

WTT School Council Minutes - May 18, 2016

6:30 p.m. in the library

Present: Rita Givlin, Barb Brown, Erin Cleasby, Nathalie Breau, Karen Madsen, Pam Law, Erin Labour, Ali Hasan, Danny Lee, Emma Metcalf, Sharon Dunlop

Regrets:

Admin Report

Around the School

- Successful Track and Field day- students now being selected and preparing to compete at county event
- Grade 3 and 6 students are preparing for the EQAO assessments
- SCIS survey is now closed; we will share results when they are released to us; helps us learn how students feel
- Arts Night was a huge success; great displays of art and talent by our students; greatly appreciated the engaged parents and staff who joined us to celebrate our students; all money raised from food trucks, water and Smencil sales will go to support Nutrition For Learning at WTT (our participation in the program requires us to do one fundraiser per year); parents recommend one more food truck; communications rep from WRDSB commented on parent engagement and school spirit, as well as the awesome art
- Staffing Updates - Mrs Jessica Schnarr is now on maternity leave; we welcome Mrs. Leah Thomas to the English portion of grades 5 & 6 French Immersion; Ms Lovell has moved to Baden PS and Mrs. Amanda Johnston has joined us in the office; we are pleased that Mrs Psaila is back half time to share Room 5 kindergarten with Ms Pryse
- Technology - we will be trading in some of our desktop computers to increase our supply of Chromebooks for the fall
- We currently have 415 followers on Twitter (36% increase), 578 on School Day (23% increase), 72 subscribers on the website (38% increase) - parent support here has helped us to reduce paper and copying costs.
- Superintendent Laura Hodgins will visit WTT on May 31, 2016
- Application for Nutrition For Learning has been submitted for 2016-2017

Around WRDSB

- The staffing process is well under way as we organize and plan for the next school year

Around the Province

- There continues to be a focus on improving achievement in mathematics and consideration of having lead math teachers assigned to some schools.

Maintaining Natural Playground

- Waiting to hear back from Preston at Earthscapes - will request he comes back to check
- Concerns - hill with no grass; students can fit under logs now, presentation area flooding
- Maintenance comes from the fundraising
- YMCA is in full operation during the summer and willing to assist with watering

PRO Grant for 2016-2017

- Pam Law will be completing the application - looking into UW Pro Grant Package (not for profit) package and Tinkertrucks (for profit), due at the end of May
- Reimbursement form for Cat Coode has been done; report back to ministry needs to be completed before mid-July (Pam)

Fundraising for 2016-2017

- 2015-2016 money all went into the natural playground
- Some challenges with our chocolate campaign - returns, getting enough help, tracking
- Looking for prepaid, practical
- What do we need money for? e.g., classroom amounts? agendas? off-campus trips?
- How will we raise money?
- Recommend: money toward field trips

Agendas

What information should be added to make them more useful for students and parents?

- Consistency in use - Barb will discuss with staff at June staff meeting

Pegasus

- Welcome to Jason Stangroom
- Packages can be created by parents, with different backgrounds and poses
- June 9 drone package, Jason recommends students wearing school colours
- In response to parent request, we can sell copies of the aerial photograph
- Individual and class photo day, Thursday, September 29, 2016

- Parents appreciate Pegasus participating in FunFest
- Spiritwear sales next year - no investment - no inventory - no minimum - best sellers are hoodies and t-shirts, option for personalization, can pay and order on-line or complete form and send in a cheque, school gets 10% return: order forms will be sent home on Sept. 7 and samples will be available at open house on Thursday, September 8, campaign will close Tuesday, Sept. 20, order will be placed on Sept. 23, no late orders accepted; 2 week turnaround for clothes

Class Trips

- The cost of field trips has been onerous for some of our families
- School staff will form a field trip committee to look at an overview - parents appreciate being able to plan ahead
- Most important that all students can go on the trips
- Kids love trips, parents support
- Have we asked for donations? e.g., WEFI

Reminder

- Dogs are not allowed on school property
- Do we need signs?

Any other business?

Council Report

- Due in June

Principal Profile

- will email to co-chairs

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 16, 2016 @ 6:30 p.m.

Motion to approve the minutes: Erin

Seconded by: Pam

Carried