

WTT School Council

October 20, 2016

Attending: Danielle Reynolds and Pam Law (Chairs), Barb Brown (Principal), Lindsay Harman (Secretary), Ali Hasan, Danny Lee, Emily Parliament, Tina Landry, Sharon Dunlop, Emma Metcalfe (YMCA / community liaison), Sangmi (Vicky) Lee, Sarah Nakamura

Administrators' Report

Around the School

- *Staffing: lots of change over as in any other workplace. A few changes where teachers have left to contract positions from LTO positions. Those positions have been filled now and those teachers have either started already or are starting soon.*
- *Health and Safety – drills / building maintenance / anaphylaxis management: The school has been through many drills this year and it is going well. We have recently changed the line-up locations. Last drill was excellent – kids get outside and are quiet. Had first lockdown drill. (different types of lock-downs – e.g. hold and secure -an event happening in the community, sometimes police will call the schools in an area and ask this to happen). We make sure the perimeter is closed up and kids are held in the school, no gym classes outside, but classes may continue as usual. Lock down drills: We let the school know that the drill is coming. There is a fire safety box at the front of the school where first responders can find information about the school. New Drill Coming – Bomb Threat. Same as fire drill but kids are to take their knapsacks with them. If you can remove as much from the classroom/hooks, other suspicious items could be more obvious to locate. Our school has 2 alternate locations to vacate to if need be. Creepy Clowns: Could be an issue with Halloween with what has been happening in the news. Masks aren't allowed at school anyways. Protocol in place for costumes.*
- *Digital learning – junior assembly / equipment: Have had a great assembly for the juniors about handling and use of digital devices. We just got 10 more mini iPads for planning. Exchanges with the Board for new generation products. Dream Box: web-based app for math. We have a licence for 9 classes (grades 1 & 2).*
- *Field Trips – grade by grade – perimeters such as cost to be considered (as per WTT plan – this will finalized at the next staff meeting and communicated to parents)*
- *Resilience / Mindfulness: We want to give children more avenues to work together and on their own without as much intervention, unless necessary. Every morning the school tries to start the day in a calm way. Temper/frustration seems to be down. Kids have been writing their own mantras*

Around the Board

- *Digital symposium: Nov. 3 and 4 - a team from the school will be attending.*
- *Math learning – lots of focus board-wide on math.*

Around the Province

- *New FDK curriculum: Expectations are still similar to old curriculum. However, structure is different in that they are trying to make it more holistic across all courses.*
- *Indigenous studies focus: Are there ways we can bring up these issues around all sorts of things? 4% at WTT identify as same. All families with indigenous family backgrounds are encouraged to identify!*
- *Ministry investing in more child care spaces (see news release below):*

News Release

Ontario Bringing More Child Care to Waterloo Region Families

Community to Benefit from 88 New Licensed Child Care Spaces

October 12, 2016 9:00 A.M.

Ministry of Education

Ontario is creating 88 new licensed child care spaces in the Waterloo Region, increasing the availability of safe, high-quality, child care for local families.

The five new child care rooms for infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers will be located in the new St. Boniface Catholic School, which is scheduled to open in 2019. The spaces will give more families the opportunity to transition from child care into full-day kindergarten at the same location.

Today's announcement builds on the commitment the government made in the recent [Speech from the Throne](#). Starting in 2017, Ontario will help to create another 100,000 new, licensed child care spaces for infants, toddlers and preschoolers within the next five years.

Approximately 20 per cent of 0-4-year-olds in Ontario are currently in licensed child care. Research indicates that demand is much higher. [Creating 100,000 new spaces will double capacity](#), creating spaces for about 40 per cent of children 0-4 years old. This investment will help people in their everyday lives by promoting early learning and development, and helping more parents find quality, affordable care.

Investing in new child care spaces is part of the government's plan to create jobs, grow our economy and help people in their everyday lives.

Quick Facts

- Ontario is investing nearly \$4 million to create five new licensed child care rooms at St. Boniface Catholic School in Waterloo Region.
- St. Boniface Catholic School is the result of an additional \$5.8 million in funding from the province, bringing Ontario's overall investment in the facility to almost \$10 million.
- In April 2015, the province announced [\\$120 million in new funding](#) dedicated to building safe, high-quality, licensed child care spaces in schools across the province. So far, \$113 million has been allocated, resulting in almost 3,800 new licensed child care spaces coming soon to communities across Ontario.

- Since 2003–04, the government has doubled child care funding to more than \$1 billion annually, and the number of licensed child care spaces in Ontario has grown to nearly 351,000 - an increase of 87 per cent.
- Ontario's ban on child care wait list fees took effect September 1, 2016.

Open Forum:

- Pam and Danielle attended the Festival of Neighbourhoods (encourages activities in smaller communities). This year the school won the Inclusion Award for the opening of our outdoor playground.
- Fundraising: email will be sent out soon with past amounts, where it has gone towards the school. We are coming up to phase 2 of the playground and need to figure out how much of fundraising efforts will go towards same. Considering another company for photo day/spirit wear.
- Fun Fest: Date will be Saturday, February 25, 2017: 11am – 4pm. Includes vendor portion with about 25 vendors, community stations – IE) University of Waterloo, bake sale, book sale.
- First planning meeting date for the above: Thursday, November 3/16 at 6:30pm at Tim Horton's – Fischer-Hallman/Ottawa location.
- Event Page on Facebook already for the Fun Fair
- Move-a-thon: We have booked just one this year.
- Science Quest from University of Waterloo: Last Thursday in January is a date that is available. Will be confirmed in December. In the evening for children and parents.
- Math Night: Coming up soon. Hoping to open it up to a larger group
- City of Kitchener Healthy Living Grant: Start thinking about same. Could invite different organizations/community partners to help link the school with the community. Nutritionist and/or mindfulness counsellor. Would be nice to have it outside, maybe late spring.
- School Day: Parents requesting more weekly updates. Hasn't been as much going out on Twitter. Barb indicates she will talk to office team.
- Progress Reports: Will be sent out the week of November 14th.
- Random Act of Kindness Day – Nov. 3 : Encourage kids to do something nice to others.

Adjourn: 7:35 PM.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov. 17th, 6:30 PM ALL WELCOME!