

École Van Walleghem School-Parent Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 12, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: École Van Walleghem School (Library)

PC Executive Members in Attendance: Colleen Peluso, Anne Meszaros, Rochelle Reynolds, Jen McPhail

Regrets: Wendy Schultz, Wil Hedges

Administration in Attendance: Tori Patzer (Principal) and Carrie Lourenzo (Vice-Principal)

Members at Large in Attendance: Salma S., Kristen B.

Call to Order: 7:18 p.m.

-A motion was made to adopt this evening's agenda. Moved by Colleen, seconded by Anne. Carried.

-A motion was made to adopt the minutes from the January 9, 2024, meeting. Moved by Colleen, seconded by Anne. Carried.

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A. Parent Council Initiatives:

1. Chair's Report-Colleen Peluso

- i. We have a new logo for the Parent Council! We would like to have it up on the Instagram page.
- ii. Colleen created a write up about Parent Council which will go up on the school's website. **Action: Tori to also put pictures up.**

2. Fundraising Chair Report-Anne Meszaros

- i. Anne hosted a Fundraising Planning Session. This included our two administrators and four parents. The group talked about goals and values. Diversification of campaigns, reducing handling of money, finding high-return investments, creating social events as fundraisers, and recognizing local businesses were discussed. Other topics included creating a room parent for each class, a Facebook Parent Council group, general communication concerns, new ideas for Fun Lunches, and including

- fundraising links on the website.
- ii. The “Wish List” from administration and parents was reviewed. Some ideas included: a “Parent Council Closet” (extra mittens, hats, etc. for families in need), buddy bench, food security fund.
- iii. So far this year, we have raised \$2453.25 for Subway Fun Lunches (19% profit). We are still waiting for Mabel’s Labels to cut a cheque (need to reach \$50). To be determined: proceeds for the Glenlea Plant Fundraiser.
- iv. Online ordering is now available for the Glenlea Plant Fundraiser. The deadline is April 15 with a pick-up date of May 23.
- v. *Motion: Proceeds for the Glenlea Plant Fundraiser: \$300 for core boards, \$500 for the Buddy Bench, \$200 for food securities (estimate). Moved by Anne, seconded by Jen. All in favour.*
- vi. The next planning session will take place in March.

3. Site Report Chair Report-Vacant (Anne is helping to fill in this role for the time being)

- i. Anne had a call with Georgina from John Orlikow’s office. They will provide us with support that is not financial. They will help us with grant writing if we need it.
- ii. We need to write an email to City’s office asking for an introduction to the person who is connected to parks and open spaces for the city.
- iii. Grant writing: Can we put a message out to the community to see about recruiting an interested parent for this job? Someone with experience could oversee the process (could serve as a Capitol Project Lead). We could create a position description *Note: We have tried to recruit for this in the past with no success and have tried to get a sub-committee in place.
- iv. We are now in negotiation with the province regarding the lease of the land (trying to wrap up a few ends in order to get a longer lease). We cannot move forward until we have this piece of paper.
- v. Comment from Parent: This project has been in the works for 3+ years now. We are not making any gains. Financially, we could simply build the structure ourselves with all of the money in the PC accounts. Money from the PC should be not hoarded for long periods. We could build the structure without grants if we pay for it ourselves or build a smaller structure (prices vary). Concerns from the LWFC committee that they are putting funds towards this project that may never happen. A former VW parent who was in charge of building the red “spider man” structure at the school (served as the Site Chair) said a grant writing project of this size really needs a lead and strong writer. Without this, nothing will move forward. Action: Rochelle to ask this former parent if he would be willing to speak to Anne. *Note: Anne is not the actual Site Chair and would like to find a place to store all of this information for a future Chair.
- vi. Action: Tori to find out what playground building companies are approved by PTSD.

4. Social Chair Report-Vacant

- i. Staff Appreciation Week will be coming up March 11-15. Action: Wil is organizing. If you have ideas, email or speak with Wil.
- ii. Motion: to donate \$150 as a gift from the Parent Council to help supplement Staff Appreciation Week and show our appreciation for the staff (whether during the week or at another time during the school year). Moved by Anne, seconded by Jen. Carried.

5. Linden Woods Fall Classic Race-Rochelle Reynolds

- i. Planning for the race is going well. We are still looking to fill a few open positions.
- ii. Race committee has some concerns regarding future play structure. Future earnings may only be a “drop in the bucket” if we want to build a large structure and do not start writing grants.
- iii. As this is a community event sanctioned with the MRA, this is NOT a school event where staff attendance is expected. The committee would like staff to feel included and plans to offer one complimentary race entry per staff member, if they choose to take part as a participant. The committee would also like to find out how the staff believes the money raised should be spent. The 1/3 proceeds would go into the PC bank account but the goal is to designate a cause.

6. Treasurer’s Report-Jen McPhail

- i. The bank balances are as follows (as of January 31, 2024)

Bank Balance-General Account	\$30,494.46
Bank Balance-Lunch Account	\$163,113.35 (includes fees collected for this year)
Investment-General Funds	\$17,221.20
Investment-Playground Funds	\$66,397.25

- ii. Not too much activity this month. A few cheques for the Lunch Monitors were cleared and the MRA fee for the race.
- iii. The three options for the excess lunch funds have been typed up and will be ready to present at the next meeting.

7. Education and Communications Chair Report-Vacant

- i. Michelle organized an educational event this evening. Our current Trustees came

out to speak about the school system in Manitoba. Thanks to Michelle for doing this!

- ii. *Motion: To reimburse Michelle \$22 for the coffee and treats she provided for this evening's education evening. Moved by Anne, seconded by Jen. Carried.*
- iii. **The next session will take place on April 9, 2024 with Constable Orlando Budahan.** The topic of the presentation will be internet safety (very popular and well-attended last year).
- iv. Future session possibility: Michelle Carlos (Library and Learning Consultant for PTSD) on internet safety for students.

8. Lunch Program-Vacant

- i. Lindsay (Lunch Coordinator) is working on tax receipts. Things are going well overall.
- ii. Tori spoke with the Secretary-Treasurer regarding the investment of funds in a GIC (short-term). This is permitted.
- iii. A reimbursement to parents for the lunch funds can be done. Lindsay would be able to write the cheques. The cleanest option is to simply write a reimbursement cheque instead of giving out a rebate or discount for next year. We would offer one choice only to keep things simple.

9. Other Business

- i. Manitoba Association of Parent Councils: An organization that we could consider joining. They are willing to come out to make presentations, answer our questions, and help us understand our roles. \$20 for current members and \$40 for non-members. This seems to be a good plan for September 2024
- ii. Bylaws and Constitution: Members of last years' executive started working on revising the current document. It is only in a draft form with comments. Any changes need to be made at the May AGM. The current constitution is very long and has some things that are inaccurate/inappropriate. Administration also needs to consult. At this point, it would be the current PC's job to work on making amendments. Who is in charge at this point? **Action: Rochelle to talk to Wil and Colleen to make a plan for next meeting.**

Executive Portion Adjourned at 8:42 p.m. Moved by Colleen, seconded by Anne. Carried.

B. Administration Report

-Tori and Carrie shared the following highlights with us:

School Plan Priority Areas:

- Academic Achievement: Numeracy and Literacy
- Well-being and Well-becoming: Inclusive Practice and Indigenous Perspectives
- Student Engagement: Belonging and Oral French

VW Kindergarten Information Evening: The École Van Walleghem School Kindergarten Information Evening for 2024-2025 will be on Thursday, February 22, at 5:00 pm. The purpose of this event is to introduce our vibrant school community to new families and to share information about the registration process.

Student Engagement

A new hallway digital display has been added to our front foyer. This is an important tool to guide students and staff through current and upcoming events at school. Grade 8 students will create slides for school-wide events, club invitations and celebrations of learning.

Indigenous Circle

Students are invited to participate in an Indigenous connection circle at École Van Walleghem School. We plan to meet a few times a month. This is an opportunity for Indigenous students to connect with each other and participate in cultural programming at school. The direction of the programming will be guided by the students and supported by adults at school and Knowledge Keepers as invited guests.

Mamàhtawisiwin: The Wonder We Are Born With, Manitoba's Indigenous Education Policy Framework, emphasizes creating a sense of belonging and putting students at the center. It is our hope to create an inclusive and culturally safe learning environment, where Indigenous learners thrive with a positive self-identity. We also hope to strengthen our connections with families and communities. We are looking forward to learning together on this journey.

The staff that will be facilitating this group are Ms. Klimack, our school counsellor, alongside Ms. Fast, Divisional Indigenous Success Teacher.

Festi-VW: Celebrating Festival du voyageur is an important part of VW's school culture as we mark Winnipeg's annual Festival du voyageur in February and Manitoba's strong Franco-Manitoban and Indigenous culture. This year, teachers will choose from a menu of programming options and classrooms will engage in a creative day of learning. Students will enjoy bannock,

made by a VW grandma as well! We are grateful for teacher leadership, community support and all staff members for their planning for student success.

Second Term Dates:

Wednesday, February 14 Subway Fun Lunch

Monday, February 19 Louis Riel Day – No Classes

Wednesday, February 21 Grade 5-8 Pizza Lunch

Thursday, February 22 Kindergarten Information Night

Wednesday, February 28 Subway Fun Lunch

Wednesday, March 6 Grade 5-8 Pizza Lunch

Wednesday, March 13 Subway Fun Lunch

Friday, March 15 Metro Common Day – No Classes

Wednesday, March 20 Grade 5-8 Pizza Lunch

Monday, March 25 – Friday March 29 Spring Break – No Classes

*****Next Meeting: March 12, 2024*****