

School Council Meeting minutes June 18, 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 | X |
| 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 | |
| Sarah Steinert | X | Sheena Kinghorn | X |
| Danika Fraser | | Shireen Fawad | |
| Helen Quinton | X | Ninaa Persad-Mohammed | |
| Liz Kristensen | X | Arthur Daniels | X |
| Melania Vargas Arvizu | X | | |

Special Guest Chandel. Monette (WRDSB PIC Committee)

Welcome Message – Tonya

Territorial Acknowledgment - Mary Sue

SCIS Speaker – Chandel

- Every school needs a SCIS (Safe Caring and Inclusive Schools) committee.
- The goal is to make sure kids feel safe and included.
- Westvale already has one, which has been in place for several years.
- Examples of SCIS initiatives are things like climate captains, equity wall to showcase student creativity, annual showcase for student belonging and growth, community partnerships, etc.
- There is a focus on student incidents, as these have been rising, and we want to reduce that. In this context a “student incident” would be things like situations where a teacher needs first aid because of something a student did, where the class needed to be taken out of the room due to the student’s actions, where student is disruptive and causing issues, or for student to student or student to teacher violence. These types of incidents are the most prevalent from JK to Grade 2.
- SCIS is focused on how to intervene and help parents and how to help stop this from happening.
- Kids want to be more inclusive, but some are having problems with emotional regulation.
- We want to make sure kids feel safe to talk to an adult.

- We are also always looking always for parents to tell PIC (the Parent Involvement Committee) what they want and need. Parents are encouraged to approach PIC to express needs and experiences.
- If anyone would like to reach out to Chandelle directly, she can be reached at chandellemmonette@gmail.com
- PIC is generating QR codes on magnets, with the goal that each student will take one home and can scan the code and is then directed to express any concern they might have.
- The PIC Website is available from the main WRDSB website, but it's still under construction. It will have more information soon about SCIS.

Principal's Report – Mary Sue

- On Monday there will be a Grade 6 celebration. Parents were told about the event 2 weeks ago.
- There are 4 classes with grade 6 students, and each teacher will do a quick summary at the event.
- We will have cake and it will be at the outdoor learning centre. In case of rain, the celebration will be moved to the gym.
- We had some very successful athletes in regional track and field event. Students were very proud coming back in with ribbons.
- Students also wore their wolf logo t-shirts/uniforms to regionals.
- Lost and found will be put out next week, and a notice will be sent to parents. Items not collected will be donated to charity.
- We need some help with watering the school garden over the summer. Plants are all set and doing well, but we do need someone to help. If you're able to sign up, please reach out Ms. Meredith. There's access to a hose on site, and a key to the garden shed is shared by parent volunteers.
 - Liz K and Eleanor and Sheena offered to help this year.
- Some information from one of our ND speakers was handed out, with tips for hosting an ND-friendly event (such as a birthday party).
- There are several retirements this year. Mrs. Canada is retiring before the end of June. As well, Ms. Reaume, Mrs. Quinton, and Ms. Meredith are all retiring. We will hear next week about the plan for a principal for Westvale for next year.

Teacher's Report- Mme Cloet, Mrs. Quinton

- The Groundwater Festival was an excellent trip. Parent council was thanked for for sponsoring the children who couldn't have gone otherwise.
- There were lots of happy memories with camp day for grade 6. Thanks again for helping to sponsor this event and the students who needed sponsorship.
- The kindergarten students had their first trip in in 4 or 5 years, and they were all smiles. Thanks to parent council for supporting this!

Treasurer's Report – Eleanor McGrath

- Our overall balance is 11.1k
- Available funds (after commitments and our 3k minimum balance) is 5.5k
- There was revenue this month from Mabel's labels of \$74.06. We also received reimbursement for our ND, which paid back \$87.17.

- This month, our expenses were \$14 for chicks for the chick hatch. There were also some expenses related to fun fair, some of which are only expected and haven't been claimed yet.
- We are in good financial shape. Our expenditures for the year are roughly 7.4k (this includes commitments) and our revenues are sitting just under 7k and we still have our Fun Fair fundraising event left. As long as we make \$400, we balanced the budget for the year.
- Most of our expenses were for student experiences. We also donated to Nutrition 4 Learning, and sponsored events. School-Day fees were another significant expense (which charges 2.9% for all monies collected via the School-Day app for fundraisers).
- Fundraiser recap: We did Big Box of Cards, Used Book Sale, Movement and Music/Dance Event, Herrle's Produce Box, and Four All Ice Cream. Still to come is the Fun Fair event. It was a HUGELY successful year in terms of fundraising.
- This year we had approximately 380 students, and next year we will have approximately 360 students.
- Eleanor suggested that we could consider donating any surplus funds to Nutrition 4 Learning. Suggested cadence was twice a year (December and June). There was some concern about making sure we were transparent about the use of funds for N4L if we decided to do that as many parents are donating with the expectations that the funds directly impact their children in the school.
 - It was suggested that we could run an event that specifically raised funds for N4L (like we did with Four All).
- Helen Quinton mentioned that teachers would appreciate even more than \$5 for field trips if the funds are available, and she pointed out that while some students got a year-end trip, others had their trips early in the year to see a performance.
- Tonya suggested we put out donation buckets for Nutrition 4 Learning as well as School Council at events so people can direct their donations in their preferred way.
- Eleanor suggested we make a plan for how to spend our extra money if we bring in more than we spend, and that we shouldn't be holding onto extra funds year over year.
- Some suggestions for the use of funds were voiced, and many of them are already in the queue for facilities to fix. It sounds like getting these issues addressed by Facilities is difficult to estimate (in terms of timeline). Suggestions included fixing the missing rope on playground, and fixing the swing.
 - Tonya to get a quote, but there are work orders in for rope and swing through facilities which have been open for a while.
- It was suggested that we reach out to teachers and students to ask for suggestions for ways to spend any extra funds.

Fun Fair – Jennifer and Sheena

- Fun fair is tomorrow and we're excited!
- Many thanks to our committee for all their hard work (Jenn T, Jen B, Sheena, Christine, and Tamara).

WRAPSC

- We are looking for a volunteer for next year to attend the WRAPSC meetings (which is like a council of school councils). Jen B relayed that it was a very good experience. She said she will still attend when she can but she can't commit to the year.

Events

- Meet Educator
 - Planned for Sept 4th from 6 pm -7 pm, with food starting at 5:30.
 - Christine to ask about Dominoes Pizza Tent for this year; it was suggested that instead of food trucks we might want to offer refreshments directly for sale.
 - The pizza tent allows us to sell pre-cut and pre-packed Domino's Pizza for something like \$6 with a cost of \$4 for us. Domino's said they could loan us a debit machine and we'd just have to staff the tent.
 - It was suggested that we sell freezies again at the event.
- BoohooYahoo
 - This is a meet and greet event that takes place in the library on the first week of school for parents who are new to the school (typically for JK/SK families).
 - Planned for Sept 5th from 9-9:30 am in the library
- 2025/2026 Council Meetings
 - First meeting is planned for Sept 17th, from 6:30-8 pm
 - Will have to set the remaining dates with the new principal in the fall

Next Meeting Date – September 17th, 2025 from 6:30-8:00 pm

Future Meeting Dates –TBD for the 2025/2026 school year