

WCPS Parent Council Meeting

Thursday, September 30, 2021, 4:00-5:00 pm

Present: Lucy Aron, Elizabeth Goodyear-Grant, Bruce Armstrong, Patricia Collins, Sarah Boughen, Annie Lee, Gemma Zelmanovits, Tatiana Valverde, Tess Clifford

Elizabeth moved and Annie seconded to approve June meeting agenda

Chair Report

- Thank you to everyone who is working hard to keep everything safe at the school for our Winston community.
- Lots of long, late hours for the teachers leading up to the first day of school.
- Welcome to all of the new families in our community! We want to be a very welcoming space for newcomers.
- Blackburn Kindness Book Collection is in the school now. Most of the books are from a list of books provided by Ms. Boughen that fosters a sense of inclusivity, diversity and kindness. Will travel around the school for the next 10 weeks.
- Ordering calendar is open for hot lunches. Same vendors, same days. Same COVID safety protocols will be followed.
- Talk about community support for hot lunches. Elizabeth is going to ask about making it easier to contribute online since the old platform was not very easy to navigate.
- Tatiana made a suggestion about children bringing a book in their mother language to the school. It is very special for children with a different first language to have books that they are able to read.

Principal Report

- Gemma said a huge thank you to parents for the support and flexibility. How we talk to our kids about the start of school has a big implication on how they react, so a big thank you.
- There have not been a lot of kids sent home to get tested.
- We are hoping that the HEPA filters in each room and the opening windows are helping.
- Our school was approved for 10 classes plus the SOAR room.
- Enrollment is slightly down. A lot of families moved out of the downtown core area, which likely contributed to that.
- Kinder enrollment though is very healthy.
- Mr. Duncan has moved to Loughborough Public School and his position now needs to be filled.
- There is a part time French teacher position available at the school as well.
- Mrs. Gladstone is back on Monday. She does planning time in every class as well as at another school.
- Next week is safety week. There will be some work around fire safety and bus safety as well as anaphylaxis training. Each class will be practicing fire drills separately as opposed to a bell ringing and everyone exiting due to COVID.
- October 15 is picture day.

- May look to the parent council for some support around field trips. Right now, only one class/bus is allowed which is cost prohibitive.
- Starting to look at using some Microsoft products instead of Google classroom due to some security concerns.
- School streets initiative going well from a parent perspective, some staff concerns were addressed by changing their exit to the Earl St. exit.
- Chatted about field trips further. Motioned by Elizabeth to spend up to \$180/classroom for bussing for field trips, seconded by Patricia. Staff are going to think about field trips for their classrooms and we will look into fundraising.

Treasurer Report

- No formal treasurer report. Nothing happened over the summer.
- \$14,144 in the bank to start the year.
- Classroom supplies. Last year was \$200/classroom. Ms. Boughen said it is very appreciated. Some teachers aren't great at collecting receipts so not all claimed it but all very much appreciated it!
- It was agreed that \$200/classroom be allotted. Motioned by Elizabeth, seconded by Bruce, all in agreement.

Teacher Report

- Terry Fox Run was very successful this year. Thank you to Ms. Johnston for taking the lead on that this year.
- Student vote was a bit quick, since there was such a short leadup for the kids. Students from Grades 4 and up got to go into the gym and vote.
- Orange shirt day was a very powerful day. The children got together and had quiet moments of reflection, painted rocks, released butterflies etc.
- Shout out to the school street initiative. Lots of appreciation for taking care of the teachers' concerns.
- There are a lot of stationary bikes. Some students need them more than others. They need to be serviced. The servicing needed is beyond the custodial staff capabilities. No estimates yet. Ms. Boughen is going to look into getting an estimate and figure out logistics for getting them serviced. Elizabeth mentioned that we could approve via email before the next meeting if need be.

PIC Representative Report

- No meeting yet. First PIC meeting is October 7, 2021.

Elections

- Gemma led the conversation
- Elizabeth and Bruce will Co-Chair
- Annie will take on Treasurer and Secretary roles
- Dawn will continue on as the Indigenous Representative
- Patricia will take on member at large
- Lucy will continue as the PIC representative

- How about classroom reps? We are going to discuss and maybe put that out to the community before the next meeting.

Next Meetings -

Oct. 28, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Nov. 25, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Dec. 16, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Jan. 27, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Feb. 24, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

March 24, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

April 28, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

May 26, 4:00 – 5:00 pm

June 23, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

The meeting was adjourned.