

WTT School Council

Thursday, Sept. 15, 6:30 PM

WTT School Library

Agenda and Minutes

1.) Welcome to a new school year! - past chair

Great to see parents on first day of school. Decided to keep third Thursday of month for these meetings. Introductions.

Attending this evening: Kristi Dryland, Robyn Gilbey, Robin Landry, Tina Landry, Lindsay Harmon, Vicky (Sangmi), Barb Brown (principal), Carol Ann Ogilvie (temporary VP), Summer Braunig, Danielle Reynolds, Meredythe Hertz, Steve Hertz, Isabel Griffith, Pam Law, Danny Lee, Ali Hasan, Brenda Tyler, Sharon Dunlop, Emily Parliament, Denise Linton,

2.) Welcome to New VP Carole Ann Ogilvie. Carole Ann is a retired principal who brings a wealth of experience to this temporary role. The new permanent VP will be announced by the end of November.

3.) Nominations and elections

Nominations rec'd for Danielle and Pam to stand as co-chairs. No other nominations were submitted. Co-chairs Pam Law and Danielle Reynolds acclaimed.

Acknowledgment of Aaron Labor's co-chairing in the past few years and best wishes..

Nomination for secretary to take notes during the meeting which will be uploaded online the next day. Kristi Dryland (primary) and Summer Braunig(backup).

*Thank you notes for those leaving council after more than one year of participating.

Director of Fundraising - Erin Cleasby is stepping back from position. She may come at times.

The role includes helping to think of new fundraising ideas without putting too much on parents, ideas that might be fun for families/parents while making money at the same time. New and unique ideas, booking dates, determining parent involvement - move a thon, parent night organization of volunteers. Lindsay Harmon is interested in this role. Thank-you!

Actions for next meeting:

*Data as to what was raised in the past by the different events. - past 5 years

*Organize Mabel's Labels.

4.) Administration Report

Around the school: Enrolment is 754 - not a big change from last year. 5 kindergarten sections. Classes are all at or under the cap (approx 30 kids in class) with ECE and EA. Was not necessary to split French immersion.

Technology: CATC (Computers across the Curriculum) is a very active school committee- enough Chrome books that they've created 7 zones of class sets. Teachers are very excited. Started talking with juniors about digital citizenship, taking responsibility, treating devices properly. Please emphasize importance of protecting passwords with your children.

School facility looks great. Carol Ann has arranged for workplace repairs, inspection. Concerns for outdoor area - weeds behind portables, mesh to help with drainage - ideally this can be removed. Field trips for this year - discussions taking place to determine the appropriate amount of trips a year. Scientist In The School field trips would be included in this in order to better determine the overall cost. Parents may have trouble seeing the value in the in school experiences that have costs. This could be a communication item. A better understanding of how subsidies are applied may be needed, or breaking down the costs for parents (explaining how much the bus costs, etc). School wide science night may help. Could give out grade 6 t-shirts earlier in the year. Could we pro-rate full year of school trips at once? Better advance notice of field trip costs. Parents may not agree with paying for field trips to specific places (Brantford Zoo) - is feedback from parents taken into consideration on the locations selected? Parents may be unclear on what happens when they opt out of a field trip - usually parents keep their children home. However, the school can make provisions for the child within another classroom.

TSN...will be starting soon - parents voiced big support for this program and are grateful for the teacher volunteers.

Around the board: Laura Hodgins retired last year. New superintendent is Ron Deboer. Parents should feel welcome to work with him. Flow should be teacher, principal, then superintendent. Provincially and board wide the focus academically is math.

Around the province: EQAO.. May be difficult for students to learn math in French (immersion) while testing in English. More on this in future meetings.

Liz Sandal announced the 60 million for Focus on Math. Now a 3 tier support program. Until EQAO results are in, we won't know much.

Coming Events: TRAIL assembly is Thursday, September 22nd. Parents are welcome. Middle block, 12pm in the gym. Picture day is September 29th. Retake day has been schedule. Spirit Wear orders - last day is the 20th.

5.) Fundraising Update

A few events are now being planned. Event planned for February with community organizations hosting, move a thon and jump rope for heart have been planned. Next month will include a full review. Recently received notice regarding PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant - successful! That's \$900 to put towards a science night (UW Science). This could occur any time during the year. School has a great twitter account / Facebook.

6.) PRO Grant - A science night for parents will be planned. Date TBA

We ended the night by parents adding to the "HOPE" banner started by WTT staff. What great hopes are reflected here for a wonderful year ahead.

Adjournment: 7:50 PM