



Westvale *Public School*

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## School Council Meeting minutes October 5, 2022, 6:30pm

### Welcome to those attending –

Name	Present	Name	Present
Mary Sue Meredith	X	Liz Kristensen	X
Marisa Moser	X	Anita van Raalte	X
Tonya Veltman	X	Amber Fitzgerald	X
Stephanie Evans	X	Lynda Morris	X
Rick Foucault		Tamara DeCraemer	X
Christine Glidden	X	Richard Haightway	X
Bobbie Joe Seitz	X	Doerte Schulze	X
Tammy Hauser	X	Meredith Perez	X
Matthew Theis	X	Kathleen Merritt	X
Emily Cho	X	Jennifer Benninger	X
Zunaira Kafeel	X	Jagdeep Kaur	X

### Welcome Message – Tonya Veltman

### Territorial Acknowledgement – Mary Sue Meredith

### Principal's Report – Mary Sue

- Equity is important so we make sure everyone feels they belong
- When planning events, need to consider things through an equity lens:
  - What's the purpose?
  - Who benefits?
  - What's the unintended consequence?
- Pizza days are coming soon, money will be collected on school day
  - The price per slice will allow for extra slices to be available for students in need
  - Jennifer B raised a concern about food safety, surrounding "giving" pizza to students (because of allergies)
  - Pizza days will occur every other week on Fridays, starting Friday October 14<sup>th</sup> and ending December 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - Panago is the supplier
  - Costs are \$1.75 per slice, for a total cost of \$10.50 per slice for 6 Fridays worth of pizza
  - Payment can be made via school day

- On October 31<sup>st</sup> we will have “Orange and Black” Day
- A library clerk has been hired and the library has opened as of Monday! Eva Ryczko is a brand new employee of the board, but has a library sciences background. Everyone is very excited to have the library open again.

#### **Teacher’s Report – Marisa Moser**

- Today the Used Book Sale was held at school. Students enjoyed going to buy books. Thank you to everyone who donated.
- We have intramural soccer going on at Nutrition Breaks and there are 4 teams still competing to win!
- Next week some classes will have teacher candidates from Laurier in the classrooms learning from our staff and supporting students.
- An unfortunate update, buses for the outdoor ed centre have currently been cancelled so we are waiting to hear more information about that opportunity.
- Coming up this month we have 2 days booked for presentations from the Humane Society as well as picture day next Friday.
  - Picture Day is next Friday, October 14th

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

- No updates to treasurer’s report since last month’s update
- There are a few expenses from the boohoo breakfast that need to be reported (approx. \$150)
- Amount from WEFI fundraiser hasn’t been reported yet

#### **Garden Update – Emily**

- The community garden project improves emotional, social, and physical wellbeing (encourages problem solving, communication, physical activity, etc.)
- It also provides a real-life connection to the curriculum and the community
- Working in the garden provides children with a sense of ownership, pride, confidence and purpose
- We have raised beds and in ground garden beds, and the process of building this garden involved every class in the school
- Emily requested funds for some essentials for garden operations (hose, watering cans, nozzle for the hose, tote to store tools, hand tools, compost, and mulch) - \$135, assuming we can get soil and mulch donated as before as well as hand tool donations. Otherwise she is asking for an additional \$75 for three sets of hand tools.
  - Christine and Steph motioned to put forward \$200 for the essentials, Bobbie Joe seconded, majority voted in favour, motion passed
- Emily also requested funds for learning opportunities (mushroom kits, vermicompost bins, growing microgreens, growing succulents, soil)- \$146
  - Need enough for 19 classrooms

- Would like to give the teachers some options for what they would like to choose for their classrooms
- Mushroom kits grow in 1-2 weeks
  - Each harvest is called a flush, and normally each kit will yield 2-3 flushes
  - Mushrooms can be harvested and eaten or used for art
  - Average of 2 harvests
- The compost is very low maintenance and low smell
  - No limit on how long this will last
  - The worms will not overpopulate their areas
  - We could have these rotate through the classrooms
  - Would like to collect compost created to use in the vegetable gardens in the spring
  - Emily has the worms to donate
  - Because these are expensive, getting someone to take this afterward, would not be an issue
- Microgreens
  - Requires donated containers (jars, yogurt containers, etc.)
  - Seeds are approx. \$25 for 5 classroom kits
- Succulents
  - Emily has succulents to donate for this activity
  - There is no cost associated with this classroom kit as it would be 100% donated
- Mary Sue and Marisa to talk to the teachers to gauge interest and ask which kit each teacher is interested in

### **Science Fair – Kathleen**

- Would like to run the science fair again this year
- Historically, this had been done each year (prior to Covid)
  - Traditionally, it has been voluntary for a student sign up
  - There has traditionally been a cost of \$5 for boards, but in the past council has funded these as well
  - Traditionally, projects have been mostly done at home with parent involvement
  - Traditionally, projects have been done individually or in groups (of up to 4)
- We are still waiting to see if we can go forward with this event
  - Mary Sue – We need to think about it through the equity lens, and would want to integrate it into the curriculum so it's not only done at home. We would want to make sure it's not completed by parents. Mary Sue to talk with the teachers about this event, and to get them involved.
- Kathleen to look into the cost of the boards; consider funding these entirely through council to make this accessible.

### **Used Book Sale Update – Liz**

- Weds Oct 5<sup>th</sup> was the used book sale
- It went very well; book donations came flooding in at the last minute
- Kids were allowed to choose 1 book for free if they didn't bring money to school
- We had suggested prices in the last set of minutes, but it was decided for us to accept money on a suggested donation basis
- Liz said she has never seen so many kids so excited about a book
- Thanks to all of the volunteers who set up and helped with selling!
- There was a second opportunity for the kids and the community to purchase books from 3-6 pm on Oct 6th
- We have sold a lot, but there are still a lot left for sale on the 6th
- On Thursday will offer the opportunity to fill a box for a \$10 or \$5 donation (some of the books that are left are more dated, etc.)
  - The plan is to go with the flow to get them back out into the community where they can be used and enjoyed
- After Thursday at 6 pm, books in poor conditions will be recycled. Other books will be donated to neighbourhood little libraries or set up on a table at a station along the Halloween parade route.

### **Field Trip Money Request from Teachers – Mary Sue**

- Because of the lack of bus drivers, they have stopped outdoor education trips; instructors are instead coming into the schools
- Earliest bus trip bookings aren't available until at least December
- Teachers are not looking into field trips via bus at this time because of the driver shortage

### **Popcorn Fundraiser – Christine**

- We have run a popcorn fundraiser in the past, where students have the opportunity to come during nutrition break to purchase a bag of popcorn (GF and Peanut Free) from From Farm to Table Canada
- Popcorn costs \$0.70 plus HST and is typically sold for \$1.50 or \$2; proceeds could go toward school buses
- There is a minimum order of 13 cases of 32 packages of popcorn for free delivery, or we can pick up any quantity less than that via their facility in Cambridge
- Mary Sue has asked us to put this on hold until pizza days are up and running
- When we discuss, we also need to talk about the equity considerations and logistics (e.g. how can we make sure every student who wants popcorn can have a bag, even if they don't have money for one?)

### **WRAPSC Volunteer – Tonya/Christine**

- We need a volunteer to attend WRAPSC meetings on Tuesdays as a Westvale Rep.
- Richard Haighway has volunteered to attend these meetings
- The meeting from October talked about best practices for council agendas
  - They suggested making sure it was a collaborative effort to assemble an agenda, and that it be sent out a week prior to the meeting, if possible
- WRAPSC invited suggestions for future “best practices” topics, with the aim of doing a new one each week. A survey will precede the topic each month.
- At the Oct WRAPSC meeting, the trustee present also discussed Halloween for this year.
  - There will be no Halloween parades or parties this year, but students are welcome to wear costumes as long as they conform to the usual rules (no masks, no weapons, no cultural appropriation).
  - Schools may also choose to do a black and orange day.

### **General Fundraising and Activities – Tonya**

- Skipped due to lack of time; will discuss in November
- WEFI fundraising amount is unknown; Tonya to investigate for next time. We may send out the request for donations a second time if it was not successful the first time.

### **Snacks for Next Meeting**

- Volunteers for food/snacks for the next meetings are as follows:
  - Nov (Tam Hauser)
  - Another volunteer would be appreciated. If you would like to bring a snack, please contact [wsv-schoolcouncil@wrdsb.ca](mailto:wsv-schoolcouncil@wrdsb.ca).

**Next Meeting Date – November 2, 2022 from 6:30-8:00 pm**