



Westvale *Public School*

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## School Council Meeting minutes January 26, 2022, 6:30pm Virtual Meeting

Welcome to those attending –

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

Welcome Message – Tonya Veltman

Territorial Acknowledgement – Jodie Hancox-Meyer

Principal's Report – Jodie Hancox-Meyer

- Term 1 report cards are “under production” currently and will be going home with all Kindergarten to Grade 6 students on Wednesday, February 16th.
- We’ve got over 40 students whose families decided to opt for the Short Term Virtual Learning Option (STVLO) instead of sending them back for in-person learning after our extended holiday break. These students are accessing information from the WRDSB website (including consultant created pre-recorded lessons in French and English for all grades) and their regular teacher’s google classroom or D2L site to keep up with their learning from home. The last day for STVLO is February 11th at this point but families are able to send their child back prior to this date if they wish. These students are all expected to return on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

- All of our K - 6 students will be participating in the “Black Canadian 365 Conference” on February 8th from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. This will happen virtually in the students’ classrooms. The host of the conference is Duane “D.O.” Gibson (who has presented for our Westvale students live in the past) and the focus will be on learning about Canadian historical and inspiration heroes such as Viola Desmond (who stood up for her rights by sitting down at a movie theatre in Nova Scotia, she now appears on our \$10 bill) and Josiah Henson (a slave who travelled the Underground Railroad for freedom in Canada, became a landowner and helped others free and empower Blacks). The emphasis will be on teaching our students more about Black Canadian history.
- Our February 2nd school photo day has been postponed again. Due to the high number of students learning from home right now, it was going to be a logistical nightmare to try to move forward with this date. We have worked with Lifetouch Photographers to rebook a date on Wednesday, April 20th. Our hope is that the weather will allow us to have class photos occur outside on this day as well! We are aware that another postponement may come as a disappointment to some families, but we want to be as inclusive as possible on this day and have as many of our students involved as possible.
- Our new WRDSB Director of Education, Jeewan Chanicka, came for an “outdoor” visit to Westvale on December 15th. Director Chanicka is an incredibly down-to earth man and it was a pleasure and an honour for some of our staff to meet him in person. Director Chanicka also got to have some “window interactions” with some of our students, which was a real highlight for everyone.
- One of our School Council members, who wishes to remain anonymous, reached out to me prior to the holiday break to chat about putting together some care packages for our “under-recognized” staff members on behalf of council. This person proceeded to put an enormous amount of time and energy into creating very thoughtful gift packages for all of our EAs, office and library support staff and custodial staff. These care packages were received with surprise and much gratitude and I wanted to share this anonymous good deed with all of you.
- We had our most successful food drive ever just prior to the holidays. Collectively, our families donated 1105 lbs of food and donated a total of \$638.19 to the Food Bank of Waterloo Region. WOW! This equates to a total of 2778 meals to help feed hungry people in the Waterloo Region. We are so proud and so blessed to live in such a giving and supportive community.

#### **Staff Report – Val Beddoe**

- **November**
- **Food Drive:** organized by Miss Seergobin. Staff volunteered a bit of their time before school for a few days to collect generous donations from students and their families. It was highly successful and we broke last year’s record.
- **December**
- **Staff Survivor game:** organized by Miss Moser. Participating staff were asked to join in by donating a 10\$ gift card. We were allowed one buy out and that money would be donated by the 3 winners to the charity of their choice. We were also allowed to form alliances. Names

were drawn in advance by trusted staff and called out every day during the announcements as part of the selection process. Students were supporting us until our final eviction from the team. 2 EAs and 1 secretary won. The game lifted everyone's moods in the last 2 weeks before the Break.

- **January**
- **Guess Who Game:** Our second game involves participating staff writing a few clues that are read over the P. A. system by Mrs. Meyer during announcements. Students get to guess who the staff is. We are not being done yet.
- **January...**
- **Forest of Reading:** organized by Mrs. Balkos who is still waiting for our Forest of Reading Books to be delivered. Our students will have access to 6 categories of books with 10 books in each category:
  - ▲ 2 French series, courtesy of this Parent Council → Le Prix Peuplier (French picture books) and le Prix Mélize (chapter books). French teachers will read at least 5 of the Prix Peuplier books in class or in the library.
  - ▲ 4 English series:
    - Blue Spruce, picture books read by Mrs. Balkos during library time;
    - Blue Spruce Express, chapter books
    - Fiction
    - Yellow Cedar, fiction chapter books
  - Students need to read all 10 books of a given series in order to be able to vote for their favorite book. They are invited and encouraged to read more than one series!

#### **PRO Grant Application – Tonya Veltman**

- Application has been submitted
- We have moved forward to putting the grant towards Paul Davis
- He has given us 5 dates to choose from for the presentation – it is a parent-only presentation this year in the evening
  - March 7, 8, 10, 22, or 30
  - Council would prefer the 10<sup>th</sup> or the 30<sup>th</sup>

#### **Treasurer's Report – Jodie Hancox-Meyer**

- We have \$950 from the Domino's fundraiser
- Available funds are at \$5182

#### **Update on Potential Council -Purchased T-Shirts – Vidya**

- Pricing was quoted at \$11 for children, \$17 for adults
- Tonya to reach out to the previous supplier to find out if the pricing would be any lower (previously the price was closer to \$5)
- Any families who are learning from home would be included

- Student population is 400, staff is roughly 50 and we typically purchase a few extras
- Waiting to get pricing information before deciding if we will do this for spring 2022 or fall 2022

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

- We have another one coming up, but the date is still being determined

#### **Westvale Logo Update – Jodie Hancox-Meyer**

- Jodie got some new design prototypes for the logo because we had decided that we no longer wanted to have “Voyageurs” as part of the mascot/logo for spirit wear
- Would allow the students to vote between three different designs
- Once selected, the graphic designer will give us the design in a suitable format for silk screening on a t-shirt

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

- Have a good list of what each class needs
- Haven't heard back from Costco about donated gift card

#### **Big Box of Cards – Stephanie Evans**

- Booked in for April 11-27
- Two options – either the boxes are sent home, or there is a virtual option
  - Generally families purchase 2-3 boxes when they are sent home, vs 1 when they are virtual
  - If sent home you can only do birthday or special occasion, or not both
  - Would need a staff volunteer to distribute the boxes to students
  - For virtual, you can sell both boxes and you send home a flyer and a link
  - Would need to have two options to pay on School Day
  - Shipped a few days after the order is complete
  - End of March – deadline on this decision
  - \$11 profit per box; 250 boxes is \$2700 raised for council
- Some families did not return their sample boxes last time, so doing the distribution model would be a lot of additional work and some lost profit from lost/damaged boxes
- Council consensus is that virtual is the right way to go with both options
- **Product Video** - <https://streamable.com/6e10wp>
- **Individual Cards Link** - <https://www.bigboxfundraising.com/product/>

**Next Meeting Date** – February 23, 2022 from 6:30-8:00 pm