

École Van Wallegghem School-Parent Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: November 12, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: École Van Wallegghem School (Library)

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

Regrets: Pooja Sharma

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

Members at Large in Attendance: Salma S., Sheri P., Ana B.

Call to Order: 7:04 p.m.

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

-A motion was made to adopt the minutes from the October 8, 2024, meeting. Moved by Colleen, seconded by Anne. Carried.

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A. Parent Council Initiatives:

1. Chair's Report-Colleen Peluso

- i. Thanks to everyone for their hard work!
- ii. Colleen worked on creating the new Fun Lunch program (see notes below)
- iii. This will be Colleen's last year as President/Chair of the PC. Please consider taking this on next year!

2. Communications-Nadia Krivosheeva

- i. Communications has been very busy this month! At Tri-conferences, social media and newsletters helped to encourage people to come out to vote on the new play structure. School community was informed about the planning session for the play structure (that just took place this evening) through Nadia's various communications methods.

- ii. The Instagram account has been created and the school shares what we post (so we get a lot of views)
- iii. There are currently 67 members part of the PC Facebook account. It is a private account, which means there are extra steps required in order to join.
- iv. Fun Lunches: Volunteers were recruited through communications and we ended up with several. Fun lunch reminders are also sent out through our communications (which is helpful for parents)
- v. The website has been updated and is running well. Executive members along with their positions and emails have been added. An extra page was added for the fun lunches.
- vi. Activate Gift Card campaign has been communicated through social media and the newsletters in order to raise funds. For the month of November, we will run the Activate gift card campaign so it will be pushed as much as possible (as we only have until the end of November).

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

- i. Race committee is willing to continue with a 2025 event.
- ii. *Motion: For the committee of the LWFC to plan a 2025 event while operating as an independent but arm's length extension of the Parent Council and to have the committee determine where the net proceeds will go. This was moved by Rochelle, seconded by Anne. Carried.*
- iii. Please consider joining our committee! We need new parents to come aboard and cannot rely on the parents from the past forever. At this point, we have more former/non-VW parents than VW parents serving. We are a supportive and fun committee!
- iv. *Update*: In December, a short meeting was held to review finances available for the LWFC (seed funding) based on what was in the restricted account. There is currently \$13,000 for the committee to spend if needed.

4. Treasurer's Report-Jen McPhail

- i. A lot of time this month has been spent dealing with cheques and other financials for the LWFC run.
- ii. Playground Account: currently has \$127,858
- iii. General Account balance: \$43,543 (includes LWFC funds)
- iv. We earned \$159 on interest in savings account from lunch program. Jen has been working with Lindsay in the office on outstanding cheques and will make a motion in the new year to close this account.

5. Education Chair-Vacant

- i. Another EAL information event will take place at a later date

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

- i. Pooja would like to know what her budget is for Administrative Professionals' Day in April. **Jen verified-\$100**

7. Site Chair-Anne Meszaros

- i. There were three structure options presented at Tri-conferences for families to vote on. **Option #1 is the preferred choice. Colours will be blue/gray.**
- ii. This evening was the play structure planning session. Matt from "Playgrounds 'R Us" attended to talk about next steps and requirements.
- iii. Grants will open up in 2025 to work on and submit. Some will give up to \$25,000. **Action: If you are interested in writing grants, please contact Anne at: vwpcsitechair@gmail.com**
- iv. Structure could be built in phases. Phase 1 would be the entire surface and main base. Phase 2 would be to complete the main structure (and keep adding to it).
- v. Still waiting for a game license for Jets tickets to be raffled off.
- vi. Donations can be accepted. Sponsors can be pursued but someone would have to take this on. A letter would first have to be written by Tori and approved before going forward. **Action: If you are interested in recruiting sponsors, contact Anne at vwpcsitechair@gmail.com.**
- vii. Question: What is the timeline for the structure? End of June 2025 is the goal. The playground will be built in phases based on finances, with ability to add on as able in future if future fundraising allows.
- viii. Comment from parent: Linden Meadows just put in a new, modest-sized structure after one year of planning. They used surplus funds, fun lunch proceeds, fun events, went after sponsors, and partnered with their daycare to secure funds. Grants were written but all were denied as many have been cut. Also, it is getting harder to get grants for play structures in areas (like Linden Woods) that are considered affluent and don't have a real need for more structures. **Action: Rochelle to contact Chair at Linden Meadows to see if she would be willing to talk to Anne about their experiences.**

8. Fundraising Chair-Vacant

- i. "Fun Lunches" have been occurring. Colleen took on this project to get it started (Tamara is willing to take over the project now!). We have been raising between \$200-\$250 per lunch.
Issues noted during discussion this evening:
 - Staff was not happy with lingering smells of certain foods or healthiness options
 - McDonald's arrived cooler than expected for eating
 - Pancakes are a problem-syrup is sticky and got everywhere
 - Many volunteers are needed to get food delivered to all of these classes. This

- program cannot impact teachers lunch time nor can it cut into class time.
- Pita Pit smoothies were small, their pitas were not appetizing
- Some students didn't get their lunches despite parents paying and ordering (they need to contact Healthy Hunger directly to resolve issue)
- Sustainability and waste management are issues to consider
- Changes cannot be made to items or customized (for example: one cannot order a burger without pickles)
- Program is expensive and may be not be realistic for some families
- Program needs to be parent driven if we want it to occur every week.
- Nice to have meatless and gluten-free options
- Getting the food labeled is extremely important
- Parents miss Subway

*Updated: Colleen inquired with McDonald's and they think they can add in a new menu item to be a plain cheeseburger and plain hamburger. She will check with the district manager and then healthy hunger. It may take some time, but she thinks we can have that updated for after Christmas.

- ii. Activate Fundraiser: Not sure how much has been raised at this point.

9. Other Business-Grade 8 Farewell will be getting started in the new year. "Mom's Pantry" is the current fundraiser.

Executive Portion Adjourned at 8:32 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:

Numeracy and Literacy: Visible Learning Targets

Graduation: Our Treaty Stories

Engagement: Actioning our 5 Star Framework

Remembrance Day and National Indigenous Veterans Day Assembly: Our assembly took place on November 8 at 10:30am in the gym. The highlights of this event were student addresses by Lt Hiller and by MP Ben Car, beautiful band and choir performances, and student presentations to highlight commitments to peace. Representations of student learning are part of a Peace Table display and posted to social media.

Sports: Intramurals continue at VW and volleyball season is in full swing. VW has started a water polo team this year for grades 5-8 students thanks to teacher and parent support. They

practice and play during the weekends at Pan Am pool. Basketball placement practices will occur in December in preparation for the upcoming season in January.

Music: We are off to a great start in the extracurricular choirs this year and we are so excited to have a lot of students showing up, working hard, and making music together! What a beautiful sight (and sound) it is to see the music room full of kids excited to sing! 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.

Grade 4 Dance Crew has been meeting over the noon hour in preparation for the K-5 Winter Concert.

Junior and Senior Jazz Bands have been meeting in the mornings before the school day begins. Six VW grades 7/8 students are participating with the Pembina Trails Divisional Honour Band, who will have a performance this Thursday evening at My Church beginning at 7pm.

A Season of Generosity: VW Reconciliation Club will be meeting with Bernadette from the North Point Douglas Women's Resource Center this week. They are planning a food drive in December for the Mama Bear Clan. Information will come to families through classroom teachers. Staff will be meeting at NPDWRC at 5:45pm on December 20 to deliver community donations. *The community is invited to come along to walk with the staff*

Aski Mamawihitowin: Gratitude to the Pembina Trails facilities department for their support in creating a learning circle for teachers, students and community. Students and staff have benefitted from the beautiful fall weather in their time learning outdoors.

Colder Weather: As the weather starts getting colder, we remind students to please dress warmly for recesses and outdoor learning.

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.

First Term Events:

November 13 Picture Retakes

November 29 Divisional Common Day – No Classes

December 6 School Admin Day – No Classes

December 12 Kindergarten -Grade 5 Winter Concert - Evening

December 23 to January 3 Winter Break – No School

Adjourned: 8:51 p.m.

*****NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 14, 2025****