

École Van Wallegghem School-Parent Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 14, 2023

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: École Van Wallegghem School (Library)

PAC Executive Members in Attendance: Wil Hedges, Wendy Schultz, Shelley Bertrand-Meadows, Michelle Chay, Rochelle Reynolds, Taz Lakhani

Administration in Attendance: Sharon Labossière (Principal)

Members at Large in Attendance: Colleen Peluso

Call to Order: 7:01 p.m.

-A motion was made to adopt this evening's agenda. Moved by Shelley, seconded by Michelle. All in favour, no one opposed. Carried.

-A motion was made to adopt the minutes from the January 10, 2023, meeting. Moved by Michelle, seconded by Taz. All in favour, no one opposed. Carried.

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A. Parent Council Initiatives:

1. Chair's Report-Wil Hedges

- i. It has been a busy month with some of the Lunch Program issues and the LWFC race.
- ii. The sub-committee for Truth and Reconciliation has not happened yet. Only one parent responded. **Action: Wil will work with Suzanne and Carrie to keep the committee going.** Question: Is this a role we need to take on? The school is doing an excellent job of teaching about Truth and Reconciliation. Supporting newcomers to Canada (and the school) is more of the current issue.

2. Lunch Program Report-Shelley Bertrand-Meadows

- i. The Lunch Program is approaching the mid-year point. Invoicing for first term was completed.
- ii. We have received confirmation from PTSD that the École Van Wallegghem School Lunch Program is not going to be centralized for next year as initially planned by the school division. We do not know of any plans beyond the 2023-24 school year. A few more schools are being incorporated into the pilot project next year, but VW is not one of them. As such, the PC will be responsible for operating a lunch program

for one more year at least. A question to seriously consider is, will we have the capacity to continue to run this program after next year given that Shelley will be stepping down as Lunch Program Chair?

- iii. The VW admin team asked for all classroom microwaves to be removed. They are an asset of the PC. Not a lot of time was given to decide as to how they would be disposed of. The microwaves were provided by the PC to give parents the opportunity to send lunches that could be heated up. Parents may have anticipated the return of this option after Covid. Microwaves have been scheduled to be disposed of as E waste and taken away as far as we know. Sharon communicated that they had been taken out of the classroom and were being stored in the kitchen following a health and safety inspection. Issues with the microwaves involved the fact that students must be supervised to use microwaves and there is not always enough supervision. They also had to be cleaned regularly. Classrooms have also been rewired and it was felt the electrical charge was too large and unsafe. One microwave is to be donated to a staff members church. Action: Sharon to find out who the staff member is and more information about what exactly happened and why the PC wasn't given more time to discuss this issue.
- iv. Tax receipts were completed last week and sent to the printers. They should be distributed within the next week or so.
- v. There is a minimum wage increase due to come into effect for April 1, 2023. The scheduled increase is for .65 cents per hour (bringing it to \$14.15). Student Lunch Monitors have traditionally been paid minimum wage. Motion: to approve an increase of .65 cents per hour for the SLMs. Moved by Shelley, Seconded by Michelle. All in favour, no one opposed. Carried.

3. Social Chair Report-Vacant

- i. Staff Appreciation Week is planned for the week of March 13-17. Should we move it to the week of March 23-27 due to the ski trip (i.e., missing staff members)?
- ii. In the past, parents have covered off recess duties for the teachers as a break for them. Action: Sharon to send an email out as we get closer to the date.
- iii. No restrictions on food we can bring in.
- iv. Michelle is willing to take on the organization of this event! Action: Everyone send ideas to Michelle.

4. Lindenwoods Fall Classic Race-Rochelle Reynolds

- i. The date is planned for October 1, 2023.
- ii. The committee met a few weeks ago. 7 new VW parents have joined, as well as some former members! Everyone has taken on an important role that is necessary to make the race function.
- iii. The application for the Manitoba Runners' Association (MRA) was accepted. We are in competition to get the Youth Series', which would be a great opportunity to get more young runners out.
- iv. There is a grant available for community events that Rochelle will apply for. This

grant, if successful, could give out \$5000 toward race expenses (which would be a lot).

- v. Working on a lot of logistics now like race registration, permits, space available and first aid quotes.
- vi. Most of the profits will go toward the new play structure at VW. A small portion may go toward another cause if a group volunteers to help with the race and has a cause in mind.

5. Fundraising Chair Report-Vacant

- i. Kristyn Van Walleghem has taken on the task of the Glenlea Plant Fundraiser. To date, there have been \$1130 in Glenlea purchases!
- ii. Should a dedicated poster be sent to the community to encourage and remind families to purchase plants?

6. Education and Communications Chair Report-Michelle Chay

- i. Constable Dave Howard will be coming on either March 7 or 22 for presentation on internet safety
- ii. School trustees will be invited to come back to speak in October for newcomers (to help them understand the school system)
- iii. Michelle will work on something for Inclusion Month next year.
- iv. To note: Sharon or Carrie need to take the permits out for us to use the school after hours. If we take the permits out, we must pay.

7. Site Report Chair Report-Taz Lakhani

- i. Taz followed up with Councillor John Orlikow for a meeting but has not gotten a response yet.
- ii. Grant: Winnipeg Foundation grant is available for capital projects (one time only). Action: Taz will write it. It supports projects of up to \$150,000!
- iii. Sharon shared things to consider for the structure: kind of caulking needed, depth of playground, etc. are all things to check into with regards to city regulations. John Orlikow needs to expedite the lease process since Taz needs the info for the grants. Information from him should be coming soon.
- iv. Jet Tickets Raffle: Could this be done at the Fall Classic? Action: Taz will forward to Rochelle. Raffles has been quite popular in the past and raise a good amount of money. The tickets would come from "Playgrounds Are Us". We have not signed on with them yet but this is something they are offering to try to get us to go with their company.
- v. Taz is waiting for the final plan for the structure. \$120,000 plus tax looks to be the cost. FYI: Linden Meadows is also building another new structure. It would be good to check in with them, so we do not end up with duplicate structures in

the same neighbourhood. Question: If we are not successful in getting the grants: Can we get Councillor Orlikow to put in more and we take more from the PC? Decision: we can consider this option if needed.

8. Treasurer’s Report-Wendy Schultz

- i. No new activity in the bank accounts this month.
- ii. Wil and Wendy need to go to the bank still. It may be better to wait until March after RRSP season is done. Rochelle could also sign if needed.
- iii. As of February 2023, here are the bank balances:

TD Bank Balance:	\$106,780.73
Restricted Funds:	\$13,489.18 (Race) \$66,397.25 (play structure)
Total Restricted Funds:	\$78, 699.18
Unrestricted Funds:	\$26,894.50
Mutual Funds	\$3495.44

9. Other Business

- i. Parent Council Website: Still on hold. Do we need to pay to renew this site that we have never used? What use would it truly be to us? The main issue is having a place to upload the minutes and upcoming events. Action: Sharon to try uploading meeting minutes to see if the problem from more than a year ago has been resolved.
- ii. Bell changes for next year: Parents at Linden Meadows are upset. A petition is going around to sign in the neighbourhood. The first bell next year would ring at 8:05 p.m.
- iii. Grade 8 Graduation: Date of June 28 has been set and confirmed. A dinner and dance will take place at the Manitoba Club from 6-10 p.m. A DJ has been booked. A movie night at the school for families with students in K-3 is being planned for the evening of March 3. This is a fundraiser for the graduation. Popcorn and Subway will be available. Parents must stay with their children. A 200-person maximum is in place. Grade 8’s will pick a job and sign up to work at this event. Grade 8 parents are also needed to support the event. Teachers have not had the chance yet to talk to the Grade 8 students about this. Action: Colleen to come to the school to talk to the Grade 8’s about the plan.

Executive Portion Adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

B. Administration Report

Sharon Labossière (Principal) reported on the following:

School hours changing next year to 8:15 a.m.-2:45 p.m. 8:05 will be first bell. Linden Meadows is in consultation to make sure timetables are similar. Schools are also working to align with other divisions.

Team Leaders: Sarah Baxter (K-2) Sherri Austen (Student Services), Mitch Friesen (7-8) Suzanne Beauregard (5-6), Amélie Gaultier (3-4) and Alison Bruckshaw (Specialists). They chair committees. This reflects the school plan which includes: Indigenous Perspectives, School Climate, Literacy, Numeracy, French Language ad Culture.

Literacy: Literacy blocks were built in this year. they do guided reading at these times and it's been very effective. There are professional collaboration times.

Recent Events: High Schools: Oak Park came for a visit recently and students will be going to visit them soon. Shaftesbury will be coming for a visit. Kindergarten Information night took place. Students come from out of catchment when there is space available. Lunar New Year was celebrated. I love to Read month: Every class has had guest readers. Older students read in their mother tongue to younger kids. Students wore pajamas last week to school.

Upcoming Events: Festival du Voyageur will take place on February 17. A multicultural night will take place soon. Polar Bear Snow Circuit: The lifecycle of a polar bear will be studied.

-Adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

****Next Meeting: March 14, 2023****