

Westvale School Council Agenda
September 25th, 2019 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the library
(Babysitting will be provided)

Welcome & Introductions

Jodie Meyer and past chair
Tonya Veltman

Tonya (chairperson) started the meeting.

Jodie Meyer – principal

Blake – previous secretary

Emily – garden co-ordinator

Heidi – local representative, parental involvement committee

Elizabeth – treasurer

Heather

Laura – previously designed and built the new playground

Stephanie

Rita

Kristy

Doerte

Christina

Christine

Steve

Val

Naeem

Taryn

Cristina

Bobbie Joe

Territorial Acknowledgement

Jodie Meyer

Jodie started the meeting with a territorial acknowledgement.

Elections – update

Jodie Meyer

Elections no longer needed to happen. Jodie previously sent paperwork with the students at the beginning of the school year asking whether anyone would like to self-nominate for the elected positions. A list was created from the forms returned and contact had been made prior to the meeting to those interested. The list was sent around the room to ensure attendees had their name on the list and to self add if not.

Tonya Veltman will continue in her role as chairperson.

Cristina Shaffer will take on the role of secretary.

Elizabeth Flynn-Dastoor will be passing the role of treasurer to Rick.

Voting members will be Naeen, Stephanie, Dorothy and Heidi.

WRAPSC (Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils) & PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) Update

Heidi Holmes

Heidi is currently representing both Westvale and KCI on the WRAPSC committee. The first meeting will take place on October 1, 2019. The following are some of the items on the agenda:

- Welcome and approval
- May Court Club
- Heather and Tanya will be speaking at the school council meeting
- Round table discussion

Meetings occur 6 times per year.

Meeting is at 255 Fischer-Hallman Road, Kitchener.

PIC works with board trustees and reps, events for education and awareness.

Principal's Report

Jodie Meyer

1. Our 2019-2020 school year has gotten off to a smooth start. Our enrollment is up slightly from last year and we are currently sitting at 408 students.
2. A big thank you to our 4 grade 6 students who have committed to babysitting at School Council meetings – they are offering their services across the hall in room 10.
3. The transition away from staggered entry in Kindergarten to all students attending full time on the first day went really well for us. Our planning ahead of time with colour coding the classes, sending a line up map and coloured bracelet to all new JKs and front-end-loading the number of support staff in our 4 kindergarten classes all paid off. Our newest Voyageurs have adjusted to school really well!
4. 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. Because it was a bit rainy, we waited until the next school day to do our “Scavenger Hunt” where classes worked together to find as many little gems and shapes in the grass in a designated area. Each category of item 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.
5. Some facility updates: We finally got our new kindergarten shed provided by the Board. The purpose of the shed is to provide a convenient and secure storage location for the many outdoor learning materials we have to support the Kindergarten program. Our kindergarten team is in the process of purchasing bins, organizing and moving materials into the shed and they are very excited to have it. We had to have the top plastic part of our 3-pointer game out on the

tarmac removed by facility services on an emergency basis in June as it had been damaged to a point where it was dangerous. We are having a new game installed the week of October 7th by Blue Imp Recreational Products. The advent of the garden project has garnered a lot of excitement amongst the students. At our first spirit assembly, one of our parent garden volunteers came and talked to the kids. At our Meet the Staff night, there was a wonderful table of hands-on visuals that inspired and gleaned even more interest and some additional volunteers for the project. We also now officially have a labelled “gender neutral” bathroom for any student or staff member to use. It also serves as our accessible bathroom. This bathroom also contains free menstrual products (every school in the WRDSB now has one bathroom with free products).

6. Our Nutrition for Learning Program is starting this week with the first large delivery of food and the distribution of snack bins to all classrooms. This is run under the leadership of Educational Assistant Lori Hodgson. Each classroom and the office has a snack bin which is stocked daily with a variety of healthy, nut-free items which 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 strings, etc.
7. The grade 6s are going to run the Fresh from the Farm Fundraiser again this fall. Interested families will have the ability to purchase a box of locally grown farm fresh products. Information and an order form will be sent home with all students on Friday.
8. EQAO testing results were made public today. We will be spending time as a staff doing some in-depth analysis of the data, but at this point, in a nutshell, our Grade 3 EQAO scores in all areas of reading, writing and math were above both Board and provincial results. Our Grade 6 reading and writing scores were dramatically above Board and provincial results, but below in math. On the positive side, we made a 14% increase in our math results from last year. Our school improvement plan will continue to focus on mathematics instructional and assessment practices. 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, etc.
9. On Monday, September 30th, we are going to do a school-wide Orange Shirt Day to support the spirit of reconciliation and hope for all children. Orange Shirt Day originated from the story of a little girl named Phyllis. When Phyllis went to a residential school for the first time as a 6-year-old girl, she had a brand new orange shirt that her Granny had scrimped and saved to buy for her for her. When she got to the school, all of her clothes were taken away, including the

orange shirt. Orange Shirt Day happens annually in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and well-being, and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters. We will be doing announcements and teachers will also be talking about the origin of Orange Shirt Day in age-appropriate ways with their classes.

10. On Tuesday, October 1st, we have a special performance happening for all students in the gym at 12:30 p.m. The Tribal Vision Dance group will be performing "Visions of Turtle Island", a high-energy, multi-disciplinary show. Students will learn more about First Nations history, culture and traditions as they watch live singing, dancing and video and image presentations. The performance ends with the popular traditional Hoop Dance, which embodies a message of interconnectedness. We are really looking forward to this special treat for all of our students!

Teacher's Report

Steve Ahlberg

Sept. 6 - Westvale Way Assembly
Sept. 12 - Meet the Staff Night
Sept. 17-19 - Grade 6's at Camp
Sept 26 – Oct. 10 - Junior intermural soccer league
Sept. 26 - Carousel Dance Presentation
Sept. 27 - Terry Fox Run
Sept. 30 – Orange Shirt Day
Oct. 1 – Tribal Vision Dance Performance
Oct. 4 - Westvale Way Assembly
Oct. 1 – 5 - Turkey Trot ????
Oct. 8 & 9 – WPL Technology Playground
Oct. 15 – Picture Day
Oct. 17 - First Caribou Math Contest
Oct. 21 - Federal Election Polling Station

Treasurer's Report 2019-2020

Elizabeth Flynn-Dastoor

Financial information was provided at each of the tables. Currently the account balance is at \$9,173.54 with available funds \$6,053.54. There is a \$3,000 account balance being kept for events, recess appointment, to see what's needed in the classroom.

Garden update

Emily Cho

To contact Emily please email westvalegarden@gmail.com

The garden is located along the alleyway. Emily has 43 families that are interested in the project. There was \$1,800 spent on materials, to raise beds, shed, hose and accessories. A rain barrel was provided by TSC who also donated 6 gardening sets for kids and gave a substantial discount on purchases and free dirt. The budget was previously set at \$2,500 and there is currently \$700 left for raised beds near the walls, build more gardening places, plant perennials and vegetables. Currently Emily is seeking donations in the form of time commitment from parents to help assemble, shovel dirt, raise beds, plant and possibly a few trucks to carry the dirt and mulch from the landfill.

Furthermore, there will be a need for parents' investment in producing resources for teachers in how to incorporate gardening into their teaching schedule and information. Teachers have been notified of the project and there were a few who jumped on board right away.

Friday, October 11, 2019 classes will be involved with this gardening project during the day, however there will be a need of parents to help either October 10 or 11th in the evening.

Financial Requests

Jodie Myer

<i>Turkey Trot (conditional upon event coordinator)</i>	\$150
<i>Development Disability Class Music Program</i>	\$1000
<i>Silver Birch/Blue Spruce</i>	\$750 (maximum proposed)

1st person to motion: Tonya

2nd person to motion: Bobbie and Naeem

Motion was passed with everyone's approval.

Westvale Newsletter will be done by Ruth again, however the council proposed to pay for the newsletters at a cost of \$120.

1st person to motion: Jen

2nd person to motion: Emily

Motion was passed with everyone's approval.

Fundraising for 2019-2020

Tonya Veltman

Reminder about ongoing Fundraiser

- Cobs
 - o Store located at Ira Needles and University – mention the school name and they will pay Westvale 10% of sales.
- Mabel's Labels – needs to be renewed. Tonya will look into it.
- Fundscrip, <https://www.fundscrip.com/>
 - o Purchase gift cards. No fee associated and a percentage goes back to the school.
- ESNS, <https://www.esns.ca/nutrition> is being considered as a future fundraiser which would replace pizza day. Parents would need to order ahead of time for the child and there would be a need for a parent volunteer to help distribute the food.
- Grade 6 are doing the Fresh from the farm fundraiser again this year. Information was sent home this week.

November Event/Family Fun night?

- Movie nights
- Dances

Possible fall fundraisers – food basket, Big Box of Cards, vendor night, fundraising letter.

The following are some of the projects the council has helped fund through continuous fundraising: Chrome books, audio equipment and the construction of the playground.

The council is looking into the possibility to do a fundraiser for school t-shirts.

What should we be fundraising for? (suggestions from Jodie/group – Mud Kitchen)

There is currently interest in building a mud kitchen out in the yard for the kids. Kitchen would be made of wood and a sink with no plumbing. The lumber and sink would put the project around \$500-\$750 to be sourced.

The music teacher is looking to purchase instruments and looking at fundraising between \$500-\$1,000. These instruments would have to be newly sourced from a specialty company.

The fundraiser at meet the teacher night helped raise \$310 by having the food trucks attend.