



Westvale *Public School*

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**School Council Meeting minutes  
November 24, 2021, 6:30pm  
Virtual Meeting**

**Welcome to those attending –**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Present</b>
Marisa Moser	X	Rick Foucalt	X
Jodie Hancox-Meyer	X	Christine Glidden	X
Tonya Veltman	X	Anita van Raalte	
Amber Fitzgerald		Eleanor McGrath	
Stephanie Evans	X	Liz Kristensen	Absent, with Regrets
Lynda Morris		Melissa Santo	
Elizabeth Flynn-Dastoor	X	Doerte Schulze	
Vidia Kendall	X	Anita Van Raalte	
Kira Brusckke	Absent, with Regrets	Christina K	X
Bobbie-Joe Seitz	X		

**Welcome Message – Tonya Veltman**

**Territorial Acknowledgement – Jodie Hancox-Meyer**

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

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

- Progress Reports and Kindergarten Initial Observations of Learning went home on Monday, November 15th. There is not official time set aside for parent-teacher interviews this year, but as always, parents are always encouraged to reach out to the child's teacher to discuss their child's progress via phone, email, etc.
- You have likely read the WRDSB announcements that came out a couple of weeks ago reminding families of what happens when buses are cancelled on inclement weather days. This

change is consistent with the new direction and policy established last year. If buses are cancelled, all schools will now automatically be closed for in-person learning. Teachers will make “review” learning opportunities available on their Google classroom or D2L Brightspace platform for students to do some virtual learning on those days. There will be no new information taught on these days, rather the learning activities will focus on the consolidation/review of material. The learning provided by teachers will not be synchronous or “live”, but teachers will be available to students and their families during the school day and will be posting learning activities. The WRDSB will make every attempt to make school closure announcements by 6 a.m. on those days. In addition, if there is an official “weather advisory” made the day before by 1 p.m., teachers will send a Chromebook home with students/families who indicate that they have no access to technology. This obviously isn’t a perfect system, but we will certainly make every effort to get technology home with students who require it.

- If you would need a Chromebook for your child on a weather-impacted learning day, please let your child’s teacher know. Note that because it is not synchronous learning, multiple children in the same household can share a chrome book on these learning days.
- I have been in email contact with Trustee Kathleen Woodcock, who sits on the WRDSB Ad Hoc School Renaming Committee, to let her know that the issue of the suitability of our Westvale mascot, the “Voyageurs” has been discussed at the level of School Council. She thanked me for my communication and asked for my permission (which I granted) to pass this information along to the leadership group of the Ad Hoc Renaming Committee so that they are aware of School Council’s views. So, we will stay tuned for more developments on mascot renaming. Right now, the focus is very much on the renaming of 3 schools in our system: SJAM, Ryerson and A.R. Kaufman.
- The Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils (WRAPSC) is hoping to have committee representation from all schools. All WRDSB School Councils may be represented by their Chair, Co-Chair, or any appointed member of their School Council. If anyone is interested in represented our Westvale Council, please contact WRAPSC Co-chairs Heidi Holmes and Sara Heroux at [wrapsc@gmail.com](mailto:wrapsc@gmail.com) for more information. Having representation of our Westvale Council at the level of WRAPSC would allow for the sharing of information happening at a “system” council level and can be quite interesting and valuable. Many of you will remember that Heidi provided us with regular WRAPSC updates at our Council meetings for the last couple of years and this provided a “finger on the pulse” with initiatives and information from this group.
- The WRDSB is now in “phase 2” of allowing volunteers in schools. The focus is on allowing people outside of school staff in schools to assist with 2 initiatives: Nutrition for Learning and Strong Start. Currently, our NFL program runs very smoothly under the supervision of 2 staff volunteers, but we would really like to get our Strong Start program up and running, though on a “scaled back” level, under the leadership of Strong Start coordinator Taryn McKinnon. I have been in touch with Taryn to discuss the rather involved process that must be followed, and I think realistically it will be sometime in January by the time she and I are able to meet the implementation requirements for the program, including attestation of vaccination of any

volunteers and a completed vulnerable sector police check. Taryn will be doing much of the coordination and organization, though I will play a role in vetting volunteers as well to ensure that all safety requirements are adhered to.

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

- Things at school are well underway. Progress reports have been sent home and we are continuing on with lots of rich learning.
- Last week some classes learned about Monarch butterflies and spent time planting a Waystation for them through our outdoor education centre within WRDSB. The Monarch way station will provide a spot for Monarch's to stop and feed before continuing their migration to Mexico. It is located in the back of the field, I believe. There is a sign that has been up so that students can see their hard work of planting the garden. We are excited to see lots of Monarchs and play a small part in saving them from extinction!
- Coming up next week, we have a week of giving starting December 6-10 where we will be collecting items for the Food Bank. Food donations can be made in person at the gym and monetarily online. We are really emphasizing no expired cans as the Food Bank cannot give them out to their community members in need.
- Severe Items that are in desperate need:
  - Individually packaged snacks (granola bars, apple sauce, pudding cups)
  - Dry beans
  - Juice boxes
  - Canned fruit
  - Rice
- The food bank noted that kraft dinner is best avoided because it requires butter and milk, which they can't usually distribute.
- A school day message will be going out to help advertise this initiative.
- On December 16, we will have a school wide assembly and have a magician perform for us. This will be a fun way to wrap up the first part of the year before the holidays.
  - The assembly will be virtual only; each cohort will stay in their respective classroom and will livestream the video.
- I wish everyone a happy and relaxing holiday season.

#### **PRO Grant Application – Jodie Meyer**

- The Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant requires an application. Schools get dollar amounts depending on the school's socio economic rating. We may apply for \$250.
  - Should be for community-building activities
  - Application is due Friday January 14, 2021
  - Last year, we used this to pay for the SADAT show
- The Parent Involvement (PI) Grant is \$500. It does not require an application; it is given to the school council automatically.
  - We have to spend this by the end of May.
  - Last year this money was used for the Paul Davis parent presentation.

- We could include Holy Rosary to pool funds
- Tonya has offered to fill out the PRO grant form
- It has been suggested we do the Paul Davis presentation again, but there are concerns about the ethnic diversity of our speakers, and it has been suggested we look for an alternative speaker for this year
- Elizabeth Flynn Dastoor motions that we apply for the grants for an internet safety session of some kind, seconded by Stephanie Evansburg. The majority of council members in attendance voted in favour of this motion, and the motion passed.
- Elizabeth Flynn Dastoor volunteered to look for an alternative to Paul Davis
  - Do we have contacts in the board who could direct us to someone with a different ethnic background who could do a presentation like Paul Davis? Marisa Moser to inquire.
- Discussed the possibility of a separate event (such as an anti-racism workshop) in the event a suitable replacement to Paul Davis can't be found

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

- Available funds are approximately \$4200
- Minimum balance is \$3000
- There is a \$525 commitment remaining for Mrs. Morley from the original \$2000 last year
- There was an expense of \$393 for Forest of Reading
- We received \$915 revenue from the Dominos fundraiser

#### **Discussion on Float/Reserve Amount - All**

- Historically, the minimum balance was meant to provide a whole year of traditional expenses in the case that our fundraising is not successful
- We had \$6500 in expenses for 2019
- Last year, 2020, we spent just under \$2000
- Elizabeth can look into numbers from previous years, if we want to get a better idea of typical expenses
- We had an initial conversation, we are choosing to leave the minimum balance, but we are willing to entertain the idea of dipping into the balance with a specific expense in the future
  - Rick motioned, and Stephanie seconded. The motion passed after a vote.

#### **Update on Potential Council -Purchased T-Shirts – Eleanor McGrath**

- There is a staff design for spirit wear that doesn't include "Voyageurs" that we could use
- Building the sense of community is really important this year, especially at a time when we physically can't come together
- Bobbie-Joe Seitz has volunteered to run an additional spirit wear campaign as soon as it's possible with covid restrictions
- Stephanie motioned to table this for the January meeting, and Elizabeth seconded.

### **Domino's Pizza Update – Tonya Veltman**

- We easily raised almost \$1000 over the course of three weeks
- We are signed up to do another 3 or 4 week fundraiser in the new year (possibly Feb/March)
- There is another fundraiser opportunity through Domino's as well
  - Gift Certificate fundraiser for Domino's
  - School can buy \$15 gift certificates; valid for any Domino's in KW
  - \$15 gift card is non-taxable
  - Of the \$15, the school gets \$9
  - We have one month to promote it, to collect the money (electronically), and then send a cheque to Dominos, they send us the gift cards and then we distribute them

### **Recess Equipment Updates – Stephanie Evans**

- Stephanie submitted a form to Costco to get a donation of a gift card for these items
- Still gathering information about classroom needs
- Perhaps a class set of snow shoes would be good for the future

### **Big Box of Cards/Elmira Poultry Updates – Stephanie Evans**

- We ran Elmira poultry 6-7 years ago
  - Offer a wide range of poultry products (chicken strips, chicken nuggets, burgers, etc.)
  - All arrives frozen, everything is pre-portioned so it's easy to use
  - Make \$5 for each box sold, but if we make less than 5k, we pay 1.50 for each box sold.
  - Nothing can be paid through school day; cash only (board has said they can not have cash fundraisers, so we are not able to do this one)
- Big box of cards, we ran a few years ago
  - Can choose either all occasion or birthday
  - \$33 for 33 cards, taxes included
    - We make \$11 per box
    - Delivery fee is \$150
    - 2 week sales period is suggested
  - Very high quality cards
  - Typically each child would go home with a box, show it to the family and keep the box if they sold the box, then pick up additional boxes
  - However, due to Covid, boxes don't go home – there is a video that you share instead
  - Jackie can set this up via School Day since it's a fixed amount
  - Bobbie-Joe motioned that we do this fundraiser, seconded by Rick. Motion has passed.
  - Timing for the fundraiser to be determined. Perhaps April 11-27<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Meeting Date – January 26, 2022 from 6:30-8:00 pm**