

Westvale School Council Agenda

February 26, 2020, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the Library

(Babysitting will be provided)

Welcome (1 min) Tonya Veltman

Territorial Acknowledgement (1 min) Jodie Meyer

WRAPS (Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils) & PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) Update (5 min) Heidi Holmes

Principal's Report (10 min) Jodie Meyer

1. Our hydroponic tower garden parts have all arrived! Mrs. Balkos has figured everything out and the planting is underway. A variety of lettuces have been planted (including bib lettuce, rainbow chard, and arugula) along with basil. As soon as the seed germinate and the plants sprout, they are placed into the garden tower. For safety reasons, the UV lights will be programmed to come on at 3 p.m. every day and turn off at about 3 a.m. (we've decided that the lights are too bright to have on during the day when students are in the library). This will be a very exciting project for the kids, especially when the plants start to grow.
2. Westvale is hosting Strong Start training again this year. The training dates were earlier this week on February 24th and upcoming on March 2nd. This wonderful program, coordinated by Taryn McKinnon, services many of our students in the development of basic literacy skills in addition to the instruction received in the classroom.
3. Kindergarten registration is ongoing and we're pleased to already have 40 new Junior Kindergarten students registered to start school in September 2020.
4. The Region of Waterloo has been communicating with all WRDSB schools about their annual Immunization Suspension Program. This week, families of students without up-to-date immunizations will start receiving letters in the mail with hopes that all necessary steps can be taken to avoid suspension on March 25th, 2020.
5. Our Forest of Reading program is in full swing. Every class is having Blue Spruce books read to them by Mrs. Balkos and Madelle Thwaites is covering the French books with our Immersion students. Voting will take place at the end of April.
6. Labour action has continued to make school life a little unpredictable for students, families and staff. We are making the best of the situation and appreciate the impact this is having on numerous levels. I continue to encourage any families not yet subscribed to the WRDSB and Westvale websites to do so

as this is the best way to receive up-to-date information as it becomes available (all you have to do is enter your email address and hit the “subscribe” button). I will continue to send information out via School Day whenever I can and apologize if these “blasts” are duplicating information –it’s better to err on the side of over-communicating as opposed to having any families miss important updates.

Pic and Pro Grant Applications Update (5 min)

Jodie Meyer

\$500 is automatically given from the board however the other \$500 was given based on the application submitted. The cyber speaker is scheduled to present on June 18, 2020.

Treasurer’s Report (10 min)

Rick Foucault

No changes in commitments since the last meeting, however this report was combined with Bobbie Joe’s update on *Spirit Wear*. Due to ongoing issues with the vendor the invoice of \$1,462 was waived and that money is no longer committed.

School Community event ideas – *Money from Spirit wear* (20 min)

Tonya Veltman

Since the money that was committed for Spirit Wear is no longer spoken for, the council discussed ways to end the year by giving back to the students and families by having an end of school year event on June 11, 2020

Some of the ideas that were put forward were: contacting the fire department and ambulance to see if they could make an appearance. 91.5 The Beat might come.

The food trucks will be contacted to see about inviting: the Schmuck Truck, Mexican food truck – nachos and the ice-cream truck. By popular demand the council would like to see a food truck with French fries since the kids seem to really enjoy it. The ideas put forward for entertainment is to do a movie night in the gym.

There will be a need for volunteers at 5pm.

Other entertainment for the kids would be: photo booth, Kitchener Rangers, rentals for popcorn, face painting and animal balloons.

Tonya will reach out to Scholar’s Choice, fire department, ambulance and 91.5 radio station.

Classroom Garden Activity Proposal Updates (20 min)

Emily Cho

Tonya presented a couple of proposals as they were sent by Emily via email.

Proposal 1

List of options – students can check what they want to plant.

Proposal 2

Teachers sign up – each workshop can be tailored up to \$35/classroom but the cost is more likely to be around \$23/classroom. It was calculated to total about \$410 with a total average at \$23.

The council discussed putting forward a budget which Emily could use in conjunction with teachers' input and provide an update at the following meeting in April.

A motion was put forward by Stephanie at \$500, Tanya second it, followed by a unanimous vote.

Chick Hatching Project Update (10 min)

Stephanie

The eggs will be setting on May 11 and will be hatching in the first week in June. The chicks will need to be rehomed in June. The order of hatched chicks will be the same as last year at a cost of \$20 for 12 eggs. The wood chips bedding will be around \$20-25. The max budget asked for this project is \$75, however it is likely to end around \$50.

The type of chickens Westvale is getting this year are called Sexlink chickens.

Jen put forward a motion, Bobbie-Joe second it and it was passed with a unanimous vote at a \$75 budget.

Stephanie brought forward another idea she had been working on, library bags. The current library bags have been ripping and taping them has become an annoyance. The council has been purchasing the library bags in the past, however they don't seem to last very long. The new bags she has been looking to purchase for the school would be cinch waterproof sacks which are believed to last much longer. The cost for 420 students would be close to \$2025. Stephanie will obtain a sample bag from the vendor and get one of her children to try it out before the council commits to a large order.

Other items:

Susan Morley (music teacher) has been working diligently to purchase musical instruments for the kids.

Used book fair is tentatively scheduled for April 20, 2020 (based on availability of borrowed tables from the science fair), but has not been confirmed

Tonya and Christine are on for snacks at the next meeting.

