

School Council Meeting minutes March 20, 2024, 6:30pm

Welcome to those attending –

Name	Present	Name	Present
Mary Sue Meredith	X	Tamara DeCraemer	
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		Brydon Rayner	
Doerte Shulze		Matthew Theis	
Sarah Steinert		Sheena Kinghorn	
Jillian Penney		Mandy Ballentine	
Kathleen Siegrist			

Welcome Message – Tonya/Steph

Territorial Acknowledgment - Mary Sue

Principal's Report – Mary Sue

- Data information form (Authorization of Non-Guardian Access to Student) was sent home to meet the requirements for custody, guardianship, etc. or to enable someone to pick up a child from school. This form will stay paper-only.
- Information gathered from this form will feed into the Parent Portal, which will allow us to manage the data electronically going forward.
- Suspensions will occur next week if vaccinations are not up to date. Please note that the school cannot help with this; you need to talk to public health. You can call public health to let them know about your intention to vaccinate or your child's vaccination status.
- Amanie Bahgat, FI phys ed
- EQAO testing will be happening for grade 3 and grade 6 students. Messages will be sent out to affected families. Testing is May 27-30 for Grade 5 and June 4-7 for Grade 3.
- Staffing has started for today. Enrollment looks similar for next year, but if you do know a family with young children (kindergarten age), please encourage them to register for the fall so we have accurate numbers for staffing.
- Math learning happening tomorrow for 4/5/6 staff.
- The students and staff extend a big Thank You for the gym equipment that was funded by council; it's started arriving!
- Staff is working on a primary literacy information night; stay tuned for more information.

Teacher's Report- Marisa Moser

- A thank you to Mrs. Meredith for organizing the Maycourt Puppeteers show. This took place before the break and was a puppet show for the primary students. The students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and found the fairy tales highly amusing.
- The Ekhaya Drumming Presentation happened the Friday before March Break and the whole school participated. The drummer spoke about inclusion and how we are all family.
- The school is participating in Manie Musicale which is a world wide music bracket based on the concept of March Madness. During French class, students listen to songs and learn about the artists, then vote for the one they prefer.
- We are coming up to Match 9 and the finals will be the second week of April. The bracket results can be found in the front display case and students hear results on the morning announcements.

Teacher's Presentation and Request- Helen Quinton and Jessica Chan

- There were two requests to support field trips, one by Helen Quinton for the Grade 2s and one by Jessica Chan for the Grad 6s.
- Grade 2s:
 - Staff have applied to go to the children's ground water festival. It's in Guelph this year.
 - We were able to secure the ability to go this year, but this is not an opportunity that every child would have; it only runs over 5 years!
 - Total cost is \$12 per child. Teachers and volunteers are free.
 - Fits in very well with science and tech program (Water science, water protection, etc.)
 - Staff applied for 3 classes (59 students, which would be \$708 in total including the bus).
 - The request is for council funding to help offset the cost to reduce the cost to \$7 a child.
 - The event is Weds June 5th
 - Might need 2 subsidies (students who would need financial assistance for the trip)
 - Council to deliberate and return a decision at next council meeting.
- Grade 6s:
 - Looking to take the grade 6s to a outdoor camp experience at Camp Ki-Wa-Y
 - Staff have already booked extended day for June 10th. It would run from 9 am -7:30 pm.
 - Looking for possibly 5 students needing financial assistance (subsidy) and also looking for some help to offset the cost for all students.
 - This is the same trip that was run last year; same program with the same activities. It was well received at the time and is a good way to have students end their time at Westvale.
 - The cost is \$60 per student in addition to the cost of the bus.
 - The bus cost is \$310.
 - Teachers are asking for \$610.19 (to cover the bus along with the subsidy amounts for 5 students).
 - There are 54 grade 6s and 5 adults who would accompany are free
 - It's already booked, just need to know how much to put out on school day for families.
 - Council to deliberate and return a decision at next council meeting.

Treasurer's Report – Rick

- We opened the month with an opening balance of \$10,850

- There are \$8,300 in commitments
- There was \$264.92 in expenses
- There was \$1.39 in revenue this month
- This leaves us with a final account balance of \$10,586, and available funds of \$2,286

Four All Ice Cream - Steph

- Each class fills out a form with a suggestion for an ice cream flavour (this is due April 5th)
- Based on these submissions, Four All decides which are more easily produced and will make four of those as prototypes, which will be sampled by the students before the final flavour is selected.
- Delivery of the product will be early to mid June.
- Some flavours have already been submitted by classes, and there is lots of excitement from students!

Movie Night Update – Tonya and Steph

- There was a good turnout, but not as much of a turnout as previous event.
- We had lots of popcorn this time, but it's very difficult to determine how much popcorn will be needed.
- It is suggested we order the same amount next time. We were happy with the new popcorn vendor.
- It was noted that putting out a cash donation box is a good way to offset the cost of the popcorn.
- A suggestion is that movie nights continue to be one of the main initiatives to continue into the next year as it's a fairly easy way to foster a sense of community for our students.
- It was also suggested that no popcorn be allowed outside of the gym to simplify cleanup.
- One last suggestion was that additional supervision may be required for students using the craft room during the next event.

Fun Fair Update – Bobbie Joe

- Fun fair is coming on June 20th!
- We are renting a cotton candy machine!
 - The cost is \$55 for the rental and it comes with 25 servings (sticks and crystal).
 - 500 servings recommended, and Bobbie Joe will investigate how big a "serving" is (e.g. softball size, golf ball size, etc.) and order enough small/medium size servings to serve 500.
 - We are planning to sell for \$1
 - We need to find a location to set this up (e.g. outside), which would require power.
 - Mary Sue to investigate what options may be available.
- Bobbie Joe is looking into a backup DJ because Michelle might not be able to do it. There was also a suggestion that someone could use the existing gym sound system and a laptop with an approved playlist. Mary Sue says it would require an adult to supervisor as the sound system is sensitive.
- For raffle baskets, we still have some donations coming in (e.g. from Funvilla, Pet Basket). If you know of any businesses that could donate to a raffle basket, please reach out to Bobbie Joe.

- We have face painters (4) and balloon twisters (2)! We are considering pre-inflating some balloons to make production easier. Or perhaps pre-twisting a few as well. Tonya says the amount you inflate the balloon will vary depending on what you're twisting, so pre-inflating would mean sorting balloons into bins for ease of use.
- We will purchase 5 bags of popcorn for distribution (for free) and plan to have volunteers go around with bags of popcorn to offer (vs having a table with popcorn available). This way it's more likely that the popcorn is distributed more evenly and there won't be upset when we run out.

Science Fair Update - Kathleen

- Only 8 projects signed up initially after the first School Day announcement (many parents said they didn't see the email). Mary Sue and Kathleen sent out a second notice and now we have 45 projects signed up.
- Still accepting registrations until Friday.
- Boards have been ordered.

Garden Update – Tonya (on behalf of Emily)

- Emily needs a co-organizer and volunteers to help run the garden program.
- She is hoping to foster better involvement in classrooms (perhaps via the Green Team). Mary Sue says that this year the Green Team's focus has been more on recycling than on the garden.
- Emily would like to better leverage the in-library garden space, but anything grown in the hydroponic environment cannot be used in the outdoor garden.
- Emily would like to look into having a summer/fall garden event and is looking for additional student involvement and ownership.
- We need summer family volunteers and would like to foster improved connection with the community.
- Emily says that SWIRL has lots of learning opportunities about urban agriculture, which we may be able to leverage.
- Helen Quinton is looking at starting seedlings in September and has connected with Mrs. Chapman in terms of doing things in the garden with the classes.
- There's a community member who's starting up a garden with funding from the city, this might be a good contact for Emily. Steph will try to connect Emily with Natasha to see if a collaboration might be possible. Natasha doesn't currently have any students at Westvale.
- Mary Sue suggested scheduling a day to plant, days to water and to invite volunteers to join in on those days.

New Fundraiser Goal - Steph

- Our previous goal (for the gym equipment refresh) has been reached and we are looking for a new fundraising goal for the end of this year, and into the next year.
- Some suggestions are:
 - New Westvale Wolf murals (not sure about the cost)
 - Westvale Wolves Mascot costume (5-8k)
 - Supporting field trips (19 classes would be going on field trips); there are 420 students

- It was decided that our goals for next year should be on student experiences (whether in school or outside of the school on a field trip). The suggested goal is to provide a per-student subsidy to allow the teachers to find accessible solutions for their classrooms.
 - In general (with the exception of the grade 6 trip) field trips are to be kept to a cost of \$10 or less per student. Mary Sue already allocates \$1 per student from the school budget to offset these costs, but the school doesn't have the budget to do more.
- Going into next year we will plan to support the following (pending voting):
 - Grade 6 camp (paying for the bus plus subsidy for children who need it) – Typically around \$700
 - Popcorn and volunteers for 2+ movie nights in the gym (\$150x2)
 - Chick Hatch (\$150-\$250)
 - Carnivale (\$250)
 - Experiential Student Enrichment Opportunities
 - This will be a per-student subsidy
 - Examples: a field trip on a bus, bringing a speaker in, having a presentation from someone the humane society and then buying supplies so the children can make blankets to donate to the animal shelter, etc.
 - Teachers can use their discretion with this money (e.g. can team up with other classes to split the costs of busses or speakers)

Chick Hatch Request - Steph

- Steph requested \$150 for chick hatch (food, eggs)
 - Motioned by Bobbie Joe, Tonya seconded, all voted in favour, motion passed.
- Ordered 7 eggs, 3 silver, 2 ivories, 2 others (can tell the gender by the banding on the wings)
- Eggs will be set May 7. They should hatch May 27-28 and will remain at the school until June 14.
- Steph will be mentoring Tonya to take over the chick hatch next year as this is Steph's last year with a child in the school.

Next Meeting Date – April 17th, 2023 from 6:30-8:00 pm

Future Meeting Dates –May 15, and June 19