

School Council Meeting minutes September 18, 2024, 6:30pm

Welcome to those attending –

Name	Present	Name	Present
Mary Sue Meredith	X	Tamara DeCraemer	X
Elysia Cloet	X	Jen Mendoza	X
Tonya Veltman	X	Melissa Santo	X
Eleanor McGrath	X	Nikolas Knowles	X
Christine Glidden	X	Jennifer Benninger	X
Jennifer Thysman	X	Melanie Columbus	X
Kathy Persad	X	Jonathan Tyler	X
Doerte Shulze	X	Kathleen Siegrist	X
Sarah Steinert	X	Sheena Kinghorn	X
Danika Fraser	X	Shireen Fawad	X

Welcome Message – Tonya

Territorial Acknowledgment - Mary Sue

Principal's Report – Mary Sue

- The School Code of Conduct is now being posted around the school, and includes keeping distractions out of class, treating others with kindness and respect. You can find the full set of rules at: <https://ontario.ca/schoolrules>
- 2 new teachers have joined us: Ms Somerville and Mme Karshukova (French)
- Some teachers are currently on leave
 - Mrs. Richco on leave; coverage by Ms Aski
 - Ms. Gaudet on leave; coverage by Twinkle Chopra
 - Ms. Rooney on leave; coverage by Ms. Chan is there covered leave
- Cell phones policy
 - There is no change for us in this school
 - Students have never been using cell phones on property
 - Students have always been able to have them in their bags while on school properly, and can take them out off of school property
- Primary Washrooms have been painted and refreshed
- The school sign will be updated next week, showing the board logo (our logo was replaced and the board is starting to yellow)
- Many thanks to the parents who helped look after the school garden over the summer. It was nice to come back and see things growing (like pumpkins!).
- Thanks to the school council for organizing the food trucks for meet the educator night.

- October 1st is Photo Day, details will be shared soon
 - These photos are used for the Ontario Student Record, and are also available for purchase if desired
- Nutrition for Learning
 - Will be starting soon
 - We have a tighter budget this year as the organization has financial constraints
 - We'll be doing some fundraising for this
- School population is smaller than last year, we are less than 400 students (last year we were 420-425, now it's around 395)

Teacher's Report- Elysia Cloet

- It's been a great start to the year; classes are getting to know each other and making class agreements.
- Terry Fox Run will be happening on Friday. Families can make a donation online, if desired. Tax receipts are available for donations of \$20 or higher.
- Teachers are receiving Acadience training to do assessments for literacy and phonemic skills for Kindergarten to Grade 2.
- FI is looking into a potential field trip opportunity, more info next month.

Treasurer's Report – Eleanor McGrath

- We keep 3k as a "float" or a "reserve"
- 2023/2024 Expenses
 - Field Trips (including grade 6 year-end) totalled approx. 1k
 - Event expenses (fun fair, movie nights, Carnivale) totalled 1.2k
 - Fees incurred from using School Day was \$57 (for processing fees)
 - Gym Equipment Refresh totalled approx. 4k
 - Science Fair boards was approximately \$500
 - Chick Hatch totalled \$26
 - Humane Society Blanket Tie Club was approx. \$155
 - The majority of expenses last year were for student experiences (carnival, gym equipment, field trips, extra curriculars like blankets, chick hatch).
- 2023/2024 Revenue
 - Fun fair raised approx. 2.4k
 - Herrle's raised \$655
 - Used book sale raised \$657
- Mary Sue explained that school council money is actually school money, and that finance will take it off of the budget. This causes a delay of 2-3 months to process these items.

Extended Day Supervisor Presentation - Joanna Smith

- Jacob Hespler stepped back from extended day, so first we reached out to other partners to see if there was any interest in taking over the program and there wasn't.
- Westvale is one of 76 childcare programs in the region since 2010.
- They are continuously refining policies, procedures, and programs.
- Program is staffed by EAs and ECEs only.

- In the last 2 years, they have moved from running it through WRDSB to becoming licensed through the ministry. This change means they follow a different act (e.g. different ratios they have to comply with).
- The Westvale team has been excellent, and are working on developing a sense of belonging and developing relationships with the children in their care
- Contacting for Questions/Concerns
 - Billy Eaton is the after school supervisor, and he can be contacted if there are any concerns.
 - Contact information is on the board in the hall near the office.
 - Feel free to reach out with any feedback. Joanna said they want feedback and take it seriously; parents are encouraged to provide it.
- Policies may be different from JHCC, but it's focused on the safety of children.
 - You have to sign out your children if they are on the schedule; you cannot send a note to excuse your child from care. This means if a child is scheduled to go to the after care program, they must be picked up from the after care program, even if parents are there right at dismissal time.
 - Face-to-face pickups are required as well.
 - Kids need to be signed out with your initials.
- Parents are encouraged to come in to get to know the programs. There may be open house type opportunities to see what the care is like and the program encourages family engagement.
- There is a Parent handbook that has all of the policies online, and WRDSB website has OneList updates and program information as well.
 - <https://www.wrdsb.ca/beforeafter/extended-day-program/>
- The Snack Menu is shown on the parent board, is available online and is posted in room 11
 - Snacks are provided by organic kids catering
 - It's a four week rotation with an am and pm menu
 - If your child has allergies there will be a separate packaged snack for the child starting in October; currently those children will get a piece of fruit or vegetables.
- If your child is absent, let the office know they are in extended day, and the office will relay that information

Four All and Herrle's Fundraisers – Tonya and Christine

- Our ongoing fundraisers are Mabel's Labels and Fundscrip
- Four All Ice Cream Fundraiser
 - Started in the 2023/2024 School Year, we used student involvement to create flavours and students had a taste test to pick their favourite. The winner is a Vegan/Halal Sorbet called WolfBerry Twist (lemon sorbet with a blueberry swirl).
 - We can start our fundraiser any time, but it will take Four All 3 weeks to get it into production.
 - 2 sizes are
 - 100 ml mini
 - Cost is \$3.10 plus tax (\$3.50)
 - Suggested retail is \$4.43 (\$5.00 after tax), which is \$1.90 profit
 - 500 ml
 - Cost is \$7.47 plus tax (\$8.45)

- Suggested retail is \$11.99 (\$13.55 after tax), which is \$5.10 profit
 - Note that their prices have HST on top (listed above)
- We discussed the sale price of these items, considering both cost to families and accessibility, along with fundraising for the school.
- Proposed pricing was \$12.50 for the 500ml, and \$4.50 for the 100 ml
 - Jen motioned at this price and Eleanor seconded. The majority voted in favour, and the motion passed.
 - At these prices, the 500ml container will make a profit of \$4.05 each, and the 100ml container will make a profit of \$1 each.

Fun Fair Update – Tonya

- The Fun Fair was a fundraising and community building event that we ran in June 2024
 - The event raised approximately 2.4k (expenses were approx. \$430)
 - Events included balloon animals, face painting, cotton candy, photo booth, cake walk, and raffle of baskets.
 - Raffle baskets bring in lot of the profit for the event; we get the raffle basket contents donated where possible.
- School council has focused on community building vs selling things like chocolate bars
 - Examples include hosting free movie nights, dances, game nights, and speakers
 - The fun fair is typically our biggest fundraiser, and includes a mix of free and paid activities
- Fun Fair for 2024/2025 School Year
 - Need someone to chair this event and will also need a committee and LOTS of volunteers
 - Need to pick a date soon as well
 - Jennifer Benninger and Sheena Kinghorn have offered to co-chair the event

Elections – Mary-Sue

- The available elected roles were explained, and there was an invitation for people to self-nominate or to nominate others. All positions were acclaimed.
 - Eleanor McGrath - Treasurer
 - Christine Glidden – Secretary
 - Event Co-ordinators – Sheena, Jen Benninger
 - Chair – Tonya Veltman
 - Sheena Kinghorn and Jen Benninger will be mentored by Tonya for the chair position

Dr. Alison Online Presentation – Mary Sue

- Dr Alison will be delivering an online presentation regarding cell phone use for children
- Scheduled for October 17th

Next Meeting Date – October 16th, 2024 from 6:30-8:00 pm

Future Meeting Dates –November 20, January 22, February 19, April 16, May 21, and June 18