

WTT School Council Minutes - January 21, 2016

Members Present: Rita Givlin, Barb Brown, Natalie Breau, Danielle Reynolds, Erin Labour, Ali Hasan, Kristy Dryland, Pam Law, Tina Landry, Sharon Dunlop, Meredythe Hertz, Karen Madsen, Maya El Baltaji

Admin Report

Around the School

- Ice behind the school - strict about kids on the ice and WTT has been taking reasonable precautions. Tarmack only if it's too icy or kids are kept inside. The snow plow company came and sanded the entire field.
- "Half-size hockey sticks" are deemed unsafe for the playground therefore kids cannot bring them to school. Mini hockey sticks are OK.
- Mindfulness - every day is started with a mindful moment and the whole school has really embraced it. Good feedback about how to incorporate mindfulness in the classroom. Some teachers are looking at exploring how to use mindfulness specifically in the classroom. Mindful colouring has gone over really well during nutrition breaks. Exploring how to build a mindful moment before the second break to reduce conflict during the break.
- Buddies - WITS
 - Kids are very happy to get together with their Buddies. Each age group goes on a different day (day 1, 3, 5). WITS program was launched this year. Set of 14 different books were purchased and the teacher reads the story each week - books are about bullying, conflict, etc. and activities take place about the book. www.witsprogram.ca. The teachers who are not leading the Buddies on a given day talk about Collaborative Focused Inquiry. Takes place in the last block at school.
- Collaborative Focused Inquiry
 - Teachers talk about how to approach certain goals (e.g. fluency in reading, coding, mindfulness, technology, Seesaw, e-portfolios, cursive hand-writing).
- Rule clarification and promotion initiative
 - Culture Club (teachers) decided rules should be a focus and that everyone works together to get a positive response. Revisions have been made to the rules and they are posted. E.g. "4 S" lines. Posted on Twitter and will be included in the student handbook.
- Website - beginning to update calendar to help this be a more useful resource
- Superintendent Laura Hodgins visits Jan 22/16.
 - She is visiting to support the school and get a feel for how the school is doing - focus, learning agenda, tour.
- O.F.I.P. Proposals accepted for coding and supporting ESL parents with literacy activities

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- Money from the ministry to support after-school ESL programs. To develop oral language, sequencing, rules and social skills.
- Guided reading with parents and students
- Dreambox club
- This year two projects are approved: ESL reading project and a coding club.
- Staff updates: Erica Keys is on her maternity leave enjoying her beautiful baby boy and we welcome Treena Summers; we will be welcoming back Judi Armitage who is returning from her maternity leave Feb. 8 and saying farewell to Lindsay Marshall's whose LTO ends Feb. 5
- EQAO dates - May 25 - June 8
 - schedule will be firmed up closer to the dates.

Around the Board

- Dreambox is a large initiative for our board in place for all grades 1 and 2 students. It is aligned with curriculum and is the only online math program that responds to the individual and adjusts questions based on student response. Students should use Dreambox for an hour each week. This can be a combination of time at school and at home. There are benefits in student achievement, parents understanding more about math instruction and teachers using a wider variety of manipulative materials with students.
 - Parents should be aware that children should be doing all the work independently.
 - Extra licenses have been purchased so that grade 3 students can use it as well.
- Refugee resettlement - Refugees are from many countries; this is an ongoing process in our region; first stop is David St. Reception House (currently well over capacity); WRDSB has Refugee Reception Task Force; privately sponsored refugees have already arrived; government sponsored will arrive next week; wrdsb.ca now has refugee resources section; incredible collaborative effort; fundraising letter to families is available from WRDSB
 - Our school is not designated as a primary area to have refugees join.
 - We have not been notified of anyone at this point.
 - Board-wide monetary fundraiser is launched and a letter will go home to parents and a follow-up will be sent via School-Day blast. wrwelcomesrefugees.ca

Around the Province

- Meeting the needs of refugee students and families

Scholastic Book Fair - Jan 27-29

- All classes will visit the book fair on Jan 27th for a book preview.
- Still looking for volunteers for Jan 28th for the 11am to 6pm shift.

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- Kids can purchase books on Thursday Jan 28th.
- Parents can purchase books Jan 27 4-6pm, Jan 28 all day and Jan 29 all day.

Teacher Leaves

- Parents requested that a letter be sent home if teachers will be away for an extended period of time.

Council Initiatives

ProGrant

- need to reschedule the event to ensure funding is spent during this school year.
- We decided on an evening with a speaker geared towards parents on the topic of social media.
- April was selected as the best date and it will be in an evening with childcare so that parents can be un-interrupted.

February 27 Fun Fest Update:

Next Planning Meeting: Thursday, Feb 4th at 6:30pm at the Tim Horton's at Fisher-Hallman and Ottawa Street.

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/808016442642434>

- Passport
 - Every person will get a passport that will have to be stamped by 5 or 6 different stations and a prize will be drawn.
- Vendors
 - Ad is placed on Kijiji and there has been lots of activity. We increased the price to \$40. We can make \$1,000 just on vendors + \$20 for a plug-in.
 - We will keep the Facebook Event page updated with the current list.
- Activities
 - Lots of activities booked - U of W, face painting, School of Rock (music), Henna, Family photo booth, Bouncefit, Williamsburg Community Center, Festival of Neighborhoods, City of Kitchener Lemonade Stand. Still have room for a few more.
- Volunteers are needed!
 - We will fill out any forms for high school students who need volunteer hours.

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- Bake Sale
 - Google Doc online that can be updated with what everyone is bringing.
 - Raffle for large items (cakes, pies, etc), others will be priced accordingly.
 - Please solicit everyone you know!
- Used Book Sale
 - Hoping to have a large box in the front hall where parents can drop off used books.
 - Start cleaning out your book shelves!
 - Leadership and Action team will organize them.
 - Letter to be sent home that front books can be dropped off Feb 1st. All kinds of books - adult, cookbooks, kids books, etc.
- Raffle/Silent Auction
 - Please ask for donations and send an email to WTT Chair.
 - An approach letter on school letterhead is available.
 - Donation forms will be sent out on school-day and the website.
- School Liaison Officer (Amar Rajasansi)
 - Amar will be attending with his squad time and will let kids sit in it.

Balloon Guy

- He is available at \$75 per hour. WE ARE LOOKING FOR CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP for this fee if anyone has connections.

Food

- We talked about ordering pizza and selling at a profit.
- Vendors especially wanted to have food to purchase last year.
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Next Meeting:

Thursday, February 18, 2016

Agenda Items

- Admin Report
- Fundraising - Fun Fest, Move-a-thon
- Parent Engagement Evening

Motion to Approve the Minutes:

Moved by Barb Brown, 2nd by Danielle Reynolds. Approved.

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