



Westvale Public School

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School Council Meeting minutes November 2, 2022, 6:30pm

Welcome to those attending –

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

Welcome Message – Tonya Veltman

Territorial Acknowledgement – Mary Sue Meredith

Principal's Report – Mary Sue

- Michelle Meyers is on leave and Jann Newton has joined to cover for her in her absence
- WEFI fundraising initiative raised approximately \$350 for school council
- Mathify
 - Starting Monday Nov 7th, Grades 4 - 6 students will be involved in mathify training. This is offered by TV Ontario, and has been offered for 10 years. It started with high school students (9-12), and the last couple of years it has been available to Grade 6 students. This year it is also available for Grade 4s and Grade 5s.
 - Mathify offers free online tutoring from 9 am – 9 pm, Monday to Friday. There will also be someone coming into the school to help. <https://www.tvomathify.com/students>
 - There is an interactive white board and a chat available. Children use nicknames and teachers prompt students and help them to work out their challenges.

- There are interactive learning activities and they can be very popular at certain times of the night, especially near exams for secondary students.
- EQAO
 - For the EQAO results there was a glitch and schools were unable to access the results.
 - Usually principals get reports before the results are released to the public, but at the time of the meeting no results had been shared with the school.
 - The results are scheduled to be released to the public on Friday November 4th.
 - Detailed information will be provided to council when the information is available.
- Next Friday, November 11th, we will have a Remembrance Day assembly. This is the first assembly of the year. Teachers will go over etiquette for assemblies (being silent, etc.). There will be student performances and adult will be doing Master of Ceremonies.
- The Equity and Inclusion department is preparing equity videos to support school councils. These will be shared when available.
- The Twitter account for the school is active again! Follow us at @wsv_wrdsb

Teacher's Report – Marisa Moser

- Staff have been busy writing progress reports that will be going home later on in November.
- For Halloween, students participated in orange and black day or wore clothing/costume of their choice.
- Upcoming we have an assembly next week for Remembrance Day where students will perform and this day will also be the next pizza day.
- Room 6 will be virtually attending the Safety Village next week
- On Nov 16, the Toronto Great Lakes Zoo presentation will take place in classes that have signed up.
- Photo retake day will be on November 17 and there is a PA Day on November 18th.

Treasurer's Report – Rick Foucault

- Opening balance is \$7155 from last month.
- This month we have a collection of \$1639 (\$1249 from the book sale, and \$390 from the food trucks from Meet the Teacher night)
- Yet to be posted:
 - \$85 from our ongoing fundraiser with Mabel's Labels, but this is not yet on the books
 - Yet to be posted, is \$150 in expenses for the BooHoo Breakfast
- Outstanding Commitments:
 - There is still an outstanding commitment to Susan Morely for music equipment for \$525
 - There is an outstanding commitment for gaga balls for \$60
- In total, there are \$5210 in available funds (not including the 3k float amount that is held in reserve)
- Note that WEFI amounts are reported on separately as they are not in the same account

- We will send out another email to invite donations. It was suggested that giving Tuesday might be a good day for that (the Tuesday after US Thanksgiving).

Date	Description	Revenue	Expenditure	Commitment	Account Balance	Available Funds	Note
Oct 5, 2022	Balance carried from last report				7,155.57		
	Minimum balance			-3,000.00			
Oct. 23/19	Musical Instruments (Mrs. Morley)			-525.08			Original commitment was \$2,000 - (\$523.64 Dec/20 & \$951.28 in Sep/21)
Sept. 14/22	Gaga balls			-60.00			
Oct. 17/22	Used book sale	1,249.65					
Oct. 17/22	Food trucks	390.00					Kono \$120, Megacone \$100, Berlin 95 \$170
Nov 2, 2022	Current balance	\$1,639.65	\$0.00	-\$3,585.08	\$8,795.22	\$5,210.14	*Actual account balance not confirmed in financial records system.

Garden Update – Emily

- Received help to clean up garden and we also planted kale which will be ready when snow melts
- We did not get any takers to help truck compost from the landfill.
- We still have mulching and compost to do, but these can be done in the spring
- We need to explore donations for compost and mulch
- Mary Sue sent a survey to staff about interest in in-classroom gardening activities
 - 2 want vermicomposters right away
 - 5 teachers wanted to do gardening in the spring (mix of succulent and microgreens)
 - There was no interest in mushroom kits
 - Teachers interested to do the microgreens/succulents starting in March/April
- We may form a council to support the garden effort and would be looking to do this in the spring. The council would include teachers, students, parents, and community members.
- Emily inquired about adding on to the pollinator garden, as that was the original space that was earmarked for the expansion of the garden project. However, Mary Sue let us know that any additions or changes would have to go through outdoor education because that space is maintained by them and we are not supposed to do anything to the space without their consent.
- There are several grants available for gardening projects at schools. We could look into grants to expand the existing gardens if there is interest.
- We are looking for parent volunteers who are interested in exploring a vision for the future of the garden project and gardening space at Westvale. Staff and student involvement would be welcome as well.

Science Fair – Kathleen

- The Science Fair is a go! It will be held April 19th, 2022.
- Right now we have an approximate timeline and cost, but these may change. Costs of materials will depend on the number of registrations (as there is a discount for quantity, and because the board cost varies depending on the age of the student/size of the board).
- Typically there are about 120 students who participate, but this does not mean 120 projects as many student partner or form small groups to complete their science fair projects.

- Typically we have approximately 100 projects with 25 percent being JK/SK and Grade 1, and 75% being Grades 2-6. We purchase different boards for the two groups (JK/SK, and Grade 1 will have smaller boards, and larger boards will be available for Grades 2-6).
- Based on an estimate of 100 projects, and a similar ratio of small to large boards, it would be approximately \$400 to purchase all boards. This will vary depending on registrations.
 - The Dollar store has the smaller boards for \$2.50 each, sold in packs of 36
 - The bigger ones are cheaper through Staples, and cost about \$4.50 each, however these are currently backordered.
- Registration will be done in the new year, around the week of February 27th with a deadline of early March. However, these dates may change if we need to order the boards sooner due to supply issues. Registration information will be sent on School Day.
- We will send a heads-up email in January; Kathleen will draft the communication.
- We will need volunteers to help with the event. Please contact Kathleen if you are interested.
- Keats Way shared what they are doing – theirs is free. They got a grant from Parents Reaching Out (PRO). This grant is accepting applications until January and is up to \$500. The application can be requested in advance from the board, and will be automatically sent to principals in November.
- Mary Sue will forward the application when she receives it and Tonya will help fill out the grant form.

Used Book Sale Update – Liz

- We are so thankful for all of the volunteers!
- At the outset, we were not sure what to expect in terms of donations and volunteers and excitement, but it seemed to be successful.
- Liz asked if there was interest in doing it every year or every other year. One concern was regarding donations: if we do it every year, will we get enough donations?
- The group unanimously suggested making this an annual event. It was suggested that we add more volunteers to ease the burden on the primary organizer.
- A suggestion was made to send out a communication in June and then again in Sept asking people to “save your books” for the book sale.
- It is proposed that we do the book sale in October 2023, time permitting.
- As of the meeting all of the books are gone, and they all went back to the community. All remaining books were handed out at the community Halloween parade, and children enthusiastically collected books as part of the parade.

WEFI Update - Tonya

- We sent out an invitation for donations via School Day

- Instead of using a fundraiser where we sell something and receive a portion back, there is an option to donate directly to school council. Some people prefer to give in this way as it is simpler and comes with a tax receipt.
- We had a good amount of participation and received approximately \$350.
- Thank you to everyone who donated!
- If you are interested in contributing, you can make a donation to Waterloo Education Foundation (WEFI) - Westvale School (charitable status number 134114446RR0001). These donations would go directly into a fund for Westvale school and would directly support school council initiatives such as class field trips and events.
- Donations over \$25 are tax deductible and payments can be made via this link (choose Westvale PS - 0136 from the drop down list, and enter "For School Council" in the comments)
<https://www.wrdsb.ca/wefi/donate/>

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Waterloo Education Foundation Inc.

WEFI Helps and you can help, too.

Multiply the impact of your gift-giving this year, by making your donation in honour of someone special to...

[Read more](#)

DONATION DETAILS

DONATION AMOUNT

Donation Amount

Make my gift go further. I'd like to cover the \$0.98 processing fee so 100% of my donation goes to this charity.

FUND

Write a private message to us (optional)

WRAPSC Update – Richard

- This month's meeting was focused on Coalition of Muslim Women. This organization supports people who are victims of domestic violence in the community as well as victims of hate crimes.
 - They offer counselling for victims of domestic violence
 - They also offer speaking sessions to school councils
 - They encouraged councils to include more people of different ethnicities in their councils to help promote equity for council activities

- Volunteer Waterloo is an organization that helps connect people with volunteer opportunities. This is mainly used by high school students, but is available to anyone who would like to volunteer.
- This month's topic of best practices was applying for and using grants. Some highlights are below, but for a full list of grants available, refer to the linked file below in the Resources section.
 - PIC Grant is a line item in the school budget. You simply need to spend it and claim it (use it or lose it).
 - Little Green Thumbs grant (up to \$5000 for garden projects). Total amount of funding depends on factors like garden size.
 - PRO grant is \$500 and the application is due before Jan 1st
 - There are playground improvement grants available, as well as library grants and WWF grants available as well. Some schools use WWF grants for garden initiatives.
- As part of best practices, councils were encouraged to review the policies and bylaws on WRAPSC site.
- Resources:
 - [WRAPSC - Meeting.pptx](#)
 - [Grants November 2022.pdf](#)
 - [WRAPSC Presentation November 1 2022](#)
 - [WRAPSC November minutes.pdf](#)

Dominos Pizza – Tonya

- Last year we ran a Domino's fundraiser. Every Wednesday for two specific months (November and March) we had Domino's pizza orders.
- Anyone from Westvale could call in with a code and place an order for a large pizza. \$5 from each pizza went to the school council!
- We made a ton of money with very little effort, and everyone enjoyed the pizza nights.
- The Domino's program also offers gift cards for students on a weekly basis as well. These were given out via a draw to students.
- We were one of the most successful schools last year.
- We would like to offer it again, however, the franchise owner has said they require that schools participate in the lunch fundraiser to participate in the evening fundraiser. This year we are using Panago for the lunch time pizza, and that is not being done as a fundraiser event.
- Domino's has some offers for us to consider. Steph and Tonya will meet with them next week to see if we can make it work.
- Marisa suggested Panago as a vendor in the evening since we are using them already for pizza days, and that's another option to explore.

Babysitting for Meeting – Tonya

- We don't have anyone who has volunteered for babysitting in the new year.
- Without volunteers, we will not be able to have daycare as part of the council meetings.

- We need volunteers who are Grade 6 and up with their babysitting course.
- The daycare is offered from 6:30-8 pm in room 10 right across from the library where parents are meeting. This is a JK/SK room with toys and activities available. Children can be brought to their parents if needed during the meeting time.
- This is a great way to get involved in the community and to get your volunteer hours for high school students. It's also a great way to earn some babysitting experience if you are just starting out. You will have parent help nearby, as needed.
- If you know someone who is interested, reach out to Stephanie or Tonya.

Chickens Stephanie

- We have exciting news – it's a go for chicken hatch for 2023!
- We will be working with the new library tech to provide all the activities that have been provided in the past.
- We will plan to set the eggs in mid march, and hopefully they will hatch in time for science fair.
- We need to have a committed family who will take all the chicks (regardless of sex). If anyone you know has a farm, please let Stephanie know. We usually get 5 or 6 per year.
- We usually get sex linked chicks, so you can identify their sex right from birth. However, if a family is willing to take a specific type of chick, Stephanie can ask about the availability of that breed.
- Note that in Waterloo, you can only keep backyard chickens that are female, which is why it is important to find someone with a farm as one or more of the chicks may be male.
- We will need food and a new brooder for this year, and the brooder we've been using for several years has cracks. The costs will be approximately \$400.
- Bobbi Joe motions \$400. Emily seconded. Majority voted in favour; motion passed.

Movie Night - Tonya

- We will be offering a FREE movie night as a community building event.
- It will be held December 8th from 6:30-8:30, pending availability of the gym. December 15th is our second-choice date.
- We will have a movie on one side of the gym, and crafts available on the other side.
- Parents must stay with their children, but the event is entirely free.
- Regular popcorn will be provided via Kernels. Jennifer Benninger also offered to supply GF popcorn for celiac/GF students. Bobbie Joe will contact Kernels regarding the cost.
- There is a projector in the gym that will be used to display the movie, but there are associated costs with licencing the viewing of movies.
- We can get a list from the school board along with pricing. We will opt out of doing anything Disney as it's much more expensive (\$275). Other movies should cost between \$125 and \$200.
- Mary Sue will request a list, and we will provide a few options for students to vote on. The winning movie will be shown.

- Students need to bring a parent and a water bottle to the event. In the past, students have been encouraged in the past to bring a pillow or a blanket as seating will be on the gym floor. Students can come in pajamas as well, if they desire.
- We will accept food donations for the food bank at the door, but these are not required.
- We will need volunteers for this event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Tonya or Bobbi Joe.
- Jen motioned \$350 for movie night. Meredith seconded. The majority voted in favour; motion passed.

Other Topics – General Discussion

- Lynda expressed some concerns about some racism that her child experienced at the school and would like to explore options for anti-racism/inclusion education for both parents and students.
- Lynda will explore options for speakers. It would be ideal to have one for parents and one for students.
- Mary Sue has some resources to share with Lynda for her to explore.

Snacks for Next Meeting

- Sonali and Anita

Next Meeting Date – December 7th, 2022 from 6:30-8:00 pm