

## **WTT School Council Minutes**

November 9th 2020

**Attendees:** Lori Briscoe, Sandra Himann, Kristy Dryland, Robyn Gilbey, Meredyth Hertz, Ghalia Kahal, Pam Law

### **Introduction and Welcome**

**Elections** - no nominees were sent to Lori, the following parents volunteered for the positions:  
Positions of Co-chair(s) - Kristy Dryland, Robyn Gilbey  
Secretary - Pam Law

**Administrative Report** - Lori Briscoe

### **Around the School**

- Lori assured that kids are happy at school and learning and following new routines and protocols quite well.
- Teachers are happy to be teaching in class as well
- Every Tuesday is Trailblazer Tuesday - Students are encouraged to wear blue and yellow on these days
- Remembrance day virtual assembly will be taking place on November 11th. This is being organized by the Grade 6 French Immersion class.
- Next opportunity to change the mode of learning - Parents must tell school by January 15th with changes taking effect at the beginning of February.
- School health nurses have been identified for the school and will be the key contacts at Public Health. Will be able to be a resource for administration at WTT for any questions they might have.
- Recent change for schools is phys ed teachers being able to take classes outside and use the gym during inclement weather. This will be done by alternating the two halves of the gym, to allow for a minimum of 15 minutes to air each gym before the next class enters.
- Staff have been amazing adjusting to all the challenges that the new school year posed.
- Lori will be retiring on December 31st of this year. Congratulations on your retirement Lori!
- After the first reorganization - 5 classes switched to distance learning. After the second reorganization - 4 more classes went to distance learning. At the moment approximately 412 in person, 206 in distance learning.
- Comment from a Parent - missing "Meet the teacher night". Wondering if there is an opportunity to connect with teachers or even visually see what their classrooms or schools look like this school year.
- Would be nice if there was a formal communication that no school photos are taking place this year.

- Feedback from a parent that when being signed up for updates from the school website a lot of the emails received are generic postings related to board wide messages and not specific to the school, so they unsubscribed

### **Around the Board**

- If you haven't yet, please subscribe to the WRDSB website to get up to date info from the board
- Hosting a Parent webinar on supporting children's mental health
- Board has a COVID page that identifies cases and outbreaks when they occur at schools
- Information on treaty recognition week
- Community use for schools is still on pause until at least the end of the year

### **Around the Province**

- New treaty curriculum going online - will be a teacher resource in the Spring of 2021 to assist with teachings
- Right now there is a shortage of principals, vice principals and teachers. Currently there is a directive that retired teachers, principals and VPs can only work a maximum of 50 days in the school year - trying to change this to 100 days based on this current shortage
- Province is putting out funds to build and upgrade schools, \$550M. WRDSB will likely apply for some of these funds

### **Fundraising**

- Decided that this year it would not be appropriate given that people have enough on their plates

#### Summary of our current funds

- We currently have \$22,000 in the Parent Council account. Can be saved for future years.

#### Future goals

- Lori confirmed that there wasn't anything specifically that the teachers or classes need
- PPE and extra classroom resources have been provided already
- Have asked teachers if there is anything that each child could play with at their desks at nutrition break. If there is a financial ask for this, administration will approach

### **Walking School Bus**

Looking for a leader for our school - Kristy is unable to take on this responsibility this year.

### **Questions from Parents**

Q: Is there anything planned for Lori's retirement that parents can be involved in?

A: Lori indicated that probably not, but what she is looking forward to is cards from the students and going to each class to say goodbye before her retirement.

Q: Are there restrictions for teachers gifts around the holidays

A: There aren't any current guidelines around that. General guidance is that nothing non-essential comes to school, but with cards, these could be stored for 7 days before being opened. There may be more messaging from the board before the holidays.

Q: Does Lori know right now if there will be a temporary or permanent principal filling her position by the time she retires?

A: She does not know it is sitting now with the board.

Q: Is it possible to hold the meetings a little later?

A: Group agreed that meetings could start at 7:00 pm

**Council meetings schedule**

For this school year it was decided that meetings would not need to be held every month.

Proposed meetings as follows:

- December 2020
- January 2021
- March 2021
- May 2021

Next meeting is December 14th at 7:00 pm