

École Van Wallegghem School-Parent Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: January 14, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: École Van Wallegghem School (Library)

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

Regrets: Nadia Krivosheeva

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

Members at Large in Attendance: Tarra A., Sheri P., Larissa K.

Call to Order: 7:11 p.m.

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

-A motion was made to adopt the minutes from the November 12, 2024 meeting. Moved by Colleen, seconded by Jen. Carried.

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A. Parent Council Initiatives:

1. Chair's Report-Colleen Peluso

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

2. Communications-Nadia Krivosheeva (unable to attend)

- i. Nadia has continued to work hard at consistently updating our website and social media platforms!

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

- i. Race committee is meeting this weekend to start planning for 2025 and to decide where the profits will go. There is currently \$13,000 in the restricted account that is the seed funding for the costs to put on the event.

- ii. Positions were advertised about a month ago as we are down members. No one responded but Rochelle will try reposting soon. Currently, the committee is made up of mainly non-VW parents. This is a big change from the origins of the committee. It would be nice to get more members from the VW community and to create a solid partnership with the VW PC and the LWFC.
- iii. Action: Rochelle to discuss at committee meeting where to put this year's proceeds and to discuss sponsoring an item from phase 2 of the new play structure.

4. Treasurer's Report-Jen McPhail

- i. Jen presented a very detailed report of our finances (including bank balances, investments, donations over the last year, restricted accounts, remaining lunch program funds)
- ii. It is important to keep a certain amount available in the accounts for our traditional expenditures (Grade 8 Farewell, Admin Professionals' Day, Education events)
- iii. Action: Jen and Tori to look through remaining Lunch Program refund cheques to see if there are families still at the school.
- iv. *Motion: to take any excess funds remaining in the Lunch Program account and to put toward the purchase of the new play structure. This was moved by Jen, seconded by Rochelle. Carried.*
- v. *Motion: To take any excess cash from the general account and put it toward the play structured up to the updated purchase price, ensuring to leave \$10,000. This was moved by Jen, seconded by Tarra. Carried.*

5. Education Chair-Vacant

- i. An EAL Newcomer evening was held in the fall. There was not a large number of parents in attendance but it was very informative. Ms. Luo (EAL teacher) is willing to put on another evening. It will take place on February 11 with the divisional Plurilingual Consultant. Money from the PC was already given to provide snacks and drinks.
- ii. Larissa talked about the possibility about having someone from Siloam Mission come out to talk to parents about the roots of homelessness ("The Perfect Storm"). Doesn't think there is a fee for the speaker and is available March 11.
- iii. Another possibility is to have Larissa present on cultural/gender barriers in April or May. Action: Colleen to talk to Nadia about how to promote these events.
- iv. *Motion: to nominate Larissa to the position of the Education Chair. This was moved by Colleen, seconded by Anne. Carried.*

6. Social Chair-Pooja Sharma

- i. Administrative Professionals' Day will take place in April. Pooja would like to

- put together gift baskets for the secretaries this year to try something different.
- ii. *Motion: to increase the budget for Administrative Professionals' Day from \$100 to \$150 for the gifts provided. This was moved by Pooja, seconded by Anne. Carried.*

7. Site Chair-Anne Meszaros

- i. Anne provided us with a sheet that showed the total costs and breakdown of the proposed playground structure. The plan is to still build the structure in two phases. The first phase would include the majority of the equipment. Phase 2 would only be a few add-ons (so structure would not be half-built by only having Phase 1).
- ii. *Motion: To accept phase 1, option 1 (full core structure) for the playground capital campaign construction and to also accept for phase 2 "Whirly Q" for a total of \$185,969 (includes tax +labour) +\$600 for the permit for a grand total of \$186,569. This was moved by Anne, seconded by Tarra. Carried.*

8. Fundraising Chair-Vacant

- i. "Fun Lunches" have been occurring. Tarra is willing to take this project on after Tamara had to step down. We have been raising between \$200-\$250 per lunch.
Issues noted during discussion this evening:
 - Two restaurants are generally being offered each week now
 - Don't pair McDonald's with another restaurant as McDonald's is very popular
 - KFC could also be a stand-alone lunch since it is very popular
 - IHOP should take place less often due to sustainability (and no syrup!)
 - Dietary and cultural restrictions are important to note in creating a lunch menu
 - Teams of volunteers are working well together
 - Order have declined recently but this could be due to the holidays interrupting the schedule
 - Orders have to stay as options for 6 weeks before they can be changed
 - We now have a good idea of what is popular and what is not
 - It may be helpful to survey parents in May or June to see what they thought about the new program
 - Beverages were removed after the winter break due to being expensive and unappetizing. Could we purchase juice boxes from Costco instead?
 - What about students who cannot afford to take part in Fun Lunch but want to?
Answer: The school team support these students and extra lunches are always ordered for these students. Who the students are is anonymous.
- ii. Anne had an update on the Glenlea Plants fundraiser. It will open on February 1 and remain open until mid-April. Everything is all set up. Last year, how to identify our school on the Glenlea list was an issue. **Action: Tarra to shadow Anne.**
- iii. *Motion: For the proceeds from the Glenlea fundraiser to be distributed first to*

any outstanding obligations of the Parent any remaining monies are to go to any remaining capital campaign project (i.e. the playground). This was moved by Anne, seconded by Tarra. Carried.

- iv. *Motion: to nominate Tarra to the position of Fundraising Chair. This was moved by Colleen, seconded by Anne. Carried.*

9. Other Business

- i. Grade 8 Farewell committee had their first meeting this evening and are just getting started. *Motion: To ask the PC for \$1000 to help support the cost of the Grade 8 Farewell. This was moved by Sherri, seconded by Anne. Carried.*

Executive Portion Adjourned at 9:15 p.m. Moved by Colleen, seconded by Sherri. Carried.

B. Administration Report

Tori and Carrie shared the following highlights with us:

School Plan Priority Areas:

Numeracy and Literacy: Visible Learning Targets

Graduation: Our Treaty Stories

Engagement: Actioning our 5 Star Framework

VW Kindergarten Information Evening: The École Van Walleghem School Kindergarten Information Evening for 2025-2026 will be on Tuesday, February 25 at 5:30 pm. The purpose of this event is to introduce our vibrant school community to new families and to share information about the registration process.

Catchment High School Open Houses: Ms. Bracken, the Principal of École Secondaire Oak Park, will be welcoming grade 8 French Immersion students and their teachers the afternoon of February 5 for a school tour. Students will be receiving registration packages and working with our counsellor, Ms. Klimack, and their teachers to understand the process on February 13.

Ms. Birch, the Principal of Shaftsbury High School, will be welcoming grade 8 English program students and their teachers the morning of February 4 for a school tour. Students will be receiving registration packages and working with Ms. Klimack and their teachers to understand the process on February 12.

Information will be sent to grade 8 families informing them of the process, and dates for evening Open Houses.

Student Engagement: Two new invitations will be offered in the coming weeks over the noon hour. Mathematica is an opportunity for students to come together to prepare to write the annual math contest. Concours d'art oratoire is a club that prepares student to compete in the annual French language speaking competition.

Basketball season has begun in the gym, as well as indoor track, and intramural programming. Daily announcements and teacher support guide students to choices during the day. Morning and after school invitations are communicated to families by email.

Emergency Planning: Throughout the school year, we practice our fire drill procedures and will have the first of two school-wide lockdown practices the week of January 27. Additional emergency procedure drills will be conducted throughout the school year. Our objective, through teaching and learning, is to ensure our students will be prepared to handle such situations knowing the confident adults are in the lead.

Music: This year the Grade 5/6 choir has been meeting on Mondays at lunch and the 3/4 Choir has been meeting on Tuesdays at lunch. They are currently preparing for music festival season.

Preparations have begun for a grade 7/8 spring musical. Auditions will be held shortly, and all practices will be over noon hours.

Band concerts are upcoming in the month of February for all grades 6-8 band students.

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. We are grateful for teacher leadership, and all staff members for their planning for student success.

Continued Professional Learning: Our next staff professional learning date is scheduled for Friday January 31. This time is dedicated to literacy practices across content areas.

Communication: Our school website will begin to transform each month to highlight our various learning initiatives within the school. Please stay connected to the monthly calendar for sports, and club information and special events. We will send out weekly emails (VW News and Information) with updated information that is not included on the website. Visual communication can be found on our new Instagram feed @ecole_vw_school.

Second Term Events:

January 30 Student-Led Conferences – Evening by Appointment

January 31 Metro Common Day – No Classes

February 10 & 11 Band Concerts 7:00 PM

February 14 Festi-VW Activity Day

February 17 Louis Riel Day – No School

February 20 & 21 Grade 6 and 7 Ski Trip/ 5-8 Winter Activity Days

February 25 Kindergarten Open House 5:30pm

March 14 Metro Common Day – No Classes

March 31 to April 4 Spring Break – No School

*****NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 11, 2025****