

École Van Wallegghem School-Parent Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 11, 2025

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: École Van Wallegghem School (Library)

PC Executive Members in Attendance: Colleen Peluso, Jen McPhail, Pooja Sharma, Rochelle Reynolds, Larissa Kanhai, Nadia Krivosheeva

Regrets: Anne Meszaros

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

Members at Large in Attendance: None

Call to Order: 7:10 p.m.

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

-A motion was made to adopt the minutes from the February 11, 2025 meeting. Moved by Colleen, seconded by Nadia. Carried.

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A. Parent Council Initiatives:

1. Chair's Report-Colleen Peluso

- i. Welcome to everyone!
- ii. There are many great things we have accomplished this year. There are new ideas, volunteers who help with Fun Lunches, volunteers who are helping with Staff Appreciation Week. The playground project is moving along well under Anne's guidance, and Larissa is helping to create new education events.
- iii. Colleen attended the Kindergarten Information Night to promote Parent Council. There was a large turnout.
- iv. Executive members: Please consider staying on again next year or help to spread the word about the need for new members.

2. Communications Chair's Report-Nadia Krivosheeva

- i. Website: A new page - Education Events - was drafted and sent to Lindsay to be added to the website. Includes all the 2024-2025 events.
- ii. Social media: More posts and stories: March Fun Lunch order opening and weekly reminders, educational programs at the Linden Woods Community Centre, education events campaign was launched featuring "The Perfect Storm".
- iii. Instagram stats: 2 posts + 5 stories, 531 accounts have been reached in February. Note: When Tori reshapes our posts, the pattern has been that we have a huge reach!
- iv. Facebook stats: 2 posts (stories are not available due to group settings as private so this group is growing slowly), 4 new members, currently 75 members.
- v. Newsletter: Various messages from the PC were included in every weekly newsletter: Fun Lunch orders and call for volunteers to sign up, reminders about the PC monthly meetings and call for grant writing volunteers, Glenlea fundraising, and education events. Standalone message was sent about Staff Appreciation Week. Specifically for the education event, in addition to website page, newsletter and social media posts and stories, a poster and a mailout was sent to LWCCC to cross-promote it in their community.
- vi. Next up: Education Events page should be live soon. Glenlea Fundraising campaign and education events campaign will continue. New campaign - Linden Woods Fall Classic: call for new board members. Playground updates can be communication. What do we want to share?
- vii. Action: Nadia to talk to Lindsay to see what is easier for her in term of adding a new page on the website since we do not want to overwhelm her.

3. Fundraising Chair's Report-Vacant

- i. The Glenlea Plant Fundraiser is still open until April 15. Volunteers will be needed in May to help organized and pass out items. Please consider volunteering! Action: Tori to be sure to reserve gym for the evening.
- ii. Fun Lunch: Tarra has had to step away from this role for now but plans to come back. Colleen recently booked a lot of the lunches. A survey should go out at the end of the year to see what parents thought of this new system. To note: the restaurants really seem to want our business. They are required to provide extra lunches to be part of the program. They are very accommodating. Restaurants provide a set menu so there is not usually a lot of flexibility for changes. A dedicated volunteer is needed next year to keep the program going. Can we try to look into more local restaurants next year as a way to support the Canadian and local economy? *Update since meeting: Profits are approximately \$1000 per month for the lunches!

4. Treasurer's Report-Jen McPhail

- i. General account - \$37,230
- ii. Investments \$69,360 and \$17,990
- iii. Lunch funds \$89,578

5. Education Chair's Report-Larissa Kanhai

- i. This evening, we had a presentation from Paul at Siloam Mission about poverty called "The Perfect Storm". About 10 people were in attendance. FYI: No one requested childcare. Thanks to Nadia for promoting this event!
- ii. The next event will take place on Tuesday, April 8 at 6 p.m. This is just before the PC meeting. Should we consider doing these evenings on a different night to see if it attracts more people?
- iii. *Motion: To donate \$50 to Siloam Mission as a thank-you to Paul for presenting "The Perfect Storm" presentation. This was moved by Larissa, seconded by Jen. All in favour. Carried.*
- iv. *Motion: To continue to offer childcare assistance during educational events for the purpose of increasing access to parents, until a time that is not longer seen as feasible. This was moved by Larissa, seconded Nadia. All in favour. Carried.*

6. Social Chair's Report-Pooja Sharma

- i. Staff Appreciation Week has been going on this week. There are many treats being brought in and recess duties are getting filled.
- ii. Administrative Professionals' Day will take place on April 23 this year. Pooja has started looking at what to include in the baskets. FYI: The secretaries do not have any allergies.

7. Site Chair's Report-Anne Meszaros (unable to attend, report sent in)

- i. Playground updates: Received approval letter from the division on Feb 25, 2025 and received copy of Purchase order submission on Feb 27, 2025 - \$184,204.66. It has been communicated that this project must be completed before June 1, 2025. A construction area would present a potential safety concern during Dance in the Park on June 12 and to respect contributions of the families that are now aging out of VW before the end of the year.
- ii. Next Steps: After consultation with the Division, in accounting for their site requirements, the entire area will be used in the phase 1 design. No further fundraising efforts needed (i.e. Grants etc.) to complete this project.
- iii. Other items: none at this time.
- iv. Recommended action items for month ahead: Communications with school community about the playground design a. Instagram/Facebook b. Newsletter c.

- Website page - include the rendering image.
- v. Discussion at meeting: Now that Phase 2 is no longer going to happen, the PC will have an additional \$7000 approximately. Where can we put this money? The school has ideas such as t-shirts for Choir performances in order to look more polished. This would cost around \$2000. Another idea is to create a scholarship program to support families who cannot afford to send their children to “Fine Arts Camp” (this is for both Band and Art students in Grade 7 and 8). Can we create a link on the website where families could make a donation if they choose? Action: Tori to investigate
 - vi. Motion: To put \$2000 to the school for supporting families who require these camp bursaries and/or school fees to be paid. This was moved by Jen, seconded by Nadia. All in favour. Carried.

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

- i. The committee is still needing to fill several positions, as current members are starting to take on more than one role (and this is hard). Suggestion: Focus on promoting the need for Members at Large as opposed to specific positions so as to possibly encourage more people to join? Action: Rochelle to finish message to send to families (and is working with Nadia to create an effective message).
- ii. Now that Phase 2 of the play structure is no longer an option, the committee needs to decide where to put the 1/3 proceeds that will go to the PC and school. Action: Rochelle to talk to committee but one nice idea would be to support the “Fine Arts Scholarship Program” for students who cannot afford to take part in this activity due to financial hardships.

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

Executive Portion Adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Moved by Colleen, seconded by Rochelle. 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: Indigenous teachings on the “13 moons”, parents coming out to take over recess duties as part of staff appreciation week, basketball winding down after a long season (with finals coming up!), indoor track ongoing, Fine Arts camp (band and art) for Grade 7 students in April, Black History month being highlighted through various projects and teachings, Ramadan for many students

(including a club for those that feel they need support during this time), Staff vs Student soccer, Mathmematica club, and Concours d'Art Oratoire.

Adjourned: 8:15 p.m.

*****NEXT MEETING: APRIL 8, 2025****