



Westvale Public School

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

School Council Meeting minutes March 1, 2023, 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	X	Tamara DeCraemer	X
Christine Glidden	X	Richard Haighway	X
Bobbie Joe Seitz	X	Meredith Perez	
Tammy Hauser	X	Kathleen Merritt	
Matthew Theis		Jennifer Benninger	
Emily Cho		Jagdeep Kaur	
Zunaira Kafeel		Aziz Dhamani	X
Kathleen Siegrist	X	Kristy Gall	
Doerte Shulze		Shireen Fawad	
Sonali Nair			

Welcome Message – Tonya/Steph

Territorial Acknowledgement – Mary Sue Meredith

Principal's Report – Mary Sue

- There is a Board Improvement and Equity Plan
 - Details available here: <https://www.wrdsb.ca/learning/board-improvement-and-equity-plan/>
 - Four Key Areas:
 - Achievement
 - Sovereignty/human rights/equity
 - Making sure there are fewer suspensions to increase time in class and looking for other ways to help the students (e.g. with mental health or developmental supports); only for grades 4-8, we do not suspend grades 1-3
 - Mental health/well being/engagement (for students, staff, and caregivers)

- Pathways and transitions (grade 6 to grade 7; from grade 8 to 9; from high school to whatever pathway you choose e.g. apprenticeship).
 - We know if a student has 16 credits by end of grade 10, they have a higher chance of graduating
 - We want to support different pathways, not just university and college
 - De-streaming is being done to make sure that students from different backgrounds have the same opportunities
- French Immersion (FI) and Core French Changes
 - There are several changes coming to the FI and core French programs
 - Details are available here: <https://www.wrdsb.ca/french/>
 - Summary
 - Grade 1 FI will not be available in the 23/24 year
 - FI will be available from grade 2-12
 - The purpose of FI is NOT to create fluency in French, rather it is to have students have confidence, proficiency, and achievement in all French as a Second Language programs
 - It is being delayed, in part, to give equity of access to all students (sometimes parents aren't aware they need to apply in kindergarten)
 - Staffing challenges are also related to why we are transitioning; it has been hard to get quality French teachers
 - In grade 1, if you were in core (that is not in French Immersion), you would have had 5 x 30 min periods of French
 - Starting in grade 1, students will have 1 hour per day (10 periods per week) in French (this is 10x30 minutes, or approximately double what is currently offered to the core students)
 - To accommodate the additional French instruction time, art will be in French in grade 1 (this includes music, drama, dance, visual arts)
 - This increase allows students starting in grade 1 to have more exposure to French overall
 - Starting in grade 2, for French Immersion students, 58% of their day will be in French. Currently it's 50% in French.
 - French Immersion Students going forward will have
 - Taught in English: English language, math, science
 - Taught in French: Phys Ed, Health, Art, Drama, Music
 - The hope is that students will be more successful in math when instruction is in English
 - Math and Science is NOT TAUGHT IN FRENCH starting in grade 7 so this matches better with the transition, it will also allow FI students to perform better on standardized testing, which is delivered in English

- Integrated Support Plan
 - The integrated support plan was cancelled by the board; parents who are affected have been notified
 - This includes 6 students who are currently in a congregated classroom. These students have Anxiety along with a learning disability or ASD.
 - The affected parents asked them to reconsider
 - Trustees directed the board to do more research about why the program was being cancelled, and report back.
 - This report was supposed to be delivered on Monday, but the board meeting was cancelled due to weather, so the results are pending.
- New Mascot and Westvale Logo
 - We have begun the process at the school level to look at a new mascot and logo for the school
 - Some staff members have stepped forward to be on a committee, and logo and mascot concepts have been discussed with the students
 - Students have submitted some ideas for considerations
 - The committee is meeting for the first time this week to look at these suggestions, and will bring it to school council for input as well
 - This process will take some time, but the logo and mascot are expected to have longevity (the current one was in place for almost 30 years)
 - If you have ideas and you want to share, please feel free to reach out
 - The communications department (from the Board) have to approve what we choose
- Kindergarten Registration
 - Parents who have registered their children are now being contacted by Mrs. Jones
 - Parents get a package when they come in to register
 - We will have an in-person JK night in June; date TBD
- Mental Health Supports
 - We applied for mental health supports and we have received funding for two classes
 - Grade 4 core and grade 5 core classes will be participating in “Taming the Dragon” which is about taming anxiety
 - This involves community support coming into the school
- Grade 6 Year-End Event
 - A year-end event to Camp Ki-Wa-Y in the works, but still requires superintendent approval
 - This would occur on a day in June and would NOT be an overnight trip, however it would last into the evening so students can experience a campfire
 - The approximate timeline could be 9:30 am -7/8 pm
 - Council is being asked to support this trip
 - Approximate costs are \$60 per child; there are 48 students
 - We require a school bus plus an accessible bus; we can fit all students between 2 buses

- We are looking for support for the bus and to cover students who may not be able to pay for the trip
- Asking for \$300 (to cover costs for up to 5 children) plus \$400 for both buses
- This is intended as experiential learning; not as a transition celebration

Teacher's Report – Marisa Moser

- IEPS will go home on Friday for those that have them.
- Carnival was a great success. Students participated in both indoor and outdoor activities, Bonhomme made an appearance and the hot chocolate was loved by all. Thank you council for making that happen.
- Intramural basketball has come to an end. The Celtics won for the students but were ultimately defeated by the teachers.
- Craft club is entering week 4. We had so many primary students that we are running 1 grade per week and rotating through grades 1-3.
- Asks:
 - Bus for Mrs Theo- "Good evening members of the School Council! On Wednesday, March 22nd I will be taking my Grade 4 class and my Grade 5 class to the University of Waterloo for a STEM field trip to support the Science and Mathematics curriculums. While at U of W, my classes will use 3D modeling software, learn about architectural engineering, use Lego Spike Prime kits to create a device to help with waste solutions....and lastly, we'll get a tour of the Engineering Campus. This bus cost is \$271.20
 - Bus for Mlle Moser to take the grade 3/4 and grade 4 classes to The Museum Downtown Kitchener to participate in their Indigenous Day. Trip is March 29th and the cost of the bus is \$170. Entrance fees to The Museum are \$15 per child.

Treasurer's Report – Rick Foucault

- Nothing to report for this month; actual costs for hot chocolate will come out next month, but it was approximately \$80-\$90 which is less than the \$250 we had put aside for the event.
- Here are the commitments from last month:
 - \$150 for fleece blankets
 - \$100 for craft club
 - \$250 for winter carnival
 - \$300 recess equipment
- Current Amounts
 - Reminder that we keep a \$3000 minimum balance
 - This month the previous commitment for \$525 for Mrs. Morley will come off
 - The opening balance was \$8671
 - We have \$4325 in commitments
 - This leaves us with \$4300 in available funds
 - There will be revenue from Dominos to report next month

WRAPSC Update – Richard

- Discussed changes to the French Immersion Program
- A reporter from the Chronicle was there to talk about statistics about FI. Many people mistakenly think FI is supposed to make you bilingual, but that's not the goal according to the ministry.
- We are against the curve vs rest of Ontario (our scores are lower, and have been lower for some time)
- There were some questions around how statistically reliable EQAO results are; especially considering education's changes due to covid
- They discussed ways to talk to you admin when there is a conflict
- WRAPSC now has a PIC representative, who will attend WRAPSC meetings and will bring WRAPSC items to PIC
- The Board wants to amalgamate WRAPSC and PIC, but there is currently no vision for how that will work. The WRAPSC/PIC representative is their first step.
- Also discussed the PRO grant, which allows for \$500-\$750 for certain types of events/activities

Science Fair Update – Kathleen

- The registration form is now available, and we are just waiting now
- 8 registrations so far. You can easily register online. **Sign up by March 7th** using this form: [Register for Science Fair](#)
- You can register individually or in pairs; only one of the pair needs to complete the registration
- Mary Sue is going to send out a plain-text school day with info and a link
- We need judges on a volunteer basis to ask questions about the projects
 - Looking for 2-4 volunteers (e.g. a parent that works in tech, teacher from high school, etc.)
 - Time commitment is 1 hour on the evening of the event
 - If you are interested or know of someone who would be a good fit, please reach out to Kathleen
- Right now 80 large boards have been ordered, and 30 small boards are available as well; we can order more as needed
- The help night is April 13th in the library
 - We will need to do a sign-up to see how many will attend the help night
 - We will need volunteers; approximately 1 person per 4 kids needed
- Those who have signed up will have a meeting in the library on the 9th to discuss next steps. Remember, **the deadline to sign up is the 7th**

Ripple Effect Update – Lynda

- We have filled out application for financial support from the PRO grant
- We will hear back March 17th, but have received preliminary feedback that our application looks good

- Lynda has a flyer which outlines the when/where/why for the event
- We have requested \$50 for food in the application (cookies and juice) but this may not cover the whole cost, would like to ask for volunteers to bring in food/refreshments
 - Liz, Bobbie Joe and Tonya to bring cookies
 - Lynda to get bottled water
- The event is March 30th from 6:30-8pm

Domino's Pizza Fundraiser – Tonya/Steph

- Our pizza fundraiser night was Feb 2nd
- We had 61 pizzas and at \$3 per pizza, that's \$183 in proceeds
- The previous pizza night brought in \$210, for a total of \$393 so far from the Domino's fundraiser
- We have one more date coming up; but we won't get notice of the exact date until about a week in advance (this date is given to us by Domino's)

Fundraising Goal – Steph/Tonya

- Looking for goals for what we want to use funds for and what we want to fundraise for
- Gym equipment Refresh
 - Brought forward by Steph
 - This would include things like gym mats, balls, floor hockey sticks, hoola hoops, etc.
 - Steph is imagining a \$5000 commitment approximately
 - We could look into new types of equipment possible (e.g. something to introduce new sports or activities). Richard suggested something like shorter hoops for basketball nets for the younger kids or mini indoor soccer nets.
 - Gym equipment used by the older children is in better condition than the equipment used by the younger children
- Spirit Wear
 - Another idea for fundraising would be to provide free spirit wear with the new logo probably \$5000
 - A mascot costume could also be made, but they are very expensive; custom made mascot costumes are around 5-7k or you can just get a foam head for around 3k
- Community events
 - Another suggestion was to provide funds to host additional speakers coming into the school
- Materials for Nature Area
 - Another suggestion was to provide materials for outdoor learning in the nature area
 - Right now teachers Hahn and Cressman have gone through old gyn equipment and have begun to repurpose items no longer appropriate for indoor use to be used outdoors for recess equipment
 - Hahn and Cressman are also making a list of things they could use outside for outdoor learning also (magnifying glasses, microscope)
 - Mary Sue will ask if teachers have any specific asks for this type of equipment

- Buses for Field Trips
 - Another consideration would be to fundraise for and use funds to provide free buses for class field trips
 - A lot of discussion was had around this topic, and in the interest providing the most impact, it was decided that field trips will be supported by council with the goal of helping to make sure ALL children can attend, but without subsidizing children who do not need that support
 - That is, instead of providing free bussing for all students, we would like to make sure free bussing and field trip costs are provided for students for whom field trip costs are a financial burden
- After discussion, the fundraising goal that was selected was the Gym Refresh
 - Steph to look at what 5k could be used to purchase, and create a presentation for next month
- Considerations of Previous Financial “Asks”
 - \$700 for the Grade 6 Camp Trip
 - \$272 for Field Trip UW
 - \$170 for The Museum Trip
- Steph motioned for \$700 for the grade 6 camp trip (to cover buses and 5 students). Bobbie Joe seconded. All voted in favour, and the motion passed.
- Bobbie Joe motioned to provide \$100 to each class for bus costs, to be used as the teachers see fit, but with the goal of helping students to go on the trip who would otherwise not be able to go. Steph seconded the motion. The majority voted in favour, and the motion passed.

Spirit Wear – Bobbie-Joe

- Spirit wear online store is open!
- You can buy items until March 10th.
- Don't miss out on these limited edition items - <https://teamandspiritwear.com/WESTVALE>
- We have only sold 7 items so far
- Mary Sue will send out a new School Day message with the link right in the message

Year-End – Bobbie-Joe

- Bobbie Joe is proposing a music and movement event for the end of the year
- Michelle (and EA) has her own DJ equipment and she has often done this for us, Bobbie Joe will ask for her availability
- Would like to have other activities for the kids to do beside the music/dancing activity
- On the other side of the gym we can have other activities, including a basket raffle, we also have 2 volunteers to do face painting, and Tonya has generously volunteered to do some basic balloon twisting, we could also have a craft area (colouring, etc.)
- This would be an after school event in June

- We could possibly do some food trucks as part of this event, Bobbie Joe will look into our options once we set a date
- Basket Raffled
 - With regard to the basket raffle, Bobbie Joe suggests we do what we've done in the past; each classroom gets a theme and kids bring in donations.
 - With the donations, we make a basket and do a raffle. Tickets for entry in the raffle would cost possibly 50 cents each, and you put your ticket toward the basket you would like to win.
 - Bobbie Joe has a donation of a Legal Will from her boss
- Bobbie Joe suggested we could also ask about having a fire truck come or getting a visit by the Kitchener Rangers
- It was also suggested we could do a "bring your own game" activity
- Bobbie Joe would like to offer a mix of quiet and noisy activities
- The goal of the event would be to provide a community activity that doesn't cost you anything to attend; however there will be things you can spend money on if you want to
- Could also offer a movie in the library at the same time
- Date TBD
- Costs/Donations/Volunteers
 - We will need money for the face paint, DJ
 - Will look into providing a free food option (e.g. popcorn)
 - A very rough early guess is that the event might require approximately \$500 from council plus volunteer time
- It was agreed that we should proceed with this event; stay tuned for more details and if you are interested in helping out, please reach out to Bobbie Joe

Other Business

- Please review the proposed council bylaws before next meeting so we can discuss.

Next Meeting Date – April 5, 2023 from 6:30-8:00 pm