

WEJ SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES September 23, 2014

Attendees

2013-12014 Executive:

Megan Cornell Co-Chair
Brian Turner Co-Chair

Joanne Irwin Arc Transition Team
Sandie Cramm Arc Transition Team
Marilyn Burans Principal

Wei Wei Qiu
Wei Wang
Zhong An
Kang Kai Li
Konstantiu Vlaseuko
Jingjun Tao
Lixin Fang
Petra Thelen
Lisa Adams
dCindy Liu
Tracy Yiu
Ge Zhay
Vanessa Sully
Maiitiell Cirrius
Catherine Roberts
Pilar Balbuena
Rehana Rizwan
Lili O'Reilly
Wilson Wong

Introduction of Co-Chairs, Megan and Brian, both of whom will be stepping down this year.

- Agenda approved by Zhong. All voted. Passed.
- Introduction of Principal and Vice Principal.
- Introduction of 2013-2014 Year End Report.

- we have switched to an electronic newsletter. No more paper. This is how council will communicate. Information will also be available through school website and teacher blogs and Facebook. This is much more cost efficient. Also, telephone system is available.
- Pita Pit lunches have been added as an option.
- There was increased fundraising last year but will still need more this year. Computer labs are going away and not being replaced. Classes will be moving toward tablets.
- WEJ has a parent resource library thanks to a \$1000 Parents Reaching Out Grant. Parents are encouraged to take advantage of the materials. However, there a “check out” system has not yet been established.
- We would like to have more family events. But it should be noted that these are usually attended by grades 3 and under.
- Treasurer, Maggie, provided itemized financial report for last year. Looks successful. We came out a bit ahead. It should be noted that all funds raised must be used within the calendar year. And final approval of spending by the council is given by the principal.
- Hot lunches online order system put into place at a cost but is much more efficient.
- There is no cap for the amount of funds that can be raised. There are specific rules and regulations on the school council website that outline proper spending. We have a “non profit” account set up through TD.
- Concern raised about recycling material from milk program. Kindergartners’ coming home with messy backpacks. Parents feel that they should have been made aware that recycling will come home.
- We are hoping to move toward having one interface for all fundraising items or items at a cost; milk, pizza, juice and all other fundraising.
- Concern expressed over hot lunches not being made available to the Kindergartners’. This was put to a vote last year - “A resounding NO.”
- Hot lunch will possibly be extended to 3 days a week depending on provider. It can be quite expensive.
- Council is looking for a few parent volunteers to coordinate Pita & Pizza distribution. There is a sign-up sheet. Someone also had the idea to sell any leftovers to staff to eliminate waste. This will also depend on a distribution volunteer.

- WEJ will be switching from Pizza Pizza to Jo-Jo's because it has a more direct classroom delivery system. Easier distribution and more hygienic.
- Motion proposed to use Jo-Jo's for a term. Seconded. None opposed.
- Motion proposed for price of pizza slice. \$2.25. A few parents mentioned wanting a possible discount for multiple children. We didn't vote.
- WEJ hats to be sold at BBQ. These are leftover's from last year. Pure profit.
- Lonestar night will be set up again. Very easy fundraising. Go eat on a certain night and 10% goes back to WEJ.
- PRO. Parents Reaching Out. We were approved for a grant for "code for kids." Parents and students will work together to learn programming. Considering grades 4-6.
- October 2 - Meet the Teacher BBQ. We will be using grillmaster. No cost to WEJ. Volunteers will be needed to sell tickets and food. Sign up sheet provided.
- Movie Night. Licensed by ACF to show movies for "free." Maleficent was suggested for the first movie but was thought a bit too mature. There is a website called "common Sense Media" that rates movies based on age.
- Our trustee is Christine Boothby. Recently acclaimed. She has nothing to report at this time regarding Boundary Review.
- WEJ has late bell time. Trustee raised point of fee for before school care. There is currently no difference in fee no matter drop-off time. This may change. It is noted that bell time cannot be changed due to bus schedules.

Principal's Update

- 31 homerooms
- 688 Students (down from 716 on day one. Calls for reorganization)
- 62 Staff
- 11 busses
- 5 vans
- Middle French Immersion program is through Grade 7. Grade 4 Immersion program is quiet crowde at this time.
- First week storm caused damage in the portables. They are being fixed. Those children are currently having class in the library.

- Wednesday is immunization day for Grades 7 and 8.
- Wednesday is Terry Fox Run.
- October 16 is photo day. Family portraits will be offered after school from the photographer.
- EQAO. Standardized tests for Grades 3 and 6. They are tested on reading, writing and math. Results are public and were just released.

Grade 3

reading - 88%

writing - 88%

math - 92%

Grade 6

reading - 97%

writing - 97%

math - 84%

Great scores but province-wide there will be a push to increase math scores. School learning plan is to boost our scores. Although they are high, they could be better.

- Concern expressed over split classes. (JK & SK) Principal says that depending on the program (English vs. Immersion) this is the reality and the children actually seem to benefit from the mix.
- Motion to adjourn. Seconded. Adjourned.
- Talked about election of new School council.

**Principal's Report
School Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 23, 2014**

This school year we have 31 homerooms, with a present enrolment of 692 students. Total staff is 62. We have 11 school buses this year and 5 vans.

We are into our fifth year with the Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten program and extended day program.

The Middle French Immersion program expanded to Grade 7 this year. We had an increase in enrolment at the Grade 4 level at the end of the school year and on our return. The Board has advised that we are getting another grade 4 MFI teacher.

The Terry Fox Walk/Run takes place this Wednesday afternoon.
Feel free to come out and join us for the last period of the day. Looks like good weather.

We are holding a fire drill practices this week and next week.

Our primary and grades 4 and 5 classes will be going to the Carp Fair this Friday.

Meet the Teacher and BBQ sponsored by the School Council is Thursday October 2nd 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Friday October 10 is a PA Day and Monday October 13 is Thanksgiving.

Students are practicing for Cross Country. The junior Meet is scheduled to take place Oct. 17 and the Intermediate Meet is October 15.

Photo Day is October 16th. Students' pictures will be taken during the day. The photographer will stay on after the end of the school day to take family photographs.

EQAO (Education Quality and Accountability Office) has provided us with the results of the 2012-13 Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics and they are now public.

Students in Grade 3 and 6 write these province wide tests at the end of the school year. Individual student results will be sent home shortly.

Results: Grade 3

- Reading W Erskine Johnston 88%, Board 72%, Province 68%
- Writing W Erskine Johnston 88%, Board 76%, Province 77%
- Mathematics W Erskine Johnston 92%, Board 67 %, Province 67%

Grade 6:

- Reading W Erskine Johnston 97%, Board 80%, Province 77%
- Writing W Erskine Johnston 97%, Board 79%, Province 76%
- Mathematics W Erskine Johnston 84%, Board 55 %, Province 57%

Staff will be working on the School Learning Plan, at the upcoming PA Day, Friday October 11th.

Election of 2014-15 School Council

Shelley Ma – Acclaimed to position of Treasurer

Vanessa Sully – Acclaimed to position of Secretary

Chair Position(s) unfilled.