

École Van Wallegghem School-Parent Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 11, 2025

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: École Van Wallegghem School (Library)

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

Regrets: Nadia Krivosheeva, Pooja Sharma

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

Members at Large in Attendance: Ana, Melanie, Salma

Call to Order: 7:09 p.m.

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

-A motion was made to adopt the minutes from the January 14, 2025 meeting. Moved by Colleen, seconded by Ana. Carried.

.....

A. Parent Council Initiatives:

1. Chair's Report-Colleen Peluso

- i. Welcome to everyone! Nothing new to report this month.

2. Communications Chair's Report-Nadia Krivosheeva (unable to attend, report sent in)

- i. **Website:** Lindsay did a great job and all pages have been updated. Specifically, email addresses have been removed and replaced with hyperlinks, links to Facebook group and Instagram profile have been added, fundraising page have been updated with current campaigns, and sign-up link has been added to Fun Lunch page. Additionally, thanks to Anne's initiative, PC meetings and educational events are now included in the school's calendar.
- ii. **Social media:** Regular posts and stories - Fun Lunch order reminders, monthly meeting reminders. Glenlea fundraising campaign was launched at the end of January. Links to our social media are included on the website and in every

newsletter. Instagram stats: 3 posts + 6 stories, 500 accounts have been reached in January. Facebook stats: 3 posts (stories are not available due to group settings as private), currently 71 members.

- iii. Newsletter: Various messages from the PC were included in every weekly newsletter: Fun Lunch volunteers shoutout and call for volunteers to sign up, reminders about the PC monthly meetings and Grade 8 Farewell planning meeting, Save the date with educational events, Welcome to the new PC chairperson. Additionally, a standalone email was sent with Glenlea Fundraising details.
- iv. Next: Educational Events page is in process and hopefully will be live soon. Glenlea Fundraising campaign will continue, and educational events campaign will be launched. Playground updates will be shared with a call to raise funds through Glenlea and other campaigns for the phase 2 of the playground. A call for volunteers to help with grants writing, as the grant applications are opening.

3. Linden Woods Fall Classic Race-Rochelle Reynolds (Race Director)

- i. The committee is still waiting to hear back from the MRA regarding the official acceptance into the race series calendar and other series we applied for.
- ii. The committee met a few weeks ago and started planning for 2025. We discussed where we would like for the profits to go. We would like to continue with 1/3 back to VW (specifically, toward an item for the “phase 2” of the new play structure), 1/3 to Mama Bear Clan, and 1/3 to Sleep in Heavenly Peace. The profits do not need to be perfectly divided. We will be flexible based on the needs of the three recipients.
- iii. If grants for the play structure come through, we will look at what else the school staff and PC feels they could use support with.

4. Treasurer’s Report-Jen McPhail

- i. Cheques from “Healthy Hunger” (Fun Lunch) were received just this evening.
- ii. Operating account has \$40,184
- iii. Investments-no change from last month

5. Education Chair’s Report-Larissa Kanhai

- i. An EAL Newcomer evening was held this evening just prior to our meeting with Ms. Lao (EAL teacher at VW) and Ms. Hewlett (Plurilingual Consultant for PTSD). A good number was in attendance!
- ii. March 11 education is booked with Paul Loewen from Siloam Mission. The presentation will be about “The Perfect Storm” (focuses on the origins of poverty). There is no fee required but Larissa would recommend offering a donation to Siloam Mission as a thanks.

- iii. Nadia and Larissa have been in touch about promotion but need to confirm with PC/admin about offering childcare. We can pay willing Grade 8 students who have their babysitting certification. Requests for those needing childcare would be put out first (ahead of time) before hiring students so we can properly gage the number of sitters needed. **Action: Larissa to approach Lindsay about asking the Grade 8's when numbers are firmer.** One week's notice should be sufficient and we could use part of the library or a small room nearby.
- iv. *Motion: To set aside up to \$250 to pay student babysitters for this evening's event. This was moved by Colleen, seconded by Larissa. Carried.*
- v. A suggestion has been made to Tori about cross-promoting PC education events with Linden Woods Childcare Centre. We could also promote the event with Linden Meadows. **Action: Colleen to ask Nadia about getting in touch with them.**
- vi. **On April 8, we will have a presentation on "Living in Two Worlds" with Larissa as the speaker. The event will focus on cultural conflicts and expectations. Action: Please let Larissa know what you would like to hear during her presentation!** A form will be sent out to the Executive PC members at this time only. We can forward to one or two people at our discretion.

6. Social Chair's Report-Pooja Sharma (unable to attend)

- i. **Administrative Professionals' Day will take place on April 23 this year.** Pooja has been working hard to make plans with Tori. Pooja can make purchases and then get reimbursed from Jen.
- ii. **Staff Appreciation Week is coming up in March (week of 10-14, with no school on the Friday).** Normally, the Chair organizes for parents to bring in snacks and treats and tries to create a schedule to cover recess duties throughout the day. Messages of appreciation are being planned. Question: Are there any serious staff allergies? No, but there are some staff with gluten sensitivities.

7. Site Chair's Report-Anne Meszaros

- i. The school division has officially approved the playground plans! Anne and Tori have been working hard to get everything in place. They have a meeting with the division this week. The purchase order will be in by the end of the month, which locks in our pricing. **It should be completed by June 1.** Final details are coming from the school division but plans are going forward. Anne has been in constant communication with the builder, the administration, and the division to ensure things get done well.

8. Fundraising Chair's Report-Vacant

- i. Fun Lunches have continued. If there are any issues with the lunches, please call

- Healthy Hunger and they will reimburse.
- ii. Tarra would like to know if anyone would like to take on purchasing juice boxes from Costco as part of the lunch option. No one volunteered this evening. Action: If interested in helping out with this, please contact Tarra.
 - iii. Tarra would also like to know if we can do IHOP for Shrove Tuesday. This should be okay.
 - iv. Glenlea Plant Fundraiser is now open. If you do not see anything online that you like, you can always purchase a gift card from the fundraiser as another option and later go down to the actual nursery. Note: The nursery is located south of the city in the St. Agathe area.

9. Other Business-Nothing new to discuss this month.

Executive Portion Adjourned at 8:32 p.m. Moved by Colleen, seconded by Anne. Carried.

B. Administration Report

Tori and Carrie gave us a visual “picture walk” through Instagram this evening to highlight many of the great events/programs that have been taking place. Some of these have included: No-cut basketball teams (all students play, regardless of skill), new literacy techniques being implemented, Phys. Ed. classes outdoors and at the Linden Woods Community Centre, the upcoming ski trip, the recent student-led conferences, the excellent Grade 6 band concert, a visit with Mr. McLean (VP at Oak Park) to make fun connections with the kindergarten students, Festival du Voyageur learning, Book Club, and Spirit Week!

The VW Kindergarten open house will be taking place on February 25. If you know a child born in 2020, please encourage their families to attend the open house.

Adjourned: 8:14 p.m.

*****NEXT MEETING: MARCH 11, 2025*****