

School Council Meeting minutes May 21, 2025, 6:30pm

Welcome to those attending –

Name	Present	Name	Present
Mary Sue Meredith	X	Tamara DeCraemer	X
Elysia Cloet	X	Jon Mendoza	
Tonya Seip		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	
Sarah Steinert	X	Sheena Kinghorn	X
Danika Fraser		Shireen Fawad	
Helen Quinton		Ninaa Persad-Mohammed	
Liz Kristensen	X		

Welcome Message – Tonya

Territorial Acknowledgment - Mary Sue

Principal's Report – Mary Sue

- Mme Moser is on medical leave and Mme Karshikova (Mme VK) is taking over until the end of the year.
- There is a Jays Care baseball program for junior students at recess. This is offered through the Blue Jays, which also provided equipment for the activity. Mme. Moser applied. The equipment includes gloves and bats. Kids who stick with the program receive a t-shirt and a hat at the end.
- Helen Quinton and Ms Meredith have been working as part of the garden group on the Westvale Gardens. Emily Cho arranged a mulch donation. The Garden Group has been spreading mulch on garden and front garden beds and have planted lots of things. There has been a great turnout at recess.
- Grade 6 EQAO is next week. The practice was today for grade 6, and will be tomorrow for grade 3. The grade 3 EQAO is in 2 weeks.
 - The test has changed a little this year.
 - It is still online, but some grade 3s can do some on paper and get it scanned.
 - In the past, it used to be if you submit it, you're done. Now a teacher can send it back to the student if it's not completed (which matches how a teacher would work with a student on any assigned task).

- Track and field this week at Westvale. In June there will be an area track and field meet in Cambridge at Jacob Hespeler Secondary School. Students who qualified will be notified. Students who remain at Westvale PS will have a water day while their peers are at regionals.
- There is an upcoming volunteer recognition breakfast for parent volunteers who have been in the classroom volunteering (strong start, pizza, etc.).
- We are hosting a Super Power Celebration, which is a fundraiser on behalf of Kids Ability. This will take place on the week of June 9-13. More info to come.
- There are lots of field trips coming up. The grade 2/3 are going to the Water Festival next Tuesday, and Kindergarten going for play time in June. Grade 6 camp trip is also coming up in June.
- Kindergarten teachers are organizing kindergarten picnics (each class has a different day).
- Panago pizza night is planned for June 4th. Families will receive 15% off and 15% of the proceeds will be donated to the school.
- There will be a grade 6 celebration during the last week of June. Information will be coming out to grade 6s. This celebration happens outside in the learning area, with a gym as a backup for rainy weather.
- There is a request from the Kindergarten classes regarding their field trip.
 - They are going to Mini Playtown Kitchener on June 18th. The venue is inclusive to all students.
 - The bus plus fees for all 74 kids is \$1212.12 (\$16.38 per student). After their existing subsidy via school council, it will cost \$11.38 per student.
 - There are 4 families that would need to be sponsored, for a total of \$45.52
 - Christine Motioned to sponsor the children. Jenn T seconded. The majority voted in favour and the motion passed.

Teacher's Report- Mme Cloet, Mrs. Quinton

- Thank you to Kathleen and Toby Merritt for running the science fair. It was a wonderful experience for all the students to walk through and see all the experiments and projects.
- At the end of April we had a baby chick hatch. The kids enjoyed getting to name the chicks. There was lots of variety in colours of the chicks this year. Children got to see pictures of each chick and pick names. Names were: CJ (Chicken Jockey), Oreo, Popcorn, Buttercup, Lava, Midnight. Going to a farm 3 hours away.
- On May 1 there was a spring clothing swap. There were lots of donations. Big thank you to all who donated!
- On May 9 there was a spirit day, where students were encouraged to wear school colours.
- On May 16 we hosted Jump Rope for Heart.

Treasurer's Report – Eleanor McGrath

- The account balance as of May 15 is 11.1k
- Our available funds (after all commitments) is 5.4k
- There were no revenues this month
- Some commitments were expensed this month
 - We had a \$700 budget for science fair boards but the actual cost was less at only \$625.19

- So far our expenses are 7.3k, our revenue has been 6.7k (meaning we're currently running a deficit). However, we haven't collected revenue for fun fair yet. Last year we made about 1.7k at the event.

WRAPSC – Jen Benninger

- Jen did not attend the meeting, so she is relaying the meeting minutes that were sent.
- They had a speaker in to talk about long term and capital planning (board planner came to speak). They looked at aging infrastructure and accessibility. The board submit requests to the province, and any shortfalls in funding are covered by the board. Sometimes the province might withhold funding because some projects are stalled due to lack of funds.
- Schools in our region are fully utilized; Toronto has many underutilized, so we are efficient.
- A portapac is only built if you permanently need 6+ classrooms (ours only has 4 classrooms, so it wouldn't be built today).
- They are removing sibling priority from FI lottery (which means everyone has an equal chance of getting into French Immersion regardless of whether an older sibling is already enrolled in FI).
- French Immersion applications are due Jan 2026. Students can no longer apply to Catholic and Public Boards.
- Once a student is enrolled in FI, you have to go through an involved process including superintendent approval to move FI kids back to the English stream; this has been true for the last 2 years, but is not well known or communicated.
- Our school board is not required to offer FI; we are an English Language school board. We still have a shortage of French teachers.
- If you know a child that needs an elevator, it takes time to build, and parents are encouraged to let the schools know as soon as possible so they can make a plan.
- WRAPSC and PIC magnets being handed out at grade 9 info nights.
- The Director of Education is going forward with many recommendations with PIC.
- They need volunteers for PIC going forward; it's a 2 year commitment.
- The next WRAPSC meeting is October 7th; looking for a Westvale volunteer for next year.

Track and Field

- Sheena suggested that we might want to allocate some school council funding toward items that can be used during track and field such as rakes, flags, and stop watches
- Mary Sue replied that the school chose to spend budget on badminton rackets this year, and tried to prioritize items that can be used throughout the year. Track and field is very fun and engaging, but it is just one day and the teachers are able to work with alternatives (like stop watch applications on mobile devices).

Fun Fair – Jennifer and Sheena

- We are pretty excited and well organized for the fun fair. We have a committee that meets monthly.
- We have sent out some communication for volunteers and raffle baskets. Thanks to Mary Sue for helping to get these out!
- There are posters up around the school for the event.
- So far we are planning:
 - Colouring Station (indoor)

- Candy Guessing
- Selfie Station
- Duck game, ring toss, bean bag toss
- Tattoo station
- Balloon animals
- Chips/juice
- Cotton candy
- UW Engineering Outreach STEM event
- Cake Walk
- Large format games
- Food trucks (3 coming)
- Chalk, colouring, bubbles outdoors (Junior Optimists may offer this)
- Fire Truck may be able to come
- Wolf hunt – find wolves around the school, and report back on how many
- We discussed whether or not there was a possibility for additional seating for those eating at the food trucks. Mary Sue said that the wooden benches from gym can go outside in dry weather, and we can put tables outside, too.
- Sheena asked if there might be a place to eat indoors, but there's not really a space that comes to mind, but Mary Sue will consider if we can accommodate this request.
- The school has 8 tables, and the committee has requested an additional 10 tables. Mary Sue will try to borrow them for us.
 - The tables we borrow are board tables, which are "Free", but if they aren't in the right spot, they charge a pick up fee (which happened after the science fair).
- Raffle
 - Jen asked about what happens if prizes are not collected at the event, and wondered if they be picked up at the office. Mary Sue indicated that they can be picked up there, and that if the parent consents, the kids can also take them home.
 - Parents who are picking up must come between 9 and 3:30 to the office.
 - We can call winners from the school on Friday. Jen B has offered to do this.
- Volunteers
 - We have sent one email request, and have solicited directly in some cases.
 - Jen B is making sure everyone has something to do that they like.
 - We have around 25 1 hour "slots" to fill.
 - For cupcakes and cookies, we are aiming for 20 packages to give out, and we have 15 right now.
 - We need more help with clean up and with the main event. We almost have enough for set up (just need 2 more).

Next Meeting Date – June 18th, 2025 from 6:30-8:00 pm

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