



Westvale *Public School*

265 Westvale Drive, Waterloo, Ontario N2T 2B2
Phone (519) 746-6724 Fax (519) 746-1965

School Council Meeting minutes November 25, 2020, 6:30pm Virtual Meeting

Welcome to those attending –

Name	Present	Name	Present
Karma Harris	X	Kira Brusckke	X
Liz Kristensen	X	Rick Foucault	X
Laura Gillians	X	Christine Glidden	X
Marisa Moser	X	Jenn Amos	
Doerte Schulze	X	Heidi Holmes	X
Jodie Hancox-Meyer	X	Cristina Shaffer	
Tonya Veltman	X	Krista Luft	
Amber Fitzgerald	X	Bobbie-Jo Seitz	X
Stephanie Evansberg	X		

Welcome Message – Tonya Veltman

- Last meeting of 2020, next meeting is Jan 27th

Territorial Acknowledgement – Jodie Hancox-Meyer

WRAPSC Updates – Heidi Holmes

- Presentation from last WRAPSC meeting is available for anyone who didn't attend
- At the meeting, discussed the results of a study which confirmed that the larger the class size, the greater the likelihood of an outbreak
- Next Meeting is January 12th, and anyone is welcome
 - Looking to get someone from public health to provide more clarification on what their parameters are
- November newsletter is available from Parents Engaged in Education
<https://www.parentsengagedineducation.ca/media/docs/newsletters/nov-20.pdf>
 - Includes tips to promote community involvement

Principal's Report – Jodie Hancox-Meyer

- New voting members (Members at Large):
 - a. Karma
 - b. Kira
 - c. Liz
 - d. Cristina
 - e. Stephanie Evansberg
- Progress Reports and Kindergarten Initial Observations of Learning went home on Friday, November 20th. This was likely the most unique and challenging set of report cards that teachers have ever had to write given the circumstances that COVID19 has thrown at us. There is not official time set aside for parent-teacher interviews this year, but as always, parents are always encouraged to reach out to the child's teacher to discuss their child's progress via phone, email, etc.
 - a. There are gaps over where kids would have been normally because of the months when school was closed. Even now that we are back there is less time in the instructional day in general due to early dismissal and late arrival in order to promote distancing. Handwashing and washroom breaks are also taking longer, to promote safety, which is removing time from the instructional day.
 - b. Teachers are meeting the kids where they are at.
 - c. Teachers at Westvale are collaborating with the teachers from the previous grade to find out where the previous grade's teacher left off and to help kids catch up on the curriculum they missed out on.
 - d. Some kids are at the expected levels for their grade, others are much further behind.
 - e. Expectation is that teachers will be working to fix this gap for more than just this school year.
- Our transition to having our classes line up for the beginning and end of the day on the tarmac has been relatively successful and will allow us to proactively not have to deal with line ups travelling through deep snow and snow plow piles. Once again, our students and their families showed great flexibility with adapting to this change. We continue to remind families about giving the line ups some "space" and having the adults wait on the periphery of the tarmac to allow for adequate physical distancing. We also continue to remind those who are dropping off and picking up students to wear a mask while on school property.
- This morning, we had the whole school enjoy a virtual performance by Luca Patuelli (also known as Lazylegz). Luca has turned his physical disability into a gift to share with others and his message of "no excuses, no limits" was really well received by our students. Luca has developed his own personal dance style using his incredible upper body strength and his crutches and he demonstrated this, along with teaching the kids some dance moves, all while a DJ played music. Along with being featured at Westvale P.S., Luca has also appeared on the Ellen Show, So You Think You Can Dance Canada and America's Got Talent.
- I would like to thank Liz Kristensen, who has done something small but very impactful on behalf of School Council. After our meeting last month, Liz approached me and

volunteered to write thank you letters to some unsung heroes on behalf of Council. Together, we came up with a list including our 2 crossing guards, the 2 EAs who are running Nutrition for Learning, our custodial staff and our secretaries. These little cards were delivered and I can personally vouch for how meaningful they were to their recipients. Thanks, Liz, for doing this small but mighty deed of kindness. I would also like to share that there is an anonymous letter writer who has twice posted the most beautiful and articulate letters of thanks to the whole staff on the outer doors of our school. It is hard to express just how much these meant to each and every one of us as we have navigated through a very challenging fall to date. Thank you and bless you, anonymous letter-writer!

- I have made arrangements with Paul Davis to do a virtual workshop on social media and internet safety with our junior students during the day on January 26th. Our students in our grade 3/4 classes up to grade 6 will participate as Paul's workshop is live-streamed into our classrooms. Unfortunately, there isn't a way to include all of our online learners as they are spread across many different classes with many different teachers out there, but we are hoping to be able to plan a "parent" workshop in partnership with School Council that same evening, which parents of both in-person and online learners can participate. My hope is that more conversation about this can be had tonight and we can move forward with those plans.
- On December 3rd and 4th we are going to have a COVID-safe food drive at Westvale. We are aware of the increased need in our community this year and want to be able to help out. This drive is taking place under the leadership of Miss Seergobin and many of our staff are volunteering with the many jobs that need doing to make the initiative run smoothly and the food delivered to the Food Bank. More information will be forthcoming on School Day. In a nutshell, donations will happen during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up at the outside gym doors off of the tarmac. This way, we will be able to safely collect food without having students bringing it into their classrooms. We are excited to be doing this and being able to support those in need in some small way.
 - a. Instead of being done over a week to 10 days, it will be two days of collection only
- You have likely read the WRDSB announcements that came out last week around the significant changes that will occur starting this year when buses are cancelled on inclement weather days. If buses are cancelled, all school will now automatically be closed for in-person learning. Teachers will make learning opportunities available on their Google classroom or D2L Brightspace platform for students to do some virtual learning on those days. The learning provided by teachers will not be synchronous or "live" but teachers will be available to students and their families during the school day and will be posting learning activities. This decision was made for safety reasons because on severe weather days, quite often staff who live outside of the city are not able to safely make it into work and we end up having to combine classes to ensure we've got adequate teacher coverage. With COVID safety guidelines, we can no longer do this. The WRDSB will make every attempt to make school closure announcements by 6 a.m. on those days.

- a. Learning opportunities will be provided, but children will not be required to complete the activities

Teacher Report – Marisa Moser

- The past month seems to have flown by. We have just finished writing progress reports and are now focussed on more learning ahead. In terms of events for students, we held a whole school virtual Remembrance Day ceremony thanks to Mr. Bailey's grade 6 class, Mlle Moser and Mrs. Morley. We also made wreaths and put them on the front lawn for the community to help us in remembering the fallen soldiers.
- We had a spirit day for anti bullying last week where students dressed in Pink.
- Coming up this week we have another spirit day of Crazy Hair Day/Crazy Sock Day for students and staff to take part in.
- For the month of December, we will be doing a covid-friendly version of the Westvale Wow's that students can earn for demonstrating kindness to others and within their classrooms.
- We will also be playing whole school virtual music bingo on the last day of school to celebrate the holidays!

Treasurer's Report – Rick Foucault

- \$53 in revenue from Mabel's Labels
- No other changes
- Opening balance was just over 9k
- Have just under \$5700 in commitments (includes our 3k minimum balance)
- Available balance just over \$3400
- \$926.80 from Cobb's
- Still waiting for the year over year rollover from the Board to finalize the numbers
- Tonya - Suggestion to remove chick hatching from the budget since there probably won't be an opportunity to do it this year
- Stephanie – Suggestion to remove the newsletter budget, need to see if any money had already been spent last year
 - Tonya confirmed no money has been spent, can be removed from the budget
- Jodie – Suggest removing the gardening budget as well, the budget was for an in-person class-by-class activity

Paul Davis Update – Jodie

- Parent info session is \$450+ HST normally, could be a reduced rate if we share with another school for the parent session. Steckle school collaboration.
- Would be evening of Tuesday January 26th.
- Topics include: not using social media until 13, online gaming, coding, robotics, digital trail, and more
- Motion to provide funding by Laura
- Seconded by Heidi

- Vote: 10 members support this, motion carried
- **Action Item:** Jodie to follow up with Paul Davis to let him know we are able to move forward, will let Rick know the actual amount
- **Action Item:** Jodie to promote the event via school day
- Heidi asks if Paul could send a list of resources that could be shared with distance learners

Cookbook Update – Doerte Shulze

- Difficult to sell with nothing specific to fundraise for
- Suggest we wait until it's easier to do this in person

Brainstorming for engagement of community and school group – All Members

- e.g. Trivia Night, Prizes for assemblies, Music/concert nights, talent shows, magic show, skipping roles for classrooms, Paint night (Tonya has update and pricing), Mental Health nights
- Tonya – Paint nite, artistic Chris – would supply a link to a Facebook live event. Participants would use a password in order to link in. Costs are 1-15 ppl \$125, 16-25 ppl \$200, 26-50 ppl \$300. Each participant would need to purchase their own materials – a list would be provided. Supplies might include 2-5 colours, 2-5 paintbrushes, and a canvas. Could do various themed events. Appropriate for all ages, including kindergarten.
 - Kira – is it an equity issue to ask families to purchase supplies?
- Marissa – equity is an issue, should be considered with events
 - Interactive magic show could be interesting, willing to look into cost
- Heidi – Virtual Bingo, Heidi willing to run
 - Tonya would donate a prize
 - Bobbi-Joe seconds bingo
- Stephanie – art night instead with video tutorials
- Doerte – need to make sure people have everything they need (would need to send out a list)
 - If we do a paint night, could we provide a kit (curbside pickup) for families that want it (Doerte offering to gather this up)
- Tonya – is it too late to do anything before January?
- Heidi – suggest providing a link to allow for donations as part of the event
- Kira – what about a concert of some sort for a local artist? Support someone from an industry in need.
- To look into the KWS or another musician who might be able to do a virtual event for 2021, to provide an update for January
- Virtual Games night is a go
 - **Action Item:** Jackie Jones to put it on School Day, Tonya to arrange for the advertising/messaging to send to Jackie
 - **Action Item:** Heidi to organize the day
 - Virtual games night will be December 17th from 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm
 - Need someone to acquire prizes (swiss chalet gift card, or other gift cards)
 - Tonya motions: \$250 to go out to this event

- Heidi seconds: 12 votes, motion passed
- **Action Item:** Heidi to get the gift cards

Next Meeting Date – January 27, 2020 at 6:30 pm