

École Van Walleghem School-Parent Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 12, 2023

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: École Van Walleghem School (Library)

PC Executive Members in Attendance: Colleen Peluso, Wil Hedges, Wendy Schultz, Shelley Bertrand-Meadows, Michelle Chay, Anne Meszaros, Jen McPhail, Rochelle Reynolds

Regrets: None

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

Members at Large in Attendance: Victor A., Salma S., Sherri P., Anna P.

Call to Order: 7:02 p.m.

-A motion was made to adopt this evening's agenda. Moved by Rochelle, seconded by Wil. All in favour; no one opposed. Carried.

-A motion was made to adopt the minutes from the May 23, 2023, meeting. Moved by Michelle, seconded by Anne. All in favour; no one opposed. Carried.

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A. Parent Council Initiatives:

1. Chair's Report-Colleen Peluso

- i. Colleen is the new Chair of the Parent Council. Please reach out to her if you need something or have questions at any time.

2. Vice-Chair's Report-Wendy Schultz

- i. Wendy will serve in general financial oversight as part of her position (communications and consultations). She will liaise with the Chair (Colleen), the Parent Council, the administration, and the Grade 8 Farewell committee. She will not be the Chair though for the Grade 8 Farewell. Action: Wendy to meet with Tori to start some important discussions.

3. Lunch Program Report-Shelley Bertrand-Meadows

- i. The Lunch Program is up and running for another year. There is no financial report yet since the fiscal year just ended August 31st. The previous year's program is still being closed off.
- ii. Kathy McTavish, the Lunch Program Coordinator, has indicated she will be leaving the position as soon as a replacement can be found. This is paramount. There is no end date yet for her.
- iii. 140 registrations have not yet been paid. A general reminder notice will go out on Thursday to all families. Individual notices will go out next month once it is apparent which specific families have still not paid. There are always outstanding payments. The cost to attend the program full time is \$200 per student per year. Some families choose to be invoiced for daily attendance, rather than pay a full year fee. The invoiced cost is \$2.50 per day to a maximum of \$200.
- iv. There is no online registration for the program. The program is not permitted to use the divisional Permission Click program. Online programs are expensive in general with processing fees adding around 10% to existing registration fees. The program can currently be paid for by cheque or cash.
- v. **Reminder that this program is just for student supervision.** There is no food provided for students. Fees are used to pay the wages of lunch supervisors (adults and students). There are no volunteers.
- vi. Succession plan: The school division has indicated that they may take over running the program, but this has been said for a few years now. There is no new information available about this plan.
- vii. Comment from parents: Lunch has been shortened by 5 minutes. Students are eating very early now and do not have much time to eat lunch. Outdoor time has increased by 5 minutes. Can this be re-examined? Another suggested idea is to play first, then eat after.

4. Social Chair Report-Vacant

- i. **This role is still vacant. Please consider taking it on!**
- ii. There are generally three events that take place during the year: Staff Appreciation Week, Administrative Assistants' Day, and the annual "Dance in the Park" lunch/outdoor event. This position is a nice way to ease into the Parent Council.
- iii. We have not had an annual BBQ for years, though this is mentioned in the bylaws and constitution.

5. Lindenwoods Fall Classic Race-Rochelle Reynolds

- i. **The date is planned for October 1, 2023.**
- ii. The committee has been somewhat dormant over the summer, though many tasks have been completed.

- iii. We are getting close to being ready for the event. Major tasks like permits, merchandise and police presence are in place and paid for.
- iv. At this time, we are still in great need of volunteers. Without volunteers, the race cannot happen for insurance purposes. Please consider coming out to serve and contact lwfc@outlook.com or ask Rochelle for more information.
- v. The race has raised amounts varying from \$2000-\$13,000 on average in the past. We are currently in a rebuilding year since the event has not taken place since 2019.
- vi. Future of the race: At the next PC meeting, we should have an idea of the profits. We have spent around \$5000 at this point. We will need to decide by November if the race should go on for 2024. The racing season starts in early January and applications to the MRA are due by the end of December at the very latest.

6. Treasurer's Report-Jen McPhail

- i. Jen is taking over the role of Treasurer this year from Wendy. There is no report yet since Jen was unsure of what to report on (normally the bank balances).
- ii. The main expenses at this point have been from the Lindenwoods Fall Classic (detailed financials to come in October when the event has taken place)
- iii. FYI: We have several accounts: chequing, restricted, and unrestricted.

7. Education and Communications Chair Report-Michelle Chay

- i. The minutes from last year's meetings are up on the website as usual. Due to website program limitations, they cannot be in order and there is only a certain amount of space allotted. If anyone would like to see minutes from years prior to 2022-23, please see the administration team.
- ii. The plan is to host 3 parent education sessions this year. Topics will include School Trustees (what they do/role), Internet Safety with Constable Orlando Budahan and something around IEP/responsive plans for children. FYI: These presentations are intended only for adults as the content is not meant for children.
- iii. Comment: In the past, many parents enjoyed the presentations on Literacy and Numeracy topics. Please consider bringing these back.
- iv. Comment: Keep finding ways to make the presentations accessible to parents who cannot attend in person or who have children with them (Grade 8's as babysitters in the gym?).

8. Site Report Chair Report-Vacant

- i. This role is currently vacant, though Anne is working on helping with the play structure.

9. Fundraising Chair-Anne Meszaros

- i. The main priority this year is to continue to work on raising funds for the play structure and trying to get it built. Another goal is to look at “what’s next” after the structure is complete.
- ii. Fundraising programs: A certain profit margin is important to make a particular fundraising campaign worthwhile. For example: Gift card fundraiser only offers an average return to the school of around 3.5% (not all of the money goes directly to the Parent Council/school, just a certain percentage).
- iii. We can collaborate with other events (such as a Gr. 8 Farwell committee). This may increase the volunteer pool.
- iv. Question: Can individuals make a direct donation to a school? Answer: No, only if it is the Pembina Trails Breakfast Fund.
- v. Meet the Teacher: the purpose of our table to is meet parents, trying to recruit parents, and get ideas for fundraising. A flyer will be handed out.
- vi. A sub-committee for fundraising will be created. Action: If interested in joining, please contact Anne.

10. Other Business

- i. Bylaws and Constitution: These need to be completed soon. Action: Wil to continue tallying the suggestions and move them into one document. Wendy, Shelley, and Rochelle had also reviewed them last year.
- ii. What’s App: It was useful over the summer for new members to get to know one another and their roles. Discussion should be tabled now to actual meeting times. Email is the preferred method of communication. To discuss in May again.
- iii. Financial Literacy: Wendy could facilitate workshops for grades 4/5 and 7/8. Each workshop would be 60 minutes. Topics would include goal setting, bank accounts, and how to save. Action: Wendy to talk to the new guidance counsellor about this important topic.

Executive Portion Adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

B. Administration Report

Tori Patzer (Principal) and Carrie Lourenzo (Vice-Principal) reported on the following:

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, modeling reinforcing routines.

Supporting positive early school experiences is a priority. School Plan Priority Areas:•Academic Achievement: Numeracy and Literacy• Well-being and Well-becoming: Regulation and Indigenous Perspectives• Student Engagement: Belonging and Oral French

Terry Fox: Van Walleghem is participating in a Terry Fox walk on Friday, September 15 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 11-15. 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 21 or Friday, September 22 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 Resource Team will meet with teachers soon after to review the needs of each classroom as this assists our Student Support Team to allocate resources as needed based on the class profiles. The scheduler will open on Thursday, September 14.

Photo Day: Our photo day will be held September 20. Retakes will take place on November 9.
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 working with mixed media artist Jessie Januska this year through an Artists in the Schools grant. VW will hold Orange Shirt Day on September 29 as September 30 is on a Saturday this year.

Tri-conferences: Our conference evenings will begin the evening of Thursday, October 26. They will continue the morning of Friday October 27. 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 4-8Cross Country and Volleyball will be beginning soon. Placement practices for volleyball (grades 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 next week

Intramurals Students in grade 5-8 create their own teams and participate in intramural sports over the lunch hour. The sign-up sheet is outside of the gym, please sign up before Tuesday!
Intramural soccer 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.

Grade 8 Quebec Trip: Grade 8 students at Van Wallegem 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 21 at 4:30pm. Information will be sent by email as well.

First Term Events:

Wednesday, September 13: Meet the Staff Event

Friday, September 15: Terry Fox Wednesday,

September 20: Picture Day

Thursday, September 21: Grade 8 Quebec Trip Meeting

Thursday, September 21: Strong Beginnings -No regular classes Friday, September 22 Strong Beginnings -No regular classes

Orange Shirt Day at VW: Friday, September 29

Tuesday, October 3: PD Day

No Classes Monday, October 9 Thanksgiving Day

No Classes Monday, October 20 PD Day

No Classes Wednesday, October 25

Grade 6 Immunization Clinic

Thursday, October 26: Tri-conferences (evening) Friday, October 27 Tri-conferences AM –PD Day PM

No Classes

Thursday, November 9: Picture Retakes

Friday, November 10: Remembrance Day Assembly

Friday, November 24 PD Day–No Classes

Thursday, December 14: Winter Concert

Friday, December 22: Last day of classes before the break

-Adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

****Next Meeting: October 10, 2023**