



Westvale Public School

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## School Council Meeting minutes April 5, 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		Tamara DeCraemer	
Christine Glidden	X	Richard Haighway	X
Bobbie Joe Seitz	X	Meredith Perez	
Tammy Hauser		Kathleen Merritt	
Matthew Theis		Jennifer Benninger	
Emily Cho	X	Jagdeep Kaur	
Zunaira Kafeel		Aziz Dhamani	
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

- Staffing has begun for next year; we have submitted numbers, but there is no information yet.
- If you know of anyone who hasn't registered for kindergarten, please encourage them to sign up so the planning can happen for September.
- Regarding the ECE in K1, Mrs. Cooke had replaced Ms. Meyers (who has been on leave most of the year), but Mrs. Cooke got a permanent position elsewhere. Now we have Ratchel Murray will be the ECE for the rest of the school year in K1.
- We are currently going through the process of a new logo, and looking at these values and characteristics: kindness, teamwork, loyalty, brave, wise, integrity, hard workers, joy or playfulness, caring, cooperation, courtesy and respect.
  - Trying to get a motto and a logo done at the same time (e.g. "be nice, work hard"; "I matter, you matter, we all matter")

- If you have other values or characteristics you would like to be added, please submit your suggestions to Mary Sue
- For the logos, we started with suggestions from the students, and have gone from 25 down to 6: wolves, waves, wonders, panthers, stars, and otters
  - Wolves – loyalty, strong family ties, good communication, education, intelligence
  - Waves – mighty ocean’s restlessness, faith, hope and joy even in the deepest troubles, the vastness and depth and continuity of our planet
  - Wonders – something extraordinary or a marvel, a feeling of awe, astonishment caused by something new to one’s experience
  - Panthers – the black panther symbolizes beauty grace, rights of passage
  - Stars – beacon of hope, shining light that guides the way, renewal
  - Otters – first nations culture, otters are playful and symbolize freedom from stress and moving gently through the river of life
- Council was asked to submit ideas for characteristics and also to rank (top three choices) for the logo design suggestions. Mary Sue will take this information back to the committee who is working on the redesign for consideration.

**Ripple Effect – Lynda Morris**

- We had a wonderful cross section of the community in attendance, but all attendees were women
- Good discussions were had, and attendees participated in interactive activities (e.g. identity mapping)

**Teacher’s Report – Marisa Moser**

- All is going well at school. Spirit wear got distributed April 5<sup>th</sup>, and students loved the new look.
- Primary craft club has been making some great art and these past weeks the students have enjoyed making friendship bracelets.
- The grades 4&5 class has been participating in the Taming the Dragon presentations and all junior classes learned about Electricity from Electric Larry who came in last week.
- In March we had silly sock day and have a spirit day coming up for Earth Day.
- There is a school assembly April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Treasurer’s Report – Rick Foucault**

- Opening balance for the month was \$8,671
- There originally was \$5,525 in commitments
  - The \$250 set aside for Bobbie Joe for the Winter Carnival supplies, but this was put through and the actual total was \$80.73. After the GST rebate, the total expenditure is \$72.98.
- This leaves us with a final account balance of \$8,598, and available funds of \$3,323.
- The actual account balance has yet to be confirmed in the school financial records system.

- Mrs. Morley still has a receipt coming for purchases made before the deadline from council.
- We can remove the commitment for French Immersion trip, as the trip was cancelled because buses were too expensive (two classes were going to combine and use the same bus, but that became impossible pushing the per-student cost to \$35, which was too high)
- For the Humane Society blankets, Mary Sue has the receipt and it will be forwarded to council soon. The fabric cost is around \$120 (which is below what was allocated).

#### **WRAPSC Update – Richard**

- They had a speaker from the OSSTF (Ontario Secondary School Teacher’s Foundation), Robert Gascho, talked about the return from Covid and the concerns about inclusion, bullying, racism, etc. as well as social development losses. He also spoke about issues with drugs and vaping, and about less student involvement in extra curriculums.
- They also had a presenter from OK2BEME, Erin Huston, who talked about students who feel unsafe or who have been harassed at school. She said that schools are welcome to reach out for support.
- They also had a speaker from the WRDSB, Scott Miller (who is associate director). He talked about inconsistency between what schools are doing (some doing valentine’s day, some not, etc.). There are some board-wide policies, and in other cases it’s up to school administrators. Some parents are frustrated that their administrators are making different decisions.
- Scott also clarified that the Board policy for police checks is that they are ok for 12 months, even though the paper itself says it expires after 6 months.

#### **Science Fair Update – Kathleen**

- We are good to go for the science fair!
- Have enough volunteers but you are welcome to join if you would like to help out. Just reach out to Kathleen.
- We have 78 projects and 6 judges.
- We need to see who can print the certificates, and Kathleen asked Mary Sue if the school could print these.
- We may still need volunteers for the library “help” session, depending on how many children sign up
  - This session will happen in the library after school from 3:30-4:30 on April 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Kids can get help to finish up their project, including how to organize their board, how to present the information in a constructive way, etc.
  - We can print resources in the library if kids don’t have a printer at home
- The custodian will unload tables, and will need help setting those up (Kathleen has volunteers)
- Parents have volunteered to help set their stuff up for their child (that is, they want to stay for a half hour and get everything all set up). Mary Sue has said that parents are welcome to transport the materials, but the child is meant to set it up themselves.
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### **Garden Update – Emily Cho**

- The Green team (including Helen Quinton) are working on the garden project, applying mulch and compost, getting the gardens ready for spring planting, etc.
  - They will also coordinate seed starting
  - They will also start on the microgreen and succulent activities that were agreed to earlier this school year
- Emily asked that the \$200 previously allocated to the microgreens and succulent activities instead be reallocated to the green team for seed starting. Emily has said that the materials she has already purchased for the microgreens, seed starting, and vermicompost would be donated by her (thanks, Emily!).
  - Steph asked if anyone objected to the re-allocation, and there was no objection, so the funds can be re-allocated
- Emily asked for an additional \$60 for the workshops (most of the cost is from buying bulk soil for microgreens and succulent)
  - Christine motioned, Steph seconded, all voted in favour, and the motion passed
- We also have volunteers to clean up the front gardens of the school
- We are still looking for compost and mulch donations. This could include people who can get some compost from the dump (for free!). If you know someone, please reach out to Emily Cho (we are looking for about 2 cubic yards).

### **Domino's Pizza Fundraiser – Tonya/Steph**

- Ran out of time to discuss; to be added to next month's agenda

### **Gym Refresh – Steph/Tonya**

- Ran out of time to discuss; to be added to next month's agenda

### **Spirit Wear – Bobbie-Joe**

- There were 42 orders and 67 items in the order
- Items were distributed on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The sweaters looked especially great!
- The profit is  $67 \times \$2 = \$134$

### **Year-End – Bobbie-Joe**

- We are going ahead with a year-end event on June 21<sup>st</sup>
- We will have many outdoor activities along with a dance in the gym. Classrooms are booked in case of rain, but we are hoping for nice weather.
- 3 food trucks are booked (Berlin 95, Born to Eat (new), and Mega Cone). Bobbie Joe will make sure something for everyone including GF and Halal

- Bobbi Joe and Mary Sue had a meeting regarding the dance, and Michelle Pruett-Weinberger will volunteer her time and play list. We can rent equipment (which will be approximately \$60-\$75)
- We will also have raffle baskets for the event. Each classroom will have a theme, and we will collect donations from the classroom and create gift baskets from these items. Then raffle tickets will be available to purchase, and you can put raffle tickets in a box associated with the basket you want to win. One ticket is pulled for each basket and that person wins the basket.
  - Theme ideas include crafts, home spa, parents night in, bbq, board games, etc.
- So far we are planning face painting, a photo booth (a station to take your own pictures), balloon twisting
  - We need funds for balloons and face paint; the volunteers are donating their time, and council will need to purchase the materials
- Other ideas for activities/events
  - Bring your own game
  - Craft stations
  - Bubbles and chalk
  - Cake Walk
- It was suggested that we make sure we let parents know to bring money for tickets and food trucks (which will have card options, too). The communication should indicate that it is a fundraiser as well as a celebration, and that money we are raising will go to the gym refresh. The intention is that you can come to the event for free and still enjoy many activities, but that there will also be opportunities to make purchases at the event.
- Proposed name: Westvale Fun Fair

### **Fundraising and Discussion (Grad)**

- Ran out of time to discuss; to be added to next month's agenda.

### **Recess Equipment**

- There was not much time to talk; to be added to the agenda for next time
- So far we have purchased some more recess equipment including binoculars and bug-noculars. Clipboards have also been purchased for outdoor learning.

### **Other Business**

- Westvale Community Association has let the school know about Earth Day community clean up, which is happening on Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1-4 pm.
- They will be cleaning up Westvale Parks and Trails. Gloves and bags are provided.
- To meet on Middlebury by the Church of God; if there is rain it will not run.
- The WCA has asked for a School Day announcement about the WCA event, which Mary Sue has agreed to.

**Next Meeting Date – May 3, 2023 from 6:30-8:00 pm**