

School Council Meeting minutes January 22, 2025, 6:30pm

Welcome to those attending –

| Name | Present | Name | Present |
|-------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| Mary Sue Meredith | X | Tamara DeCraemer | X |
| Elysia Cloet | | Jon Mendoza | |
| Tonya Seip | X | Melissa Santo | |
| Eleanor McGrath | X | Nikolas Knowles | |
| Christine Glidden | X | Jennifer Benninger | X |
| Jennifer Thysman | X | Melanie Columbus | |
| Kathy Persad | | Jonathan Tyler | |
| Doerte Shulze | X | Kathleen Siegrist | X |
| Sarah Steinert | X | Sheena Kinghorn | X |
| Danika Fraser | | Shireen Fawad | |
| Helen Quinton | X | Ninaa Persad-Mohammed | X |
| Kira Bruschke | X | | |

Guests: Sam McKinley, Caitlyn McIntyre, and Bobbie Joe Sietz.

Welcome Message – Tonya

Territorial Acknowledgment - Mary Sue

Wills and Estates

- A presentation was given on Wills and Estates by Caitlin W. McIntyre from CWM Law
- Caitlyn reviewed what happens when someone passes away without a will and offered a discounted rate to families from Westvale who would like to use her law firm to create a will
- If you are interested in receiving a copy of the presentation, or would like more information, you can reach out to Caitlyn
- Their website is <http://cwmlawoffice.ca>

Principal's Report – Mary Sue

- For K1, Jessica Chan is filling in for Mrs. Hahn who is on leave
- On Friday there will be Lion Dance assembly for lunar new year. The school is paying a fee for the performance.
- Have begun to work on staffing and planning for next year. The EA rubrik is currently being completed to determine how much EA support we will get and how it's split across schools across the region.
- Some Grade 6 students are working as leaders and would like to do three different extra curriculums that are not sports based

- Ms. Sommerville and Ms. Meredith are supporting a board game club on Mondays for grades 4-6
- A treasure hunt is planned for next Thursday
- A chess club is being sponsored by Mr. Miller
- Taming the Dragon (Anxiety Coping Strategies)
 - Students in Class 3/4B and 4/5B will participate in Taming the Dragon from Porchlight Counselling, which reviews anxiety coping skills
 - The whole class participates in this session
- Black Brilliance and Anti-Black Racism
 - Westvale now has a committee for dismantling anti-black racism
 - For Black Brilliance Day, on Feb 13th, Kesha Christie from Talkin' Tales will be coming to the school for an assembly. There will be two assemblies (for K-2, and for grades 3-6). Keasha is a story teller and inspirational speaker.
- Mrs. Westwood Ms. Meredith are working together to run a fundraiser that sells bracelets with proceeds going to Nutrition 4 Learning. The program is called Cool to Be Kind, and students from Mrs. Peden's and Mrs. Julian's class will assist with the fundraising.

Teacher's Report- Helen Quinton

- Intramural Basketball will be starting for Juniors, with sign ups next week
- There is a reading club which is Forest of Reading based, and happens during first break
 - During this time Library helpers are also reshelving books, etc.
- The Food Drive that we ran in December was a huge success. We collected 550 lbs of food and \$312 dollars. Thank you very much to all who contributed, this provided 1082 meals for people in need.
- Last Thursday we hosted a book day, where we dropped everything and read. Some students dressed as favourite character.
- Feb 1 will be Hat Day. Students are invited to wear a hat to school.
- Feb 5 will be Walk to School Day, and students are encouraged to walk to school (instead of driving).
- Feb 7 will be Carnivale, with many fun stations for students to participate in including the hot chocolate station which is sponsored by school council.
- Teachers are currently busy with report card writing. Report cards go home on Feb 10th.

Treasurer's Report – Eleanor McGrath

- Our current available balance is \$1380.80, not including our normal 3k float
- Revenue
 - Movie night \$108
 - Herrles 70 (late cash deposit from the fundraiser)
 - Maybel's Labels \$80
 - \$598 Four All (we sold 120 large and 12 small tubs)
- Expenses/Commitments
 - School day fees were around \$200
 - The Nutrition 4 Learning donation from last year's book sale went out for approximately \$650
 - Popcorn was \$113 for November movie night

WRAPSC – Jen

- The last WRAPSC meeting focused on Nutrition 4 Learning
- It was reported that some schools are down to sharing a single cracker between kids. Funding was lost from PC children's charities, and demand is up.
- It was noted that schools that need it the most are sometimes unable to fundraise.
- N4L may also need to change the directive that anyone can have food from the bins, as they don't have enough to go around.
- They also talked about the PRO grant
 - Councils were encouraged to be creative with the money and told there is no set amount per school; we can dream big.
 - Last year, there was one joint application between 5 schools which hosted a talk about gender diversity and AI
 - It was noted that PRO Grant funds are not meant to be used for fundraiser events, but that they can be used for community celebrations, with 10% max for food.
- The ongoing role of WRAPSC was also discussed
 - They are forming a sub committee for advocacy for next year (who would work on things like the proposed letter from earlier in the school year)

Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants – Tonya and Mary Sue

- We will be offering a parent presentation and inviting Mary Johnston and Keatsway to join us in the library for the presentation.
- It is intended for parents, and will provide information about supporting the neuro diverse community members. Specifically they will be talking about ADHD (Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder) and ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder)
- Mary Sue has reached out to school psychologist and he would like to come in to talk
- Jessica Webb works in special education department and she will talk about what ASD really is along with misconceptions, the use of language, and how that can impact people with ASD
- There will be information about what it's like for families in the school system
- The intended audience is for families who do not have ND children, but all are welcome to attend.
- There will be a third speaker from the Waterloo Region Family Network. This is a community liaison advocate, who herself is ND, and she is going to talk about living in our community with ASD.
- The PRO Grant application is almost finished. Tonya and MS are working on it and it is due Friday.
- The grant is requesting \$125 for food and beverages
- We have invited both Keatsway and Mary Johnston. We have heard back from Keatsway that there is interest. We are still waiting to hear back from Mary Johnston.
- The grant also requests \$300 to be paid to Christina from the Waterloo Region as a donation which would go to the Waterloo Region Family Network.
- After event as part of the PRO Grant process, we will have to report on how the event went.
- We were looking to schedule it some time between February and early April. Two possible dates were given: Feb 25 and March 19.

Four All Ice Cream Update – Tonya

- The Four All Ice Cream was overall a really good initiative, lot of engagement and excitement with the students. The quality of the product was good.
- However, it took a long time to get it delivered which diminished some of the excitement. The delivery on the day of the event was also almost 30 minutes late, which was an inconvenience to families who waited after school to take their ice cream home.
- Dry ice worked well to keep it cool, so the cooler option is a viable one if we ever do this fundraiser again; well worth the extra \$25 to use her coolers and have dry ice added.
- We sold 120 of the Large 500ml containers and 12 Small 100 ml containers. It should be noted that the larger container was considered a “food” item and was not subject to HST while the smaller size was considered a “snack” and did incur HST.
- In total we made \$598.35, which we donated to Nutrition 4 Learning.
- Four all have also donated several buckets for us to use for bucket drumming (Mary Sue expressed thanks to Four All for this donation).
- Many thanks as well to all the volunteers that made this happen!

Carnivale – Tonya

- We are helping with the Carnivale Event happening Friday Feb 7th from 11:45-1:40
- We will need to fill four 25L urns with hot water. This is best done at home, but take hours to boil all of the water.
- We need volunteers to boil water, and also need volunteers to put powder in cup, stir and pass the beverages out.
- Will need a runner as well to distribute a trolley full of cups to the kindie classrooms. The remaining children get their hot beverages on the tarmac.
- We need 3-4 volunteers to distribute and another 4 volunteers to heat up.
- A sheet was passed around and enough volunteers were found (Tonya, Sheena, Jen, and Liz to boil water; Jen, Ninaa, and Liz to distribute).

Movie Night Update – Jennifer and Sheena

- Our movie night was very successful, we received \$108 in donations at the door by simply placing donation boxes at the popcorn table.
- Our costs for popcorn was \$113 so this means the event basically broke even.
- The event was well attended, estimates are there were close to 150 people there (including parents).
- The extra room was very well used; lots of children were taking breaks.
- However, the games room wasn’t a quiet spot this time, and there was a suggestion that a quiet space might be nice to have for future events.
- This event continues to be one of our favourites and is something we should consider continuing. And the suggestion is that it should continue to be offered as a free event.
- The popcorn went very fast. Everyone got a bag, but we ran out about 15 mins in the movie. We may want to order more next time (perhaps we could consider buying 6 bags maybe instead of 4).
- One parent mentioned a desire to include students from ISP or ACE, and asked if there are barriers that keep them from participating. Mary Sue mentioned that all ACE students are bussed, some are 45 mins away, which may make it difficult to attend an event like this in the evening.

Big Box of Cards – Christine

- This event is planned to run from March 3-18, with pick up on April 1st
- We will need someone to come in to label and sort boxes in advance. Jenn T and Eleanor volunteered to help Christine.

Science Fair

- Science Fair is being held April 24th
- We have judges lined up who helped last year
- The price of the tri-fold boards has increased; 72 boards is \$700
- We will plan to host another help night in the library, date TBD
- Tables will be set up the night before
- Jenn T motioned we allocate \$700 for the science fair boards. Nina seconded. The majority voted in favour; motion passed.

Quilting – Emily's Request (Level Up)

- A request was received to the school regarding quilt making
- Each kid makes a quilt square, and then the squares are combined/assembled by volunteers and the quilt goes on a tour
- Mary Sue has already gone out to teachers. Any interested teachers will get materials and lesson plans.

Music and Movement Event – Jennifer and Sheena

- The event is planned for Tuesday March 4th 6:30-8:30 pm
- We got a quote for a DJ for \$339 (including HST) for 2 hours
- The plan is to sell glow sticks and snacks, and ask for a suggested donation per family at the door of \$5
- Sheena has suggested the name/theme: Westvale Glow
- An overflow room for games/quiet activities was requested, and Mary Sue offered room 18 (the same room that we had for movie night)
- Doerte motioned \$650 for expenses (DJ, Snacks, decorations). Christine seconded. The majority voted in favour; motion passed.

Fun Fair – Jen and Sheena

- Fun fair is planned for June 19th
- Sheena and Jen are looking for people to join a subcommittee, a sign up sheet was passed around
- It was suggested that each class might want to come up with one "idea" for an activity or an event (e.g. ring toss); classes could also go together to do an activity. We could offer one or more of these activities, to foster a sense of involvement and excitement from the students, but the more activities, the more volunteers we need.
 - It was suggested we might collect the ideas and vote to pick the most popular ones.
 - Mary Sue offered to forward this request to the teachers.
- When asked about possible teacher volunteering for the event, it was noted that because of report cards, etc. it's difficult to get teachers involved at that time of the year.

- Planned events/attractions:
 - Balloon animals
 - Cake walk
 - Cotton candy
 - School games (e.g. large form checkers and connect 4)
 - Raffle Baskets
- It was noted that for the Cake walk, we could offer any type of treat (cookies, cakes, donuts), and it was suggested we make sure this event is better explained
- Sheena to send a list to Mary Sue with Raffle Basket themes. Each teacher can pick the theme for their class. Once selected, we will send out a school day message to ask for donations for each classroom.
- It was suggested teachers can also pick a raffle basket theme of their own choosing (not on the list)
- We need an activity or event for the gym. Last year it was a kung fu demonstration. It was suggested a dance studio might want to do a performance.
- It was suggested that we should consider putting the raffle baskets in the MPR portion of the gym this year.
- There was a suggestion that we should see what might be available in the community, such as seeing if someone owns a cotton candy machine.

Next Meeting Date – February 19th , 2024 from 6:30-8:00 pm

Future Meeting Dates –April 16, May 21, and June 18