposed to hiding? **Answer from Jodie:** There are 3 layers. Lock down (i.e. intruder in the school), hold and secure (i.e. threats outside the school), and shelter and secure (i.e. gas leak in area). The only time you would run is if you were already outside the building.
5. On Friday, September 21st, we had our first Professional Activity Day of the school year. Our entire staff was together in the morning to do some work around our School Improvement Plan where we are continuing to focus on Mathematics and student well-being and mindfulness. We had the opportunity to work with a WRDSB Equity and Inclusion Officer who has an Indigenous focus, Nicole Robinson, and begin to have some conversations around how to incorporate a territorial acknowledgement into our daily morning exercises. **Question from Elizabeth:** "Who developed the acknowledgement"? **Answer from Jodie:** "The equality and inclusion department at the board". **Comment from Amber:** "Noticed that moment of silence after Oh Canada is often not practiced".

Response from Jodie: “We are trying to build reflection into the curriculum as much as possible but it does cut into instruction time”. We want to do this in a meaningful way for staff and students and thus need to have some proactive discussions and do some meaningful teaching around why land acknowledgements are significant and important. We are going to do a school-wide Orange Shirt Day on Friday, September 28th to support the spirit of reconciliation and hope for all children. This is the same day we have our Terry Fox Run, so it’s going to be a wonderful day at Westvale.

6. Our Nutrition for Learning Program has gotten off to a solid start this year. Under the leadership of Educational Assistant Mrs. Hodgson, each room of the school, including the office, has a snack bin which is stocked daily. These items are meant to supplement the lunches of students who have finished what they brought and are still hungry or those who have forgotten their lunch. Items include things like apples, applesauce, crackers, granola bars, cheese, etc. All items are peanut free.
7. On the September 21st PA Day, we also had a chance to begin to have a look at our **Education Quality and Accountability Office** data from 2017-2018 and reflect on the things we’ve been working on, like the Comprehensive Math Approach. In a nutshell, our grade 3 EQAO scores were well above WRDSB and provincial results in all 3 tested areas of Reading, Writing and Math. Our grade 6 scores were fairly consistent with Board and Provincial scores in Reading and Writing, but showed that we’ve got some continued work to do in the area of Mathematics. EQAO is only one of many sources of information that we utilize to inform our instructional practices and decision-making at the school level – we also use report card data, day-to-day anecdotal observational data. **Question from Doerte:** “What is the correlation between French Immersion and English”? **Answer from Jodie:** “Generally French Immersion students outperform English but we don’t have definite stats. Generally Developmental and Special Education classes are grouped with English as a zero which will skew the results slightly .
8. Tomorrow, on September 27th, we have a special show happening for all students in our gym at noon. We are excited to have rapper musician, author and motivational speaker D.O. Gibson with us to do his “Stay Driven” program. Stay Driven is a program that combines speaking with live hip hop performances to engages students while delivering a solid anti-bullying message. It is interactive and fun and I’ve heard great things about it from other schools in the WRDSB who have had D.O. perform for them. Be sure to ask your child about it when they get home from school tomorrow!

Treasurer’s Report 2017/2018 – Elizabeth Flynn-Dastoor

- Balance as of the end of June was \$5940.71

Survey result from Meet the Teacher Night:

- Overwhelming approval for an electronic school calendar. Elizabeth will set this up and arrange communication to the school community.
- Would people prefer a 1 time lump sum donation as opposed to fundraising sales: Based on responses we will discuss this at the next meeting.
- What type of fundraisers would people prefer to do:
 1. Community Events (Dance/Fun day)
 2. Sales Events
 3. Product Orders
 4. Other
- Any other issues or topics we'd like to bring up?
 1. Mental Health
 2. Learning and support issues (Math)
 3. Teaching and System Related issues (consistent use of ministry resource through D2L)
 4. Cyber bullying
 5. Parenting (Positive Parenting/Disapline)
 6. Bullying
 7. Exceptionality (ADHD, FAS, ADD) Educating students and parents about invisible disabilities.
 8. After school activities/sports.

Fundraising for 2018/2019 – Tonya Veltman and Krista Luft

- November Event/Family Fun Night Thursday Nov 15th
 - Dance, cake bingo, Complex Rooms puzzle game, silent auction
- MME V-K will run a fresh from the farm fundraiser to sell fresh farm produce. We will be selling local apples \$14 and root vegetables \$16 to any family who wishes to participate. The school will receive **40% of sales!**
- Big Box of Cards for spring - **\$11 from every box sale**
- We will revisit goals for spring.
- Fundraising goals? Data projectors for kindergarten classes (\$800 each), Grade 6 legacy project. Better ratio of chromebooks. Currently 1 per two students grades 1-6.

Financial Requests - Jodie

- Turkey Trotn(4 turkeys) \$100 Stephanie Motioned, Bobbie Joe 2nd motion passed
- Developmental Disability Class Music Program \$1000. Laura Motion, Stephanie 2nd, motion passed
- Silver Birch/Blue Spruce \$500 Doertre, Krista
- \$\$ for mulch and spring bulbs?? \$150 Elizabeth 2nd, Laura 2nd motion passed.

Next Meeting Dates – 6:30-8:00 (Childcare is always provided)

October 24th Snacks - Bobbie Joe and Doerte

November 28th Snacks - Amber F
January 23rd Snacks – Corinna, Kristy
February 27th Snacks – Laura G
April 24th - Snacks - Bobbie Joe
June 12th Snacks - Tammy H