

School Council Meeting minutes April 17, 2024, 6:30pm

Welcome to those attending –

Name	Present	Name	Present
Mary Sue Meredith	X	Tamara DeCraemer	X
Marisa Moser	X	Shannon Vanderlip	
Tonya Veltman	X	Syed M. Umagr	
Stephanie Evans	X	Zunaira Kafeel	
Rick Foucault		Bradley O'Neil	
Christine Glidden	X	Naeem Mohammed	
Bobbie Joe Seitz	X	Brydon Rayner	
Doerte Shulze	X	Matthew Theis	
Sarah Steinert	X	Sheena Kinghorn	X
Jillian Penney		Mandy Ballentine	
Kathleen Siegrist	X	Eleanor McGrath	X

Welcome Message – Tonya/Steph

Territorial Acknowledgment - Mary Sue

Principal's Report – Mary Sue

- A Primary literacy night will be happening on May 2nd
 - Primary English and FI teachers will be presenting; starting in the library and move to workshops in the classrooms
 - We will also cover the changes to the home-reading program (which has been discontinued) and the importance of phonics and the decodable texts the students are using
 - Please register online if planning to attend
- June 10th we will host a Welcome to Kindergarten evening.
 - Different classrooms will be open and families can rotate through the classrooms to experience the learning stations in the classrooms.
 - Parent volunteers welcome for this event.
 - June 10 from 6-7 pm
- This year EQAO will be happening for Grade 6 students from May 27-30, and for Grade 3 students from June 4-7
 - The test is entirely online
 - There is a voice to text features available as part of the program
 - The test assesses writing, reading, and math
- EQAO results from last year (2022/2023) were reviewed

- The goal is to have students testing at a Level 3 (which is the provincial standard). Level 4 means students are exceeding expectations of the grade level, and anything below level 3 means students are not meeting the grade-level expectations.
- Grade 3 Results
 - We saw improvements from the prior year across reading, writing, and math.
 - There is some concern about the number of level 1 students we have in Math and Writing; these are areas of concern and development
- Grade 6 Results
 - Reading and writing are close to board and provincial standards, but compared to province and board level, there were fewer level 4s at Westvale for writing.
 - We have seen improvements from 2021/2022 school year vs 2022/2023 school year for math, however there are still 40% of kids that are at a level 2
 - The number of students at Level 2 for math is also a concern at the board and provincial level as the proportion of kids at level 2 is about the same
- For FI students, math was instructed this year in English (where as prior years it was instructed in French). Because students were learning math in French and were tested in English, we may see some differences this year related to teaching students math in English and then testing them in English
- Mary Sue looked into getting temporary tattoos with our logo on it. These must be sourced through a board-approved vendor. The one vendor she reached out to quoted 50 cents each tattoo, but had a 3,000 minimum, which puts the cost of this item out of reach. Mary Sue will reach out to the next vendor on her list to find out if they have better pricing available.

Teacher's Report- Marisa Moser

- Earth Day clean up will be taking place on Monday afternoon
- Hockey intramurals have started this week
- Chess club has started, for junior students, and is taking place at lunch
 - This is for grade 5 and 6 students
 - The club was initiated by a student, who received support from the principal and a teacher supervisor
- Forest of reading voting starts next week; children will be voting on books. Students have been listening to the stories when they visit the library.
- Mrs. R is working on blankets with junior students (Grade 5/6)
- Science fair will be happening next Thursday

Treasurer's Report – Rick

- We opened the month with an opening balance of \$10,586
- There are \$8,450 in commitments
- This leaves us with a final account balance of \$10,436, and available funds of \$2,136
- Book fair money has not been accounted in this, but movie night cash and book sale (\$1314.35) cash from movie night (around \$55). Note that half of the proceeds from the book sale will be donated to Nutrition for Learning.

Four All Ice Cream - Steph

- Flavour options have been dropped off, and they are working on the prototyping phase.
- Costing is not finalized for the different sizes, but the suggestion is to offer two of the smaller sizes (single serve and half-litre). A decision about what to offer and how much to sell each item for will be made once we receiving pricing.
- There were lots of school colour flavour options (blue and yellow). Some examples are Wolf Sherbert, Vanilla Cake Marshmallow, etc.
- We will be the last school with a prototype of 4 flavours; we have requested a non-dairy flavour as part of prototypes
- We may offer one of the student-created flavours along with one of their standard flavours. We are considering offering two flavours, each in two sizes, but this is yet to be finalized.

Book Fair Update – Tonya and Steph

- The book fair was a huge success once again. Thanks to all for donating your books, and thanks to all the volunteers (but especially to Liz) who made this happen. It's a tremendous amount of work, but such an engaging and wonderful event. Thanks Liz!!!
- Every kid got a book and it raised a lot of excitement over books and reading
- We had donations above and beyond the sales of the book in some cases (e.g. paying for \$2 in books with \$10 and saying "keep the change"). Thanks to all for their participation and generosity!
- Liz suggests that we might want to run this every two years, but there is some concern about doing this as it is SO well-loved by students. One suggestion is that perhaps we could do a Scholastic book fair in the intervening years, but the fundraising portion of scholastic is not as beneficial as it once was. Mary Sue also points out that a lot of their product offerings are toys and not books.
- Of the proceeds (\$1314), 50% will be donated to Nutrition for Learning. We have had a high need for food from Nutrition for Learning this year and would like to give back.

School Garden

- Four Grade 6 students are attending a garden event and have committed to an environmental leadership role in the school
- These students will look at the school garden as part of that this spring
- Mrs. Quinton and Chapman will assist

Fun Fair Update – Bobbie Joe

- We will not be hosting a dance this year
- Instead, we are hosting Waterloo Kung Fu Academy
 - They will be doing 2 demos 6:15 and 7:15 (demos are approx. 20 mins)
 - It will be a demonstration of all the things you can learn (up to and including brick breaking)
- We will split the gym and will be a portion where people can sit and watch – Kung Fu demonstration will occur in the MPR area, which the seating area close to the outside gym doors to make it easy for people to enter/exit to view the demonstration

- Bobbie Joe has continued collecting prizes and baskets for the raffle. If you have any donations, or know of any businesses who might be willing to donate, please reach out to Bobbie Joe.
- We have ordered popcorn for the event
- A cotton candy machine has also been secured. The sugar/cones are \$12.50 for 25 servings, which doesn't seem very cost effective. Bobbie Joe is planning to source additional cotton candy sugar mix from another source (e.g. Amazon).
- We need volunteers for cupcakes and cake baking for the cake walk. Store bought or home made are welcome.
- Other Volunteers needed:
 - Set up and take down volunteers
 - Selling raffle tickets for prizes
 - Selling tickets for the events/activities
- It was suggested that we use a google form or google doc to collect volunteers, however google doc presents privacy issues.
- Sub-committee will meet to finalize details about the event

Science Fair Update - Kathleen

- We have 128 students signed up, with a total of 86 projects (this is an increase from last year!)
- At 7:30 on Weds, we will set up the tables (they have enough volunteers for this already)
- We have enough judges as well (many UW students who are excited to participate)
- They are working on certificates to hand out, like last year
- There was a help night which ran last night. It went well, but not very many kids attended. Some of the children who attended did need a fair bit of help, so the event was a success in that regard. Many thanks to the volunteers who made the help night possible!

Voting for Trip Funding – Tonya

- Last meeting we had two requests for funding, which we said we would discuss at the April meeting
- Grade 2 Ground Water Trip – Their original ask was \$313. We propose giving \$413 to reduce cost of each student to \$5.
 - Bobbie Joe motioned for \$413 for the event. Sheena seconded. Majority voted in favour; motion passed.
- Grade 6 Camp Extended Day Trip – Their original ask was for \$610. We proposed giving \$1090.19 to reduce the cost for each student from \$60 to \$50. This amount pays for the bus, provides a \$10 subsidy per student, and a full subsidy for the 5 students who will require it.
 - Bobbie Joe motioned we allocate \$1090.19 for the trip. Doerte seconded. Majority voted in favour; motion passed.

Subsidy per Student (Fundraising Goal) - Tonya

- Last meeting we agreed that our fundraising goal going forward was a per-student subsidy to be used for in-school activity (e.g. a speaker or activity) or a field trip
- We discussed the amount of the per-student subsidy
- We have 420 students; should be around the same number next year
- Doerte motioned \$5 per student (\$2100). Sheena seconded. Majority voted in favour; motion passed.

Next Meeting Date – May 15th, 2023 from 6:30-8:00 pm

Future Meeting Dates –June 19