



Westvale *Public School*

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## School Council Meeting minutes October 27, 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	
Amber Fitzgerald		Eleanor McGrath	X
Stephanie Evans	X	Liz Kristensen	
Lynda Morris		Melissa Santo	X
Elizabeth Flynn-Dastoor	X	Doerte Schulze	X
Vidia Kendall		Anita Van Raalte	X

### Welcome Message – Tonya Veltman

### Territorial Acknowledgement – Jodie Hancox-Meyer

### Introductions – Jodie Hancox-Meyer/Tonya Veltman

### Principal's Report – Jodie Hancox-Meyer

- The WRDSB has recently let schools know that we may proceed with having school photos. This is very exciting news for schools and families alike! We are currently waiting to hear from Lifetouch, our photography company, about establishing a date (we've been told this may take some time due to the volume of schools to be communicated with) and information will be communicated with our families as soon as we have it.
- Our "modified" Terry Fox class runs were a huge success this year. We were blessed with a wonderful week of weather for classes to do their runs. Collectively, our students, staff and families raised over \$1000 to support the Terry Fox Foundation and we're really proud of this! Thank you to our families for supporting a great cause.
- The WRDSB is starting to phase in allowing Volunteers to support schools. Currently we are in Phase 1 of this, where the Board is focusing on allowing volunteers to help with coaching large

high school athletic teams (e.g., football). The WRDSB IT department has developed a confidential portal whereby interested volunteers can declare that they are fully vaccinated. Stay tuned for future phases of this to be communicated by the WRDSB which will potentially allow other volunteers into our schools to help with things like Nutrition for Learning, Strong Start and classroom support.

- All grades 1 – 6 students will be receiving a progress report card and Kindergarten students will be receiving an Initial Observations of Learning report on Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. As always, do not hesitate to reach out to your child’s teacher to discuss your child’s progress or any concerns you might have.
  - Stay tuned for information about how distance learners will receive their reports.
- You are likely aware of the direction the WRDSB is taking around discouraging schools from having Halloween celebrations. As we did last year at Westvale, we will be leaning away from students wearing or bringing costumes or any shared treats or items to school on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. The rationale behind this is twofold: First, due to COVID health and safety protocols. Second, due to the fact that we are becoming increasingly aware that quite a few of our families do not celebrate Halloween and feel like they need to keep their child home this day. We want every day to be a day where each and every one of our students feels like they belong! Instead of Halloween celebrations on October 29<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a “Wear Black and Orange” spirit day. We’ll be doing lots of announcements to get the kids excited about this. We recognize that moving away from traditional Halloween celebrations in our school is disappointing for some of our students and families, but truly appreciate your support in ensuring we keep Westvale as safe-from-COVID and as inclusive as we can!
- At our last meeting, one of our School Council members raised the concern that our mascot name “The Westvale Voyageurs” may not be as ideal as we’d like, especially given our country’s recent experiences and increased awareness of the importance of Truth and Reconciliation. I’m pleased to let you know that I did a little bit of “digging” around this and discovered that the WRDSB formed an Ad Hoc committee in the spring of 2021 to address this exact concern. This committee will be reviewing the names of each WRDSB school and mascot and making recommendations around any school names and mascots that should change. Currently, the focus is on the re-naming of SJAM high school. After that, in time, our Voyageur mascot will likely come on the radar and there will be a WRDSB-guided re-naming process. This will likely include representation at the school, community, and Board levels. Keep this in mind and make sure you indicated your interest in this process when it occurs.
  - <https://www.wrdsb.ca/blog/2021/06/08/statement-from-the-ad-hoc-school-naming-review-committee/>

#### **Teacher’s Report – Marisa Moser**

- A quick teacher update, school is back in full swing and we are in the midst of writing progress report cards.
- Things are going well and we are happy to be back in person working with students!
- Cups have been given to each classroom for students who forget their water bottles.

- In addition, we are having orange and black day this week and we will have them every month going forward.
- Room 12 did Dragons Den presentations today and had a guest visit from David Chilton.
- Excited to be receiving colors of the world crayons to allow students represent themselves and their nationality in their art work.

#### **Treasurer's Report – Rick Foucault**

- Available funds are approximately \$4660
- To be discussed in the future – reducing the minimum float amount from \$3000 to a lesser amount

#### **Update on Potential Council -Purchased Spirit Items – Eleanor McGrath**

- Looked into some options that:
  - Creates sense of community and support morale and belonging (ie, could be worn to an assembly)
  - Swag that doesn't require measuring individual students
  - Swag that is not easily lost or unidentifiable
- Options include: face masks, temporary tattoos, water bottled, toques, wristbands, lanyards, cinch bags, and socks
- Preference for purchasing t-shirts again for students
- Mrs. Balkos has offered to help size students for t-shirts, which would allow us to purchase t-shirts for the students this year
- If we order soon, we could have items before Christmas
- Eleanor to go back to the suppliers to get quotes for the t-shirts
- We would want to redesign the t-shirt to remove the "Voyageurs" text from the design

#### **"Asks" of Council – Financial Support for Recess Play Items and Forest of Reading book sets – Jodie Meyer**

- Requesting support for recess items
- Students are allowed to share items within a cohort this year
- Each classroom has a few of these items already (age appropriate such as sidewalk chalk, balls, etc.) but these items need to be replenished
  - Would be approximately \$500
  - Suggestion - could we ask for community donations for some of these items?
  - Teryn McKinnon has done this in the past, and would have an inventory list from the past – Stephanie to reach out to ask for this information
  - Motion raised by Christine to authorize \$250 for purchase of these materials for the 15 classes. Seconded by Elizabeth. Council voted and the motion passed.
- Forest of reading programs are running again this year
  - Features 10 age-appropriate books by Canadian Authors

- Engages students in Canadian literature
- WRDSB purchases one set of the English books, but no sets of the French books
- Historically council has sponsored one set of the English picture books and one set of two different French picture books
- These are used as part of classroom learning
- Total cost is \$443.50
- Motion brought by Elizabeth and seconded by Stephanie to provide the full amount for these books. Council voted and the motion passed.

### **Large Item Fundraising Items – Continuation of discussion – Tonya Veltman**

- Things we might want to raise funds for:
  - Items from the past that were sponsored – magic shows, scavenger hunts, Sedat, virtual dance, bingo, and virtual games
  - Reusable library bags (but for next year)
  - Spirit wear
  - Additional supplies for outdoor play
  - Larger items for future years (new sign, new shade sail)
- Ways to raise funds:
  - Fundscrip
    - Elizabeth to write a school day blast for Fundscrip to encourage people to purchase their gift cards for the holidays via Fundscrip
  - Dominos pizza night (\$5 from each pizza purchased on a particular night with a school code goes to the school)
    - Tonya to investigate
  - Elmira Poultry fundraiser has historically raised \$2000, and could be a good fit
    - Stephanie to investigate
  - Big Box of Cards
    - Stephanie to investigate
  - Online silent auction
  - Sell first aid safety kits
- When raising funds, we should let parents know what the funds are being raised for (e.g. spirit wear and reusable library bags)

**Next Meeting Date – November 24, 2021 from 6:30-8:30 pm**