

## **School Council Meeting minutes February 19, 2025, 6:30pm**

### **Welcome to those attending –**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>
Mary Sue Meredith	X	Tamara DeCraemer	X
Elysia Cloet	X	Jon Mendoza	
Tonya Seip	X	Melissa Santo	X
Eleanor McGrath		Nikolas Knowles	
Christine Glidden	X	Jennifer Benninger	Z
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

### **Welcome Message – Tonya**

### **Territorial Acknowledgment - Mary Sue**

### **Principal's Report – Mary Sue**

- Last week students from grades 5 and 6 sold bracelets in a “Cool to be Kind” fundraiser to raise money for Nutrition for Learning. This was facilitated by Ms. Westwood and Ms. Meredith. The event raised \$302. Mostly JK – Grade 3 bought bracelets.
- There has been a lot of physical illnesses in the school, and many students and staff have been away sick.
- Because of the snow day, Keisha from Talking Tales was rescheduled for just before March Break (for Black Brilliance).
- CEMC from the University of Waterloo will be doing some workshops for 5/4B, 6A, and grade 5 FI. The workshops will take place in early March in their classrooms.
- In library there will be a huge map that's been borrowed from Canadian geographic which shows oceans, fresh water, and how we impact the water.
- On March 27 we will be having a French concert with the performance here at the school.
- After March Break, Grade 2 students will have dental screening performed in the school.
- With the huge snow piles there is not even enough parking for the staff to park in the parking lot. Families are asked to avoid the parking lot right around school opening and closing times.
- Proceeds from Popcorn sales by Ms. Julian will be used toward all field trips.

### **Teacher's Report- Mme Cloet, Mrs. Quinton**

- Big thank you for everyone who helped with hot chocolate; it was really appreciated!
- Big thank you also to council for the donations for upcoming field trip for centre in the square; everyone is excited to see Sultans of the String (Grades 3-6).
- Jan 24, we had a Lion Dance presentation to celebrate lunar new year.
- On Feb 10 Report Cards will be going home.
- On Feb 26<sup>th</sup> it is Pink shirt day and is an opportunity to reflect on bullying and making sure every child feels welcome and included.
- On Feb 28<sup>th</sup> the Grade 6s will be singing O Canada at the Rangers hockey game.
- On Tuesday May 27 there are 5 classes (Grades 2-4) who would like to attend the Groundwater festival. There are 99 students in total and the cost of the trip is \$15 per child. A request was made for additional field trip funding, but it was determined that it was not feasible for council to sponsor the trip at this time (it had previously allocated \$5 per student for field trips, which has been used for all grades except JK/SK).

### **Treasurer's Report – Eleanor McGrath**

- Current balance is \$9419.48
- After removing our minimum 3k amount and all commitments, the total amount available is \$727.52
- No revenue to report since the last meeting.
- In terms of fundraising for the year, we have made 2k so far and anticipate making 2k more for fun fair. It looks like we may be running a deficit and may need to investigate either increasing fundraising or decreasing spending.

### **Supporting Neurodiversity in our Community – Feb 25 - Mary Sue**

- Several partner schools were invited and we have received RSVPs from parents in the partner schools.
- Please attend if you are available.
- We are looking for volunteers to bring snacks for the event. Please reach out to Tonya or Mary Sue if you can assist.
- We will have 3 speakers:
  - Our school psychologist; doing a broad overview of what neurodiversity is
  - Transition facilitator Jessica Webb, who will speak about how the language we use impacts inclusion and can put a positive or negative spin on neurodiversity.
  - We will also have a speaker from the Waterloo region family network; a community liaison who will be talking about families and experiences she's witnessed through her job.
- We will have time for questions and discussion.
- We have \$150 for refreshments from the PRO grant and Mary Sue and Tonya will arrange for these.
- So far we have 11 registrations. Registrations are for 1 or 2 adults coming.
- Event runs from 6:30 pm -8 pm.
- If there is severe weather, the format will be switched to virtual.

## **WRAPSC – Jen**

- The last meeting they talked about cell phone policies, and was more geared toward secondary students.
- They spoke about how its being implemented and what they've seen.
- They are having a hard time with apple watches, because they aren't specifically mentioned in the policy.
- If students are given the option to use their phones as a reward, they choose to use them instead of engaging in face-to-face interactions with peers.
- There are reports of younger children bringing phones to school, which is, of course, not allowed.
- PIC was there, and were looking to strengthen parent engagement.
- For the PRO Grant, they received 69 applications and all but one were approved. 55% of schools applied.
- PIC is advocating for a longer window for applications to the PRO grant next year. The recommendation is to sent by October for submission in January.
- There was a large group discussion around AI.
- They also spoke about approved vendors for certain types of items, such as board games. Michelle can help if anyone needs to access these lists of approved vendors.

## **Annual Budget - Eleanor**

- Eleanor suggested that we set up an annual budget to help prevent a deficit for future years.
- We've been running a 2.5k deficit this year and last year.
- If there is interest, we could do a budget in June for the upcoming school year.
- It was also suggested we might want to pre-approve items that happen early in the fall in June so there are no road blocks in terms of planning those events.
- If you have any thoughts or experiences with running an organization like the school council, please reach out to Eleanor as she would appreciate your input.
- In general we want to be more analytical about how much money we make at our events vs costing, especially at fun fair (e.g. how many tickets did we receive at each station/activity at the fun fair).

## **Big Box of Cards – Christine**

- The big box of cards fundraiser is running March 3-18 with pick up April 1.
- Christine is working on the school-day messaging and will co-ordinate with Jacquie and Mary Sue.

## **Science Fair**

- The registration deadline is March 17.
- Boards will be distributed March 18/19.
- The event itself is running on April 24<sup>th</sup>.
- We will also run a help session in the library, but the date is still TBD.
- The School Day messaging will go out soon.
- Paul is being mentored Toby to take over the event next year.

### **Glow Music and Movement Event – Jennifer and Sheena**

- We are looking for volunteers for the event (either from 6:30-7:30 or 7:30-8:30).
  - Tasks include selling, minding door, supervising, set up, clean up.
- We need a school day message
  - Bring INDOOR SHOES (or plan to change at their hooks)
  - You must wear shoes (no socks) and no outside footwear permitted in the gym
  - Parents must stay
  - Donation is optional, but appreciated
- The event itself will run from 6:30-8:30, with setup starting at 5:30
- We will have glow items, chips, and juice boxes available for purchase
- Sheena has also purchased some décor for the event
- We are looking for someone who has black lights; if you have any you can loan us, please reach out to Sheena.
- There was a suggestion that we could get student volunteers, perhaps we could ask for volunteers via a school-day message. Mary Sue said that any student must be sponsored by a Westvale parent and the parent must attend event to support the volunteer student.
- Sheena will write an announcement for MS to give in the morning.
- It was suggest we add a headcount, and provide a detailed report after the event.

### **Chick Hatch**

- The librarian is on leave, so we'd need someone in addition to Greg Miller to support the program.
- Tonya and Mary Sue to follow up to make sure there is support for running the hatch this year.

### **Fun Fair – Jen and Sheena**

- There is a fun fair Sub Committee and we had a meeting to get started on planning
- We will be collecting items for raffle baskets starting in May. Sheena has a list of basket ideas that the teachers can pick from for their classes.
- The event is running on June 19th from 6-8 pm.

**Next Meeting Date** – April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 from 6:30-8:00 pm

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