

## **WTT School Council Minutes**

November 29th, 2021

**Attendees:** Sandra Himann, Meredyth Hertz, Summer Braunig, Sharon Dunlop, Pam Law, Robyn Gilbey, Shama O., Gayatri Vudathu, Almbrok Aldrse, Leslie-Anne Unsworth, Hania Taqvi

### **Introduction and Welcome**

#### **Administrative Report - Sandra Himann**

##### **Around the Province**

- Pfizer vaccine has been approved for children aged 5-11. The media has said that schools will be used as vaccination sites - more information will be shared soon.
- For elementary schools, the Ministry of Education has mandated that students remain in their cohort both inside and out, mask usage continues, and all assemblies be held virtually.
- In an effort to diminish the spread of Covid 19, following the holidays, the Ministry has sent 5 rapid tests for each student. These kits will be sent home the week of December 13-17.
- In an effort to diminish the spread of Covid 19, following the holidays, the Ministry has mandated screening verification for all staff and students.
- The Ministry is actively recruiting French language teachers for both the French and English Board French programs. The strategy includes a pilot project with France to increase the recruitment of qualified teachers in both French- and English-language school boards and focuses on building awareness of teaching pathways.

##### **Around the Board**

- Communication department for WRDSB featured a story on Mrs. Townshend, the life and legacy - Mrs. Townshend passed away on October 20, 2021. If you have not seen the story on Mrs. Townshend, it can be accessed on both the school and Board website.
- Recognizing the need and importance of equity and inclusion for all students, there are 3 schools in the WRDSB that will be renamed. These schools include Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School, Ryerson Public School, and AR Kaufman Public School. Going forward all school names will reflect the WRDSB's commitment to Indigenous sovereignty, equity, and human rights while planning for meaningful consultation with the community, students, families and staff.

##### **Around the School**

- Students and staff participated in a virtual Remembrance Day Assembly - classes participated by making artwork, reciting poems, sharing information, and singing. Thanks to Mrs. Geiger for coordinating this assembly

- Mrs. Woodley's grade 5 class is hosting a fundraising event for 'Food4Kids' Waterloo Region - the event will take place on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 30th. Students are asked to contribute a toonie.
- Miss Stevenson will be leaving our staff this week. She was replacing Mrs. McIntyre who will be returning to WTT on Thursday of this week. A huge thank you is extended to Miss Stevenson for her work in our Kindergarten class and with Nutrition for Learning
- Teacher's continue to work on professional learning related to the WRDSB Strategic goals - at WTT we've started an equity and inclusion book club and continue our work addressing gaps in learning (caused by the pandemic).
- Spirit Days continue - Every Tuesday is Trailblazer Tuesday
- Spirit Week is coming ...Sweater Day, Trailblazer Tuesday, Winter Hat Day, Throwback Thursday, and Comfy Cozy Day.

### **Curriculum Connection - Mrs. Unsworth**

- Comprehensive approach to Math Instruction Grades 1-8:
  - Learning through problem solving
  - Building fluency from conceptual understanding
  - Purposeful practice
- Fluency in math - Number Talks - daily activity where students engage in meaningful conversations that promote mathematical fluency
  - Present students with math problem
  - Ask them to mentally solve it
  - Give quiet thinking time
  - Ask students to share
- Ultimate Goals
  - Deep thinking
  - Explaining their Thinking
  - Adjusting their Thinking
- Question - how can parents use this at home
  - Do learning on the fly - things when you are out and about
    - Ask a question about tax - what is 10% of this number
    - Look at numbers in the grocery store
- Are all teachers doing this?
  - Yes, they are - it might look different for each teacher depending on the grade and the teacher
- Are the French teachers doing this as well?
  - Yes, for the early french immersion years, it might be a little different as students are learning the vocabulary for math in french

### **Accounting Update**

- Greening account has \$22,291 - earmarked for greening projects
  - The intention was to use this a second natural playground

- Some of the money in the account is from grants for greening, other is money that was allocated by past council for the greening initiative
- Sandra indicated that the board had hired a new supervisor of grounds to look at how we can create more natural spaces and opportunities for children to have outdoor interactions
- A monarch waystation will be grown at the school and an outdoor education rep from the board will be explaining to students what that is and how they can get involved
- In the past a survey was sent out to the parenting community with split opinions of how the funds should be used
- In the main council account is \$22,053
  - In the last few years haven't had the money leaving the account due to the pandemic
  - Traditionally \$10,000 per year go to support for school trips
  - In the past school council has used funds to purchase electronics, but these are now being fully funded by the board
- Robyn brought up for discussion the ability to supply spare winter clothing for kids that can't afford them
  - Start with an ask out to the community to ask for donations of hats and mitts - could quarantine and have available in the school along with other spare clothing
  - Council would need to figure out logistics of
  - At the moment we don't have the ability to share materials across cohorts due to direction from public health
  - From a teacher perspective - would be nice to have 5 pairs of "magic mittens" per class
  - Council agreed to use the funds to purchase 5 pairs of magic mittens per class for teachers to have as spares for students
  - Robyn will follow up with Sandra on next steps for a hat/mitt drive

### **Volunteers**

- Looking for a co-chair to help Robyn out - parents to think about if they are able to help out with or spearhead any initiatives
- Pam offered to look into greening options for the greening funds

### **Questions from Parents & General Discussion**

- Is there a chance of field trips this year?
  - Board is taking a phased approach for field trips
  - Initially were able to have community walks
  - Now can have bussing, but no parent volunteers - this is challenging for having sufficient supervision, also there is a higher cost
- Have there been virtual field trips?
  - A few classes had a virtual trip to the Amazon
  - Parent council could help fund virtual field trips
- Is there a way to figure out what day it is, i.e. "Day 1", "Day 2"

- Sandra will send out a school day message with a calendar showing the “Days”
- Will there be group pictures for picture day?
  - Don't have details at the moment - but may be a composite of students - similar to graduate photos
  - Photo day is in January

Next meeting is January 24th at 7:00 pm