



Westvale *Public School*

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School Council Meeting minutes September 22, 2021, 6:30pm Virtual Meeting

Welcome to those attending –

Name	Present	Name	Present
Marisa Moser	X	Rick Foucault	X
Jodie Hancox-Meyer	X	Christine Glidden	X
Tonya Veltman	X	Anita van Raalte	X
Amber Fitzgerald	X	Eleanor McGrath	X
Stephanie Evans	X	Liz Kristensen	X
Lynda Morris	X	Melissa Santo	X
Elizabeth Flynn-Dastoor	X		
Vidia Kendall	X		

Welcome Message – Tonya Veltman

First meeting of the 2021/2022 school year.

Territorial Acknowledgement – Jodie Hancox-Meyer

Council Election Results – Jodie Hancox-Meyer

- No need for formal election/voting; all positions are acclaimed
- Tonya Veltman - Chair
- Rick Foucault – Treasurer
- Christine Glidden – Secretary
- Additional persons signed up to be members at large (Elizabeth Flynn-Dastoor, Stephanie Evans, Vidya Kendall, Linda Morris, Amber Fitzgerald, Liz Kristensen)
- Anyone interested in becoming a member at large/voting member of council, can reach out to Jodie to sign up

Introductions – Jodie Hancox-Meyer/Tonya Veltman

Principal's Report – Jodie Hancox-Meyer

1. Covid Update – An outbreak has officially been declared in a cohort at Westvale. Wanted to take a couple of minutes to let council know that as soon as there are two cases in a school that are lab confirmed (not a rapid test), and public health determines that its improbable that the cases were contracted in the community, making it probable they were contracted at school, they declare that to be an “outbreak”. The 2 covid positive students are in one of our cohorts at school (cohort and children remain unidentified for privacy reasons). Public health determined that there was a probably epidemiological link between the cases. This is a cohort outbreak and the cohort was already in isolation (the cohort has not been in the school since end of day Friday September 17th, and the period of isolation for that cohort has been extended by additional time due to the second case). Public health is visiting Westvale along with health and safety personnel to perform an inspection to make sure there’s nothing we’re missing and nothing we should be doing differently. The inspection will be approximately an hour. We are still following all of the health and safety protocols (distancing, sanitizing, etc.).
2. Until Friday, we had a relatively smooth start up this fall, even despite the challenges that COVID continues to throw at us. The staff and students have adapted well to the continued health and safety measures in place. We welcomed back 363 students as in-person learners and there are currently 33 Westvale students attached to one of two remote learning schools in the WRDSB for this year.
3. There are some facility updates I’d like to tell you about. We’ve had a second water bottle filling station installed in our primary hallway. We now have 2 of these units in the school. The water fountains remain closed due to safety protocols. We also had some new painting done on our tarmac, which you may have noticed. We had some repainting of current games, some new games added, along with some messages of welcome. We had 20 cubic yards of mulch delivered and 2 of our grade 5/6 classes have spread most of it on the paths in our restoration area. This keeps the mud and dirt levels down in the school and provides a softer surface for the kids to play on. We also spread some of that mulch in our gaga ball pit. We had a big section of burrs and thistles removed along the pathway by the new creative playground. The contractor spread topsoil and seed and the area looks much better! Last, we are eagerly awaiting a big load of sand for the sandbox by the old creative playground.
4. Although we are still following many of the COVID safety protocols we did last year (masking inside for all grades, frequent hand hygiene, entry and dismissal plans, classroom desks facing forward and as physically distanced as possible, water fountains closed, wayfinding arrows on hallway floors, maximum occupancy in washrooms, teachers taking individual classes outside for play time) we have had some loosening of protocols as well, as directly by the Ministry of Education, Public Health and the WRDSB. For example, students are permitted to take masks off while outside playing with their class in a designated area (we provided each student with a cloth bag and clip to store their mask in). We are now permitted to let students use the creative playground equipment, including the gaga ball pit. In addition, students may now use the gym for physical activity with their class, with masks on. They may also sing in class, masks on. Play items (e.g. a basketball) and instructional items (e.g. a bin of markers or a Chromebook in a classroom) may now be shared within a cohort, but must be disinfected if used by another cohort. We no longer must quarantine paper for 7 days, which means that the data verification

forms you've been sending back in with your child no longer must sit in a bin for a week before they are given to the office! We are also excited to be opening our library for student use and book sign out. We will be permitting only one class at a time in the library and strict hand hygiene will be practiced upon entry and exit. Staff are also excited to have microwaves back in the staffroom this year!

5. We welcomed a number of new staff to Westvale this fall, including Mrs. Burt, our new Child and Youth Worker (Mrs. Heier decided over the summer that she would retire and we wish her all the best). We also have 2 new teachers, Mme Kanoun (French Immersion) and Ms. Hambleton (grade ¾). We also welcomed back Educational Assistant Miss Ecsedi.

Teacher's Report – Marisa Moser

- It's great to see everyone after a wonderful summer. It is nice to be back in routine and see students in person again!!
- For those of you that I have not had the opportunity to meet, I am Marisa Moser, the grade 5/6FI teacher this year. This is my 2nd year on school council and I am the teacher representative.
- A quick update from the school, we will be participating in the Terry Fox Run next week by class cohorts to ensure physical distancing and maintaining our cohorts.
- We will also be wearing orange to support Orange Shirt Day on Sept 30.

Treasurer's Report – Rick Foucault

- We have approximately \$4000 in available school funds

Ongoing fundraisers – Cobbs update, Mabels Labels, Fundscript – Tonya Veltman

- Tonya to write a school day blast to remind everyone about these ongoing fundraisers
- Cobbs has been our most successful fundraiser over the last 3 years; 10% back on purchases when you mentioned Westvale Public School. The fundraiser, unfortunately, has been discontinued by Cobbs for all schools.
- Mabel's labels and fundscript will continue; you just need to sign up or mention the school's name when placing an order
- Mabel's labels – Have many different products including labels for clothing, backpacks, shoes, etc. and also offer products like personalized party loot bags.
- Fundscript – You purchase gift cards, and a percentage of the gift card amount goes to the school. The percentage varies by store/vendor. You can purchase a gift card for your own use, and a portion of that goes back to the school.

Potential Agenda Items for Next Meeting– Tonya Veltman

- New Sign for the School (new letter sign with 4 lines might be around 10k, electronic ones might be around 25k)
- Support for Outdoor Learning (e.g. shade sails)

- Spiritwear for the future when Covid allows for sizing, etc. or look at another item that doesn't require sizing (Eleanor to research options)
- Research into the Voyageur mascot to determine if it's still an appropriate mascot, with involvement with the local indigenous communities (Elizabeth Flynn-Dastoor to look into the process of changing mascots at the board level to find out what's involved)
- Disposable/compostable Cups for classrooms for kids when they forget their water bottles

Next Meeting Date – October 27, 2021