

Principal's Report for School Council

Wednesday, January 22nd, 2020

Welcome

Tonya Veltman (1 min)

In attendance: Rick, Amber, Doerte, Laura, Heatherm Larissa, Stephanie, Tonya, Jodie, Emily, Bobbie-Joe, Christine, Heidi

Territorial Acknowledgement

Jodie Meyer (1 min)

WRAPSC Discussion

Heidi Holmes (15 min)

WRAPSC discussion
items Feb 2020 (1).pr

Heidi was unable to go to the last meeting WRAPSC meeting.

Heidi advised that at this time there is a need for parents input on topics they would find valuable to discuss/bring forward. Input to some topics: the pro event – the region event every few years, it usually happens at the end of March or April. There are 3 different dates at high-schools, in the evening on a weekday with a different topic every evening. Any input on topics are welcomed.

March 31, April 8 and April 30 – S Jam, Forest heights and Galt.

Mental health, promotion of trades, nutrition, human trafficking and some lighter topics. There will be food served.

Ideas were discussed on additional topics to maybe bring forward in the future especially for elementary schools.

Principal's Report

Jodie Meyer (5 min)

Power went out around 1:30 - 2:00, heat was affected and some lights were affected. Heat is not working at the current time of the meeting, however escalating steps were taken in order to ensure school continuity the following day where students would not be kept in the cold.

1. We received our hydroponic tower garden kit...sort of. We are missing the lights and some parts of the tower. Mrs. Balkos has been great at keeping the lines of communication open with the Seeds of Diversity School Food Garden project coordinators and it sounds like the parts are forthcoming. We just need to exercise some patience. We will get the garden up and running as soon as we can.
2. Kindergarten registration is in full swing for our new group of upcoming JKs. Registration takes place in steps, starting with an online piece followed by an in-school

appointment. On Wednesday, May 13th, we are hosting our annual Kindergarten open House for all of our new families (and will be giving our new students a Westvale T-shirt!)

3. We hosted comedian juggler John Park last week for an entertaining show with the whole school. John not only entertained us, but also delivered a powerful message about the importance of sticking with a task to achieve a goal. His show really resonated with our students and staff. He was highly engaging and funny with consistent messaging about the power of perseverance.
4. Unfortunately, ETFO and OSSTF job action has made for very uncertain times for everyone and has meant that “pause has been pressed” on a number of things that normally occur at this time of year, including hockey club and ski club. We’ve also had to pause our monthly character education assemblies and there are no field trips being planned or occurring. The Kodaly Choral Festival will also not be happening this year. You will also notice that we don’t have any teacher representation at tonight’s meeting as this is also a “struck” action. However, we are still able to proceed with extra-curricular activities such as intramural basketball, yoga club, coding club, Forest of Reading program and Caribou Math contests as they are embedded in the school day. In addition, the Science Fair and Invention Convention is full steam ahead as it is parent-organized under the leadership of Aaron Stuart. I am going to pick up the tab again for all of the presentation backboards. The date of this year’s fair is Wednesday, April 15th, 2020.
5. I have been hearing that the intersection of Thorndale and Westvale is a repeated “hotspot” for non-compliant drivers who don’t heed to the crossing guard and this is a potential safety hazard for our many students and families who cross there to get to and from school. I have brought the concerns to the attention of the Manager of Transportation at the City of Waterloo and she was very receptive. She has also heard from others in the neighbourhood. She has brought the issues to the attention of the Waterloo Regional Police and the hope is that they can be present to address the aggressive and non-compliant drivers. Concerned parents are encouraged to call the City of Waterloo and/or report concerns to the Waterloo Regional Police.

Cookbook Fundraiser update

Doerte Schulze (20 min)

Doerte presented the idea of creating a school cookbook as a fundraiser. The cost would be \$5 with a sale price of \$12, with a minimum of 100 orders. At this time the fundraiser cannot be taken on due to the inability to collect funds. In order to ensure success of this fundraiser there would be a need of a minimum of 12 weeks from the planning to printing/publishing stage. This project was added to the agenda in order to be discussed at a later meeting once the strike has resolved.

Doerte is willing to take the project on.

Possible Second Garden Update

Emily Cho (10 min)

Grade 6 has been working on designing a second garden (Mr Bailey's class).

Inviting students to take ownership of each of the growing cups in the library for the indoor garden.

Emily discussed having a hulticulture resource funds for each of the 20 classrooms in the school and she believes about \$20/class would help with the purchase of the items needed. The committee discussed to first see what is actually needed for the curriculum, what items could be donated to the school by the parents and then developing a schedule of what else is needed in order to approve/pass a budget.

Treasurer's Report

Rick Foucalt (5 min)

Commitments, rebates and budgeted items were discussed and addressed.

Update on spirit wear

Bobbi-Joe (5 min)

Spirit wear profit calculated between the council and Staples is quite different. Discussion between council was for a problematic order for a student who has not received his order and what solutions are feasible in order to resolve the issue.

Family Fun Night Update

Tonya Veltman (5 min)

There were almost \$1,000 made from the evening which turned out to be a great success. It was suggested to look at having a similar event in the spring.

Request for Snack Volunteers for next meeting

Bobbie-Joe and Doerte

Next Meeting Date: February 26, 2020, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.