

WTT School Council Minutes

March 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the library

Present: Barb Brown, Rita Givlin, Natalie Breau, Danielle Reynolds, Erin Labour, Kristy Dryland, Tina Landry, Robin Landry, Sharon Dunlop, Sarah Nakamura, Agnes Lee, Danny Lee, Jenn Sullivan, Meredythe Hertz

Regrets: Karen Madsen, Erin Cleasby, Susan Morgan, Maya El Baltaji, Ali Hasan, Pam Law,

Admin Report

Around the School

- Sports theme day and Move-a-thon are tomorrow - students are very excited about the prizes. Our staff has been incredibly generous.
- Staff changes
- Staff are highly engaged in site-based and collaborative learning.
- Primary staff and students are loving the ChromeBooks and keen on exploring how they can support learning. Sesame and Seesaw foster a closer connection to the school. Parents are eager for the open communication.
- Continuing Glee at Heart on Thursday, second nutrition break, at Westmount - parents are welcome!
- Hockey finishes up tomorrow - students and parents were at Kitchener Aud for game against Breslau last week. Basketball has finished.
- Kindie and FI registrations - we are always pleased to welcome new TRAILBLAZERS but, so far, numbers are down (i.e., last year 90 this year 60). Parents are asked to encourage students to register now before March 31. Two classes are planned for French Immersion grade 1.
- Application for the Tim Walker award has been completed (\$500 for greening).
- Teaching of the Human Growth and Sexual Development portion of the Health Curriculum begins soon. Lessons are appropriate for age level and respect equity and inclusion. Ms McIntyre teaches all the health in our school.
- We are continuing to work to resolve the issues with our bells - further work will be done over the break.
- Emma Metcalf is the new supervisor at the YMCA

Around the Board

- February 26th PA day included Health and Safety, Spec. Ed. and Mindfulness presentations
- Senior staff are working on a new strategic plan - refreshing the vision for the board by collaborating with students and community members
- Ms. McIntyre sits on the WRDSB Social and Emotional Learning Committee and will be attending a conference in Toronto on April 6 where she will work with colleagues from across the province to create a resource for the Ministry of Education to support educators in bringing mindfulness activities to classrooms. We are so proud!

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- Administrators have finished interviewing to replenish the LTO list and are beginning to set up interviews to hire additional occasional teachers.
- The WRDSB Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils (WRAPSC) are excited to announce the fifth annual parent conference that will be hosted on Saturday, April 16th 2016 at Bluevale Collegiate Institute. The conference schedule will include a keynote speaker Monique Howat speaking to *"How to Raise Confident and Motivated Kids"*. Workshops throughout the day cover a variety of topics including student whole body wellness, literacy/reading, science, math, navigating the school system, plus many more! This FREE event is an amazing opportunity for our families within the WRDSB! All parents and guardians of WRDSB children are invited to attend. Free childcare for children 2-11 will be provided for the day. Registration is required.
- Waterloo Region Health flyer sent out to schools - WTT sent home via website and School Day

Around the Province

- Extended funding for university - tuition covered for low income students

Fundraising

The fundraising account is building up again - currently there is approximately \$10 000

Fun Fest Report

Feedback: Great turn out (approximately 400) and reviews from vendors, activity sponsors and attendees. Fantastic number of volunteers and lots of great organization made the event run smoothly. Many happy faces around the school. Raised approximately \$2700. True value is building community connections and engagement. Exceptional follow through from our school council parents - Mrs. Brown brags about you all the time. Rainbow looms and drum circle were favourites. Book sale earned approximately \$225. Passports were good. Appreciate involvement of community businesses. Long and McQuade rental of drums very reasonable. Vendors appreciated food.

Next Steps: Improve system for tracking and recording money - perhaps designate a finance person. Designate a communications person. Encourage more student volunteers. Avoid PA day weekend. Ask school of rock to change songs so students can come back and play again. Ensure all activities are on the passport to encourage involvement in all. Increase size of font on yard signs. Support needed for PA system. Shorten the time (event really slowed down for last hour) or start earlier.

Move-a-thon

- Help for the cosmic store: Daniele, Kristy, Tina and Paige

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Looking Ahead

- Parent Engagement Night - Cat Coode of Binary Tattoo to discuss Digital Citizenship; April 5 at 6:30 p.m.. This is how we are using last year's PRO grant. Refreshments and child care/activities will be provided. Danielle is working on arranging child care. Pam and Danielle will arrange refreshments (coffee and baked goods). Promotion on school sign, facebook, twitter, school day, stickers in the planners and reaching out to John Sweeney and Williamsburg. Communications will have WTT Council facebook page. Could we do Adobe Connect to extend to parents who are not able to attend? Rita will investigate with Cat. All parents are encouraged to invite a friend to attend.
- PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grant application for 2016-2017 - science for families, arts night, application is due May 29, 2016. All council members are asked to bring ideas. Food is helpful.
- Mindfulness Evening for Parents - with Karen McIntyre

Any Other Business?

- Check out our Facebook page <https://facebook.com/WTTParentCouncil/>

Agenda Items for next meeting, Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

- PRO Grant application for 2016-2017

Motion to Approve the minutes: Danielle, seconded by Erin
Carried