

École Van Walleghem School-Parent Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 10, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: École Van Walleghem School (Library)

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

Regrets: None

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

Members at Large in Attendance: Anna P., Alyssa M., Marla B., Hamid H.

Call to Order: 7:01 p.m.

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

-A motion was made to adopt the minutes from the May 14, 2024, meeting. Moved by Jen, seconded by Rochelle. Carried.

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A. Parent Council Initiatives:

1. Chair's Report-Colleen Peluso

- i. Welcome to everyone and especially our new members!
- ii. The focus for this year is to figure out what is really important to us and put our energies there. Community engagement/connection has been discussed. We have many new families we want to welcome and connect with.

2. Site Report Chair Report-Anne Meszaros

- i. On June 27, 2024, the City council lease was approved for us to go forward with building a play structure. We have been waiting awhile for this. Action: Anne will share this information with the community. They have given us 1200 square feet, which is smaller than what we expected. Playground designs were based on approximately 2000 square feet.

- ii. The previous structure has to be removed because the City deemed it unsafe (was not on school property). We are now entering into a partnership with the City and the school division.
- iii. One idea is to create a 'Capitol Planning Sub Committee'. Some people have expressed interest in writing grants for the project. Note: Grants are more likely to be approved if there is money in the bank, which we have. **Action: If you are interested in helping out, please contact Anne**
- iv. Anne has spoken with the builder from 'Playgrounds R Us' and will consult with physiotherapists and the physical education teachers for their suggestions.

3. Fundraising-Vacant

- i. **This Chair position is currently vacant. Please consider taking it on! Anne is willing to help advise/oversee campaigns.**
- ii. Glenlea plants has been secured again for this year. Pick up date is May 22, 2024. **Action: Anne and Tori to be sure that there is a permit in place for the gym.**
- iii. Two fundraisers per year is generally enough for the school.
- iv. We currently have an ongoing, passive fundraiser: Mabel's Labels. We have talked about trying Farm to Table but this can only be done in the fall. Movie nights were profitable.
- v. Dance in the Park: Could the PC get involved with this in terms of adding more fun and community to the event (instead of planning a different event). **Action: Anna P. is willing to help organize a bouncy castle for the day if the desire is there!** Other ideas could be a farewell BBQ or joining up with Meet the Teacher night (food trucks, activities).
- vi. Fun Lunches have not started yet. To discuss options at next meeting. Historically, we have used Subway.

4. Social Chair Report-Pooja Sharma

- i. **There are two events that have historically taken place: Staff Appreciation week in March and Administrative Professionals Day in April.** Pooja is welcome and encouraged to explore new ideas for the year!

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

- i. The race is nearly upon us (October 6, 2024). **We are still looking for volunteers for the day of the race, especially course marshals. To sign up, please email us at lwfc@outlook.com go to www.lwfc.ca.**
- ii. The committee has been hard at work. More information/reminders will be sent home in the coming weeks.

6. Treasurer's Report-Jen McPhail

- i. General Account: currently has \$36,000 (this includes money for the Fall Classic)
- ii. Playground Account: currently has \$69,000 (this has grown from being invested in a GIC) plus \$127,000
- iii. Last year, we had a surplus in the Lunch Program fund. We still have \$30,000 left to decide what to do with. We will delay this until October
- iv. Currently, we have \$2375 in registrations from the upcoming Fall Classic (plus sponsorship money)

7. Education Chair-Vacant

- i. Tori would like to focus on having the school host some EAL/Newcomer to Canada evenings this year. These would take place on nights when we have our Parent Council meetings (just before).
- ii. *A motion was made to support three of these evenings by providing food contributions at a maximum of \$100 per evening. Colleen moved, seconded by Rochelle. All in Favour, no one opposed. Carried.*

8. Communications-Nadia Krivosheeva

- i. Nadia is trying to get the Parent Council Facebook as active as possible.
- ii. We include information about the PC in the weekly newsletter. Anne has received comments from parents that it might be nice to receive separate, stand-alone emails about the PC. Could an email be sent out about the Facebook group? Could we include a QR code for parents to scan?

9. Other Business

- i. Lunch Coordinator Pay Issue: Lindsay (Lunch Coordinator for VW) put in between 30-60 hours of work last year for us that went above and beyond her regular pay. This is approximately \$1000 worth of work. As a token of appreciation, we would like to reimburse her for her efforts. We are not permitted to give a gift card.
- ii. *Motion: To pay Lindsay, our Lunch Program Coordinator a one-time payment of \$1000. This was moved by Colleen, seconded by Melanie. All in favour, no one opposed. Carried.*

Executive Portion Adjourned at 8:49 p.m. Moved by Colleen, seconded by Anne. Carried.

B. Administration Report

Tori and Carrie shared the following highlights with us:

Safety and Wellbeing – We are so proud of our students in the way they have embraced our culture of safety and care. As we transition to a new school year, teachers and support staff are teaching, modelling, and reinforcing routines. Supporting positive early school experiences is a priority.

School Plan Priority Areas:

- Numeracy and Literacy: Visible Learning Targets
- Graduation: Our Treaty Stories
- Engagement: Actioning our 5 Star Framework

Student Distraction and Support Student Learning and Safety: Students in grades Kindergarten to 8 are not permitted to use cell phones or any personal communication device on school grounds at any time during the school day, including at student entry and dismissal, over the lunch period, and during breaks. These grades are considered device-free learning environments. We are so proud of our oldest students and how quickly they have adapted to the new cell phone policy and thank all staff and families for their kind approach to teaching this new practice.

Terry Fox: Van Walleghem is participating in a Terry Fox Walk on Friday, October 4 in support of the Terry Fox Foundation. We do so to raise funds for cancer research and to commemorate Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope. We are asking students to bring in a 'Twoonie for Terry' during the week of September October 1-4 Grades K- 4 students will be walking on school grounds and participating in activities in the morning. The grade 5-8 students will be walking to the Lindenwoods Community Centre to participate in activities in the afternoon.

Strong Beginnings: On either Thursday, September 19 or Friday, September 20 each student from kindergarten to Grade 8 will attend school by an appointment to participate in assessment activities in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Français, if applicable. During this time, they will meet individually or in small groups with their teacher. This is an opportunity for teachers to gather data about each student's learning that may not be evident during whole class assessment activities. It is also a chance to further build a positive student-teacher relationship. All teachers and specialists are involved in this process. Teachers will submit the information gathered and work on understanding class learning profiles. Our Student Support Team will meet with teachers soon after to review the information collected and to plan forward. The scheduler will open on Thursday, September 12.

Photo Day: Our photo day will be held September 18. Retakes will take place on November 13.

Orange Shirt Day: September 30 is the 20th annual Orange Shirt Day, and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Senator Murray Sinclair and the Manitoba Teachers Society call on Manitobans to wear an orange shirt in the spirit of reconciliation. VW will be honouring residential school survivors throughout the final week of September by learning through literature and representing evidence of learning in creative ways. We are thrilled to be opening the National Week for Truth and Reconciliation with an assembly and performance from the Aboriginal School of Dance. Jesse Januaska, our artist in residence, will be leading beading circles throughout the week. The pathway along Lindenwoods Drive will be transformed into a story-walk once again for community. VW will hold our Orange Shirt Day on September 27 as September 30 is provincial day of reflection and there is no school.

Tri-conferences: Our conference evenings will be Tuesday, October 22 and Thursday, October 26. Our goal during the first conferences is to focus on well-being, work habits and student goals. More information on format and scheduling will come soon. If you have questions during the year, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

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 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.

Athletics: Grades 4-8 The cross country and volleyball seasons have begun. Placement practices for volleyball (grades 6/7/8) began on Thursday of last week and continue into this week. There was a cross-country meeting on Monday for students in grades 4-8 who are interested in participating. Permission Click forms for both sports opportunities will be coming out shortly. Intramurals Students in grade 5-8 create their own teams and participate in intramural sports over the lunch hour. The signup sheet is outside of the gym, please sign up before Tuesday! Intramural handball starts next week.

Student Sports Leaders: All students in grades 5-8 will have the opportunity to learn leadership skills and participate in leadership initiatives, such as scorekeeping, running school activity days, refereeing, etc. Student application forms are found outside of the gym and are due to Mme Duhamel on Friday.

Noon Hour Clubs: Opportunities for broad student engagement are offered throughout the school day, including over the noon hour. Students are informed and invited through teacher-sharing, morning announcements, and through a hallway visual communication screen. Parents are informed of invitations offered to kids through our VW News weekly information email, and through teacher communication.

Grade 8 Quebec Trip: Grade 8 students at Van Walleghem school have the opportunity to celebrate language learning and community at an annual trip to Quebec City and Montreal. Families will be invited to a parent meeting on September 26 at 6:00pm. Information will be sent by email as well.

First Term Events:

September 11 Meet the Staff Evening Event

September 18 Picture Day

September 19 Strong Beginnings - by Appointment September 20 Strong Beginnings - by Appointment

September 27 Orange Shirt Day at VW September 30 National Day of Truth & Reconciliation – No School

October 4 Terry Fox Day at VW

October 7 Divisional PD Day – No Classes

October 14 Thanksgiving Day – No Classes

October 22 Tri-Conferences – Evening by Appointment

October 24 Tri-Conferences - Evening by Appointment

October 25 Metro Common Day – No Classes

November 8 Remembrance Day at VW

November 11 Remembrance Day – No School

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: 9:08 p.m.

****NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2024 at 7:00**

P.M.**