

## **WTT School Council Minutes**

December 14th 2020

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

### **Introduction and Welcome**

#### **Williamsburg Community Association (WCA)**

Laura from Williamsburg Community Association was a guest at the council meeting.

She shared that the WCA will be running virtual programming for the next while.

Details of the programs available are available at the following link and will be shared with the school community via School Day.

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/NTcAedlcZwJYz/>

Robyn inquired whether the school would be able to run a joint virtual event - such as a community scavenger hunt - with the WCA to get families out in the neighbourhood. Laura was very open to the idea and invited Robyn and anyone else with ideas to reach out to her via the WCA email address: williamsburg.community@gmail.com

### **Administrative Report - Lori Briscoe**

#### **Around the Province**

- Lori shared some resources to parents that are available on the Province website
  - learn at home link – all by grade – has activities if you are looking to do things with the kids over the break
  - Updates around the Ministry and COVID
  - General Resources for Parents and Caregivers – e.g. guides around literacy and math – fun activities to do with your kids – supporting your kids in French Immersion

#### **Around the Board**

- The Board has been organizing environmental, outside activities that families can do at home. On right now is the Winter Bird Count – December 16 – 23<sup>rd</sup> – go to WRDSB website for link to resources and more details
- New board officials elected this past week
  - Joanne Weston – elected as chair, Scott Piakowski - elected as vice chair
- Featured on the board website are WRDSB 2020 Champions – stories of people doing good things during the pandemic

- Change of learning mode requests for elementary schools will be coming out following the break with cut off for mid-January and switch happening February 3rd

### **Around the School**

- Things at the school continue to be going well, there are currently 412 students in person learning with 201 in distance learning
- Anticipate there will be reorganization of classes with the learning mode switch opportunity in February
- Had a staff positive COVID case – the school was very supported by Public Health and the Board. Response was very well organized and cohort will be returning to school on Tuesday.
- This will be Lori's last week at the school. At Monday's Board Meeting – there will be a confirmation of who the new principal will be. Tuesday morning staff will be notified before the formal announcement comes out Tuesday afternoon.

### **Opportunities on what the Council can do during the Pandemic**

- Roundtable discussion with parents and administrators on what the school council can do to support the teachers and the school community during the pandemic
- Overall parents are so impressed and happy with what the teachers and the school administration have been able to achieve during the pandemic and want to thank all the staff at the school
- Parents would like to know if there is anything that parents can do to support the school or teachers
  - Sandra responded that at the moment the teachers have all the supplies that they need to keep themselves and the students safe and have not identified any current gaps
- Think of opportunities for organizing virtual social events – like a community scavenger hunt (as previously mentioned)
  - perhaps reaching out to WRAPSC to see what other school councils are organizing during the pandemic
  - Sandra mentioned her childrens' school is running a virtual games night this week and will share ideas at the next council meeting
- Nutrition for Learning is the only outside agency engaging with the school this year. 3 staff members are running the program during second nutrition break. In addition to that Nutrition for Learning will be helping school families throughout the holidays by sending home food for families during the break.
  - In lieu of support for field trips (as there were funds raised last year and not spent) Council will provide a per student donation to Nutrition for Learning. Council to get balance of funds at next council meeting and decide on donation amount.

### **Council meetings schedule**

At the previous meeting 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 **Tentatively** January, 11th at 7:00 pm (to be confirmed with new Principal if timing works with their schedule)

**THANK YOU LORI**



School Council shared their thanks for Lori and the leadership that she has provided to the WTT school community and students. She has made amazing improvements for the staff and students. We want to wish her all the best in her well deserved retirement!