



Westvale *Public School*

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## **School Council Meeting minutes October 28, 2020, 6:30pm Virtual Meeting**

**Welcome to those attending** – Karma Harris, Liz Kristensen, Laura Gillians, Marisa Moser, Doerte Shulze, Jodie Hancox-Meyer, Tonya Veltman, Kira Brusckhe, Rick Foucault, Christine Glidden, Jenn Amos, Heidi Holmes, Cristina Shaffer, Krista Luft, Amber Fitzgerald

### **Welcome Message – Tonya Veltman**

- Meetings are going to be virtual for the time being
- Positions are all acclaimed this year.
  - Rick Foucault (Treasurer)
  - Tonya Veltman (President)
  - Christine Glidden (Secretary)
  - Voting Members (Members at Large)
    - Cristina Shaffer
    - Laura Gillians
    - Heidi Holmes
    - Doerte Shultze
    - Bobbi-Jo Seitz
- Email Jodi if you would like to be included as a voting member

### **Territorial Acknowledgement – Jodie Hancox-Meyer**

### **Principal's Report – Jodie Hancox-Meyer**

- It has been an interesting and challenging fall in so many ways. What continues to amaze me is how resilient the kids are and how well they are embracing all of the changes that we've thrown at them with the re-opening of school in September. The students have adapted incredibly well to wearing masks, staggered entry and exit, way-finding lines and arrows in the hallways, physical distancing, frequent hand hygiene, different nutrition break routines, bathroom routines, our mobile library and so many more things! The staff has worked hard as well to learn health and safety procedures and protocols and they've done a great job with welcoming the kids back and adapting to lots of new routines in their teaching practices. I am really proud of everyone!

- Phys Ed has been outdoors
  - 25% of students are doing virtual learning
- Westvale has undergone 2 re-organizations so far this fall, one right before school started (where we had to collapse 1 kindergarten and 1 primary core class) and one last week (where we had to collapse 1 primary French Immersion class). Thus far, 4 of our staff have been seconded to the Distance Learning program (including one of our DECEs). Once again, even though somewhat disruptive to students and staff, these changes were embraced by all and the transition seems to have gone relatively smoothly. Progress report cards will be completed by the teacher who taught the students from September up to the date of the reorganization on October 22nd. Reorganization means new timetables for staff and a new supervision schedule to be created. There is a lot of work behind the scenes that happens every time this happens and the whole Westvale team has pulled together to make it work.
- A message around Halloween was sent out to all families last week on School Day. This message aligns with the direction that the WRDSB is giving around costumes and treat-sharing being inconsistent with the safety protocols and routines at school. Thus, we've asked this year for no costumes to be worn or brought to school on October 30th and also for no treat sharing (food on non-food). Instead, we're looking forward to having a "black and orange" theme day for those who wish to participate.
- Your child may have mentioned that we have practiced 3 fire drills this fall. This is in keeping with Board policy. The drills were modified such that physical distancing was adhered to and we have modified the exit doors we use in order to maximize the number of doors. The drills went very well and the students were cooperative and diligent at following our new drill routines.
- Much of the way teachers instruct students has had to be "re-invented" in some ways. This is particularly true in Mrs. Morley's music program. Public Health has vetoed singing and chanting which has meant that she has had to get very creative with the activities she is doing with the classes. You will remember that School Council very generously gave Mrs. Morley \$2000 last year to spend on enhancement to the music program which would benefit all students. Unfortunately, due to circumstances, this money was not spent. However, this may have been a blessing in disguise as some of her purchases will be made through the new lens of teaching music during a pandemic! Mrs. Morley has spent about \$550 of the allocated \$2000 and is looking forward to using the new drumsticks, "boomwackers" and other percussion instruments with the students. She also has plans for the rest of the money and I will keep Council updated with what she buys.
- At some point over the next month or so, we are looking at moving our line-up locations from their current location on the field. With the advent of snow, ice and snowbanks from plowing, we would like to have our classes "staged" more on the tarmac closer to the school. This will be done with much planning and consideration to ensure that we are still keeping classes physically distanced and utilizing as many doors as possible to allow for the most expedient entry and exit during morning entry and afternoon dismissal.
- Progress Report cards for Grades 1 – 6 students and Kindergarten Initial Observations Reports will go home on Friday, November 20th. For those students who recently transitioned to the Distance Learning program, the reports will be mailed. The reports will be completed by the

teacher who taught the student up to October 21st, which was the last day prior to our most recent reorganization. The term 1 reports, which go home in mid-February, will be completed by the educator who taught the student from October 22nd onwards.

### **Teacher Report – Marisa Moser**

- Everything is going well for the staff. We are happy to have received Raz kids in English and French for students to access home reading at home so thank you Jodie for finding space in the budget for that. Staff are adapting everyday to the new changes and overall I think are adjusting well to the new school year. We are starting to all get into more of a routine and students are adjusting well and engaged! For Remembrance Day we are working on preparing something virtual for the students and staff to enjoy as well as setting up spirit days once a month to bring the school community together.

### **WRAPSC Updates – Heidi Holmes**

- Heidi is the WRAPSC Co-Chair this year
- Waterloo Regional Association of Parental and School Councils
- Next WRAPSC meeting is Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> (zoom link to be sent by Heidi)
  - Agenda will include questions around common concerns regarding virtual and distance learning as well as class size concerns

### **Treasurer's Report – Rick Foucault**

- Carryover process has not been completed at the school board level (we are waiting for their report)
- Approximate balance in June 2019 was \$9400 (of which \$5700 is committed, leaving approximately \$3300 in available funds)
  - Commitment summary:
    - \$3000 float
    - \$120 for council newsletters
    - \$2000 for Mrs. Morley's music program
    - \$500 for garden activity proposal
    - \$75 for chick hatching
- Detailed report will come once we receive the report from the board
- Some activities (like chick hatching) will need to be evaluated closer to the event date as they are not possible with the current public health restrictions

### **Ongoing Fundraisers – Tonya Veltman**

- **Fundschrift** –When purchases are made through the fundschrift tool, Westvale gets a portion of that back (e.g. money spent on gift cards).
- **Cobb's** – A portion of sales from the Boardwalk Cobb's location goes to Westvale school council if you mention that your child goes to Westvale Public school.

- **Action Item** - Tonya to connect with Cobb's to find out the balance and the timeline for the payout
- Second highest paid school at the last payout
- **Mabel's Labels** – A portion of funds spent on Mabel's Labels goes to Westvale council when Westvale is selected
- **Action Item** – Tonya to put together some information to send out via School Day regarding ongoing fundraisers; Jodie to send that out

### **Potential Agenda Items for Next Meeting – Tonya Veltman**

- Looking for potential agenda items for the next meeting
- Not a lot of opportunity for us to do in-person fundraising
- Discuss how we can recreate school engagement without being able to meet

### **General Discussion**

- Heidi - Can we as council support the school in trying to engage the kids in some fun activities (e.g. Spirit Day, council could donate prizes for inter-class competition). Could we provide financial assistance or come up with activities?
- Tonya – Virtual Paint nights are a possibility (parents/children buy supplies based on a list, for \$5 you register for the virtual paint night)
- Marisa – Trivia night or music bingo as possible events
- Christine – Do we need Chromebooks?
  - Jodi – We have 23 new Chromebooks on order, due to arrive in November
  - Jodi – We have about 25 “end of life” Chromebooks that would need to be replaced when they stop working
- Heidi – What about equipment to support outdoor activities so students can each have their own skipping rope (for example). What about in-class manipulatives so each child can have their own.
  - Jodi – Additional supplies have been purchased for in-class manipulatives
- Jodi – Would like to see council focus on engagement and bridging the gap between distance learning and in-person learning and look for opportunities to help distance learning families feel connected
  - Could council fund something like paint nite and have people sign up for free?
- Jodi – Early evening experiences would allow in person and distance learners to participate as daytime schedules do not align
- Tonya – Virtual concerts, virtual crock-a-doodle kits are other ideas or virtual concerts
- Christine – Paul Davis was going to be funded via grant money, what's the status on this?
  - Jodi – Not sure if this money can still be used
  - Heidi – WRAPSC is asking about the unused monies from last year.
  - Heidi looked into the cost (\$250 for the online version; 60 mins online no noted cap in number of participants) – it's for grades 4, 5, and 6

- Heidi – If we do it during the day for in school learners, could we pool with other councils to fund an evening session for online learners?
  - Amber – Is there also a session for parents available?
- Heidi – Has a trivia event ready to go for parents
  - Second city has an improv session
- Jodi – Cookbook initiative (brought forward by Doerte last year) could potentially work this year
  - Doerte – Distribution of the physical books could be problematic
- Laura – The Westvale community association Halloween parade event has lots of candy and will be distanced/safe, consider participating

**Next Meeting Date – November 20, 2020 at 6:30 pm**