



Westvale Public School

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**School Council Meeting minutes
June 9, 2021, 6:30pm
Virtual Meeting**

Welcome to those attending –

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

Welcome Message – Tonya Veltman

Last meeting of the 2020/2021 school year.

Territorial Acknowledgement – Jodie Hancox-Meyer

Principal's Report – Jodie Hancox-Meyer

1. I would like to start with a huge thank you to each and every one of this year's School Council members for your support of Westvale, whether you were able to attend one meeting or all of them. It has been a challenging year with many changes and transitions and having engaged families has been a critical piece of maintaining a strong school community. A special thank you to Tonya Veltman for her leadership as School Council chairperson, Rick Foucault as treasurer and Christine Glidden as secretary. Also, thank you to Heidi Homes for keeping us in-the-loop with WRAPSC updates.
2. I would like to give another big thank you to Stephanie Schellenberg and her family for hosting the Westvale Virtual Chick Hatch. Historically, this has been something that we've done in-school in the library and it always generates a lot of excitement and learning for all of the students. This year, Stephanie has gone to a huge amount of work to bring the equipment and

fertilized eggs into her home, and creating and maintaining social media accounts with daily updates, photos and videos for our families to follow. Thank you so much, Stephanie, for your commitment to making this activity happen again for our kids.

3. We are currently awaiting direction from the Board around year end procedures given that the students will continue to learn online for the rest of the school year. Things we need direction on are: the picking up of any student belongings that remain at school, the collection of all of the technology which has been loaned out, the distribution of report cards (will they be picked up or mailed?), our grade 6 celebration (will we continue on with our plans for a virtual celebration?), when can staff re-enter the building to start to pack up/move classrooms. As you can see, there are many things which need to fall into place over the next 2 weeks. Please “stay tuned” to School Day, the Westvale website and the WRDSB website for important updates.
4. The deadline of June 2nd for families to choose their child’s mode of learning for next year has passed and we have a good handful of families who have chosen for their children to learn remotely. We are now deep into “staffing season” and organizing the school for next year. As you can imagine, the commitment of some families to continue to do distance learning has impacted school organizations across the Board (in-person schools have fewer classes and fewer staff allocated to them to support the staffing of distance schools).
5. We are welcoming about 35 new JKs and new SKs to Westvale in September. We are giving each child a “welcome bag” at the front door of the school (today and tomorrow from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.) and have also created a “Welcome to Kindergarten” video which is now posted on our website. Historically, we’ve hosted an open house for all of our new kindergarten students so we’ve had to get creative again this year with making families feel welcomed and giving them a virtual peek into the school. Mrs. Balkos, our library clerk, has also been doing weekly read-alouds with some of our new kindergartens and this has been a wonderful way for some of them to engage with the school prior to coming in-person in September.
6. The WRDSB has been working on an Enhanced Digital learning Strategy with implementation plans over the next few years. Currently, there is a huge discrepancy between the number of devices (iPads and Chromebooks) that schools across the WRDSB have been able to purchase. With equity in mind, individual schools are no longer able to purchase devices and the entire system will be centrally funded to ensure that each school, regardless of purchasing power, has the same ratio of devices for its students. These are the goals and timelines the WRDSB is aiming for:
 - 1:1 Chromebooks for grade 7 & 8 (2021/22)
 - 1:1 Chromebooks for grade 5 & 6 (2022-24)
 - 2:1 Chromebooks for grade 4
 - 2:1 (iPads/Chromebooks) for grade JK-3
 - 1:1 Staff

Teacher’s Report – Marisa Moser

- Staff are busy writing report cards and finishing up assessments for students in the virtual environment.
- On Tuesday afternoon many classes acknowledged and celebrated World Ocean Day. Some participated in a live youtube presentation and did follow up activities in their virtual classrooms.
- The Gr 3/4 class is enjoying a virtual Medieval Week happening right now at our very own, 'The Museum' in Kitchener. So far we have learned about Arms & Armour, created our own family Shields, and explored Siege Warfare. We are excited to connect with a Falconer on Thursday

morning for a live zoom presentation on 'Birds of Prey.' A special thank you to Mrs. Meyer who generously paid for us to learn and explore virtual medieval times!

Treasurer's Report – Rick Foucault

- No changes from the last update
- Available funds are at \$4042.81

SAIDAT Family Fun Night – Tonya

- Feedback is that it was excellent, but the engagement was low
- Lots of talk about focusing on positives and gratitude

Support for Outdoor Learning

- Jodie engaged with the staff to ask for wish list items
 - Clipboards for every student (these have already been purchased for September), can be used outdoors to support writing/drawing
 - Outdoor seating
 - Lap desks
 - Magical Hammock reading forest
 - Shade Sails (have them up from April to October when we need sheltering from the sun)
 - Outdoor chalkboard
- To look at this in more detail next year

Other Discussion

- Need support for the area under the swing in the new playground like a rubber mat because it's become a mud pit; look at this next year

Next Meeting Date – September 2021