

École Van Wallegghem School-Parent Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 12, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: École Van Wallegghem 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: Pooja B., Hyesun K.

Call to Order: 7:09 p.m.

-A motion was made to adopt this evening's agenda with an addition under "Other Business" (to add a \$750 donation from the PC toward the Grade 8 Farwell). Moved by Colleen, seconded by Jen. Carried.

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

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A. Parent Council Initiatives:

1. Chair's Report-Colleen Peluso

- i. A decision needs to be made regarding the surplus from the Lunch Program. There are five options being suggested after a discussion this evening. **Please note that ALL of these options have been vetted by the Secretary-Treasurer for PTSD and are considered good options.**

Option one: All money towards the play structure. This would follow the lead on the previous surplus from lunch program.

Option two: Donate half the money to a charity, half the money to the school to use at their discretion.

Option three: Break up the money and put into several areas:

\$47,000 for refunds (\$50 per student per year). This would offer a refund to the families who paid in the last two years where records exist. Families could also choose to donate their refund to the play structure account.

\$15,000 for teachers (\$500 per teacher, 30 teachers) to spend at their discretion.

\$12,000 for the play structure

\$10,000 for the general PC account

Option Four: Divide funds into two parts: \$47,000 for refunds (\$50 per student per year). This would offer a refund to the families who paid in the last two years where we have records. Families could also choose to donate their refund to the play structure. The remaining \$37,000 would go to the play structure account.

Option Five: Divide funds into three parts: \$47,000 for refunds (\$50 per student per year), \$22,000 for the play structure, \$15,000 for the teachers to use at their discretion. Once again, families could choose to donate their refund to the play structure account.

Comments That Arose During Discussion:

-One parent would like to see \$20,000 automatically put aside to investigate why we have a surplus. This was discarded, as the Secretary-Treasurer has already worked with Parent Council and administration and sees no wrong doings. This would also be a waste of funds.

-Giving money to a charity is harder to justify since parents paid in believing they were supporting the school. Trying to find a charity that satisfies everyone would be tricky.

-Some discussion about putting money into Grade 8 Farewell. This was discarded as the Parent Council gives money toward the event every year and this does not necessarily benefit all students. What happens after this temporary gift is done?

-Teachers work very hard. Why not give back some of it to them to use as they see fit?

A vote was held. Option #5 was the choice of many (though not the majority).

2. Fundraising Chair Report-Anne Meszaros

- i. Subway Fun Lunches are ongoing. Revenue for the year so far is \$3389.20 (a 19% profit).
- ii. A cheque from Mabel's Labels was sent. It was for \$135. This is an easy fundraiser that does not require much advertising or work.
- iii. The Glenlea Plant spring fundraiser is currently open. **Orders are due by mid-April with pick-up in May.**
- iv. The next fundraising planning session will take place in mid-April (TBD).
- v. Pooja is willing to take on the task of monitoring a Facebook page for the Parent Council. **Comments need to be turned off.** This page will just contain general

information and links to fundraising and events.

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. Anne had a conversation with Matt from "Playgrounds-R-Us". He has provided good information. Matt gave updated quotes for March, which are valid for 30 days. Play structures can be customized. Prices start at \$110,000 with a \$50,000 deposit required. If we order by the end of May, the structure could be in the ground by winter. The company is willing to raffle off two tickets for a Jets game as a fundraising strategy.
- iii. Tori shared we are free to start writing grants. **Action: Tori to get this letter updated to be addressed to either PC or PAC instead of previous Chair's name as a precaution.**
- iv. No word yet on the lease for the land (still pending).
- v. A subcommittee will need to be formed to forward with a design. Anne has people who seem to be willing to write grants. **Action: Anne to put a call out for a sub-committee.**

4. Social Chair Report-Vacant

- i. Staff Appreciation Week has been taking place this week. The event is going well with many families bringing in treats, cards, and covering recess duties for the staff. Colleen used Sign-Up Genius to generate volunteerism and it has worked well. Thank you to everyone from the staff!

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 decided where to allocate funds raised. As motioned at a previous meeting, 2/3's of the profits will go directly to a charity. The committee has decided on the following two choices (and splitting the profits 50/50): Mama Bear Clan and Sleep in Heavenly Peace. The other 1/3 will go to the Parent Council but with input from the staff. Mr. Lamoureux and Tori have been in communications with them.

6. Treasurer’s Report-Jen McPhail

- i. The bank balances are as follows (as of February 29, 2024)

Bank Balance-General Account	\$30,472.07
Bank Balance-Lunch Account	\$158,065. 17(includes fees collected for this year)
Investment-General Funds	\$17,409.93
Investment-Playground Funds	\$66,397.25

- ii. Not too much activity this month. A few cheques for the Student Lunch Monitors were cleared and a cheque for the Grade 8 Farewell.
- iii. Investments for the general funds rolled over.
- iv. *Motion: To invest all funds but \$15,000 into a 30-day GIC and to invest the \$84,000 surplus to a 30-day GIC with funds to be dispensed in June before year-end. This was moved by Jen, seconded by Anne. Carried.*

7. Education and Communications Chair Report-Vacant

- i. 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). It will start at 6:00 p.m. in the library before the regular Parent Council meeting.

8. Lunch Program-Vacant

- i. Nothing new to report this month.

9. Other Business

- i. Grade 8 Farewell: The organizing committee is asking for a donation toward the event from the Parent Council. Historically, we have always gifted \$500. The committee is asking to increase this to \$750 due to inflation. We will gift the \$500 as motioned at the last meeting and ask for the committee to break down the costs a bit more so we can understand why exactly the need for the increase. **Action: Jen to write a cheque for \$500 to the committee.**

Executive Portion Adjourned at 8:38 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

Student Engagement: Our choir season has just come to an end. Both VW choirs – 3/4 and 5/6 earned Gold Standings at the Winnipeg Music Festival this month. Orff Club will be beginning after the break.

Mathematica: Students will be writing the annual math contest in early April. Almost 100 VW students are participating.

French: The annual French speaking contest – Concours d'Art Oratoire-is taking place at school this month. Finalists will present at the divisional event at École Dieppe in early April.

Sports: Congratulations to all basketball team members for a great season! VW had 6 teams participate this year. Team Duhamel has qualified for the provincial tournament. Bravo! Badminton season will begin after the break.

Artists in the Schools – Project Update from Jesse Januska:

The beading component with École Van Walleghem middle years (gr. 3/4 to gr. 8, roughly 300 kids) is almost complete! We will be moving on to painting the two murals with all the grades that the students' beadwork will be attached to, to hang in the school for years to come.

Teaching up to 150 kids beading throughout one school day is not for the faint of heart. I see the good impact this project has had on the youth. 😊

Please see the Free Press Article below, as well as the divisional video that was shared.
<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/breakingnews/2024/02/12/beadwork-artists-understand-appreciate-need-to-pass-on-cultural-tradition>

<https://youtu.be/3FFsPeYd1Ys>

Thank you, also, to Sylvia Wastesicoot – Indigenous Success Teacher - for her beautiful work in supporting our students.

Grade 7 and 8 Provincial Assessment: In addition to the Report Card, as part of the Middle Years Assessment, we will report separately in writing to parents on the achievement levels of their Grade 7 and Grade 8 children in certain provincially identified key competencies. Students' performance will be compared to mid-grade provincial criteria in certain areas of mathematics at Grade 7, and in reading and writing at Grade 8 in both French and English. This information is provided in addition to the report cards.

For more information on Provincial Assessments in the Middle Years, you may visit https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/assess/brochures/my_assess_imm.pdf.

Second Term Dates:

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

Adjourned 8:58 p.m.

*****Next Meeting: April 9, 2024*****