

School Council Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2022 - Virtual

Attendees

Sandra

Lori

Robyn

Sharon

Shama

Becky

Steve

Sierra

Introduction and Welcome

Guest Presentation - Tom, President of the Williamsburg Community Association (WCA)

- Goal of the organization is to find ways to connect the community.
- WCA runs ongoing programming (Fall, Winter, Spring and shorter Summer sessions), recreational (ie: sport, art) for both adults and youth and community events, both sponsored by WCA and in cooperation with other organizations (ie: truck or treat, neighbours day, community garage sale)
- Works with the city of Kitchener but not part of - works to complement each other.
- Completely volunteer run.
- This Friday (June 10th) - Tracy Valko is hosting a movie night
- Fall registration for programming follows the same registration as the city - usually about a month before programming begins
- WCA website - <https://www.kitchener.ca/en/recreation-and-sports/williamsburg-community-centre.aspx>

Administrative Report (Sandra)

Around the Province

EQAO Testing for grade 3 and 6 has started. All students are accessing the testing with a chromebook and writing the testing electronically. The testing includes 6 sections, 4 languages and 2 mathematics.

Human Rights Commission Report - indicates that Ontario schools are failing students with learning disabilities including dyslexia. As a result, early language instruction will be changed to include more phonics, phonemic awareness, and phonological awareness. In addition, the Kindergarten program will be reviewed and changes may be made there as well.

PC Party won the election so a few changes will continue for schools (e.g., de-streaming of grade 9, online learning for high school credit)

Around the Board

In response to the Human Rights Commission Report, the WRDSB has started PD with teachers and administrators. Teachers have had the opportunity to participate in a professional book club featuring the book, 'Shifting the Balance'. Administrators have attended 4 workshops.

Staffing has been occurring over the last 6 weeks. This year was a large task to reassign many remote learning teachers back to schools as their enrolment has declined.

WRDSB is both acknowledging and supporting activities/events through June in honour of PRIDE month and National Indigenous History month and Indigenous Peoples Day.

PIC is hosting a session on food and nutrition. Thursday, June 9, 7pm

<https://www.wrdsb.ca/blog/2022/06/01/pic-hosts-food-and-nutrition-speaker-event-for-parents-caregivers/>

Around the School

Art's Night - May 19, was a huge success. Students had the opportunity to view artwork throughout the day and parents had an opportunity to view artwork through a video feed in the evening. Many thanks are extended to Mrs. Geiger and the Art's Night team for their work to make this event engaging and fun.

Kindie Information Event - May 31 - really successful - families of new JK students were invited into the school to see Kindie classes and experience outdoor learning. Tracks, the WTT mascot, was on hand to greet students and have a few pictures taken with our newest Trailblazers.

Grade 6 Celebration - is a week long event including a meet and greet for parents. Throughout the week, students will participate in wide area games, water play events, and have a visit from the ice cream truck.

Staffing - some staffing has been completed for WTT. We're happy to welcome back Mr. Tinning, Mr. Gill, and Ms. Droese back to their WTT family. Staffing for LTO positions will continue into the month of June. Retirements include Mrs. Laird and Mrs. Peebles. Ms. Neil has transferred schools and will be starting September in a new location. Mrs. Reynolds-Gibson has transferred schools and will begin September in a new location. We will say good-bye to a number of LTOs including Ms Kainth, Ms Her, Ms Ketchen, Mme. Cyr, Ms. Malcolm, and

Field Trip Money - Staff were delighted to hear that the School Council was offering \$10 per student for trips. As arranged, the grade 6 students used the money to offset the cost of t-shirts. As a result of the School Council's generous donation, students were asked to pay only \$5 for their t-shirt. Classes in grade JK-5 have used their \$10 for a variety of things. For example, the grade 5 classes are hosting a comic creation workshop. Many classes have arranged for 'Scientists in the School' to come into the school for workshops. Grade 1 classes enhancing their art program with Crock-a-Doodle and the Kindergartens are hosting a family picnic.

Last Day of School - Monday, June 27th.

Lori's last day of school is June 28th.

Financial Update (balances as of June 2022)

- General Fund Carryover - \$16,193.99
- Greening Fund Carryover - \$22,291.05
- Paid out \$4,800 (\$10 per child for trips)

Fundraising Update

2021-2022 Fundraisers:

- Domino's pizza fundraisers raised \$375.
 - Very little work (just some communication through School Day blasts and on social media)
- No other fundraisers were completed this year.

2022-2023 Fundraisers:

- Fresh from the Farm option available for beginning of school year.
 - 2 bundles available -- 8lbs of Ambrosia apples or 5lbs potatoes/3lbs carrots/3lbs onions/3lbs sweet potatoes.
 - Schools enroll now until Oct 3, Fundraise Sep 6 - Oct 12, Delivery TBD.
 - Fundraiser aligns with messaging to students from school - healthy eating, local.
 - Council agreed to proceed. Robyn will enroll W.T. and request delivery date information
- Tentatively scheduled chocolate bar fundraiser for two weeks in October (over Thanksgiving). Can be moved or canceled with no consequence.
 - By far the most profitable fundraiser but also the most work.
 - Will require volunteer support to hold a campaign - work cannot fall on the office staff.
- Reached out to contact at Bingemans Funworx to see if they are doing fundraiser nights again.
 - Fundraiser nights are pure profit for school and provides savings to families.
 - Robyn will follow up as no response yet received.
- Domino's pizza fundraiser
 - Because of the low work/time commitment, would be a good option to hold again next school year.

Greening Initiatives

- Gardening supplies were provided to classes. Plants have been planted and cared for by students.
- Student families to provide upkeep?
 - Sandra to confirm if families will be maintaining over the summer

Fall Safety Fair

- Parent suggestion for safety information from WT parent (Becky) following fire behind schools
- Proposed (Robyn) to change the Fun Fest to a more themed safety focus - proposed plan presented (attached to end of minutes)
 - Council agreed to move forward with plan for event. Robyn and Becky to begin planning/booking.
 - Will attempt to align with the delivery of Fresh from the Farm if possible.
 - Robyn/Becky to provide dates to Sandra for school to be reserved.

Questions

Next meeting - Sept 2022

- Meetings to be moved to Tuesdays next year.
- Suggestion to move back to in person with link to virtual provided.
- Robyn to provide dates to Sandra to reserve the Library.

Fall Safety Fair (Proposed to Council)

Purpose

- Bring school and surrounding community together
- Fire (and other?) safety education for both children and parents
- Fundraising (formally the February Fun Fest)

Timing and Location

- Late Fall (to allow for planning/booking)
 - Will try to align with the delivery of the Fresh From the Farm Fundraiser so pick up can happen at the same time
- W.T. Townshend school - outdoor and indoor if guidelines permit
 - Need to provide dates and specific rooms/areas to Sandra for booking

Events/Activities

Popular in past years:

- Craft centers (U of W, library)
- Games
- Bake Sale
- Book Sale

Potential Participants/Presenters

- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Sexual Assault Support Center Waterloo Region
- U of W
- KPL
- Paul Davis (internet Safety)
- Safety Village