

MINUTES
WEJ SCHOOL COUNCIL
September 24, 2013

Present

Jen Ljungstrom Co-Chair 2012-13

Lisa Hall Co-Chair 2012-13

Maggie Huang Treasurer 2012-13

Sandie Cramm Secretary 2012-13/Arc Transition Team

Joanne Irwin Arc Transition Team

Marilyn Burans Principal

Arlene Martin Brenda Campbell Sarah Machan

Megan Cornell Jennifer Bygrave Brian Turner

Julie Zboril Cheryl Meek Areej Hawas

Uzma TabassumShazima Israr Mahjabeen Rahim

Shelley Ma Taishu Song Weizhi Huang

Khurram Khan Diana Lloyd Rehana Rizwan

Welcome

Jen Ljungstrom welcomed everyone and introduced our new Principal, Marilyn Burans and our V.P. Colleen Robazza.

Agenda

Revised to add correspondence received.

MSP Accept Agenda as revised. M. Cornell/B. Campbell.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

MSP that the Minutes of the June 4, 2013 meeting be accepted.

M. Cornell/J. Irwin

Co-Chairs Annual Report

Jen Ljungstrom read the report noting that it is an annual requirement to file this with the School Board. (Copy attached to file copy of Minutes)

Treasurer's Annual Report

Maggie thanked Council for its help, this was her first year at WEJ and her first year as Treasurer. She remarked that Sandie had done the final report which was due to the Board while she was away in China.

Income- annually get \$500 parental involvement grant. Last year also had a PRO Grant.

MSP Receive report of the Treasurer as presented. J. Irwin/M. Cornell

?Is increased spending a concern?

A- Some expenses up due to increased number of students, this will change when 7 & 8 grades move in 2015.

Election of 2013-2014 Council Executive

For this portion of the meeting chair was turned over to Principal Burans.

Principal Burans welcomed all and remarked that had seen some of us outside around the school yard & thanked all for coming out to the meeting. She comes to us after 7 years at Jockvale; a JK to 5 Dual Track school with full day K and extended day programmes. She took the opportunity to thank the co-chairs as they move on.

Marilyn remarked that the chair position is fairly frequently a co-chair arrangement to share the load.

Principal Burans passed out nomination forms and asked that anyone considering a seat on the Council Executive fill one in indicating which position(s) were of interest. She remarked that Sandie Cramm and Joanne Irwin will continue to serve as our Reps on the ARC Transition Team and that Gail Campbell will be our Non-Teaching Rep.

Completed Nomination Forms were given to M. Burans and she announced the slate:

Co-chairs: Megan Cornell/Brian Turner

Secretary: Shelley Ma

Treasurer: Maggie Huang

MSP that the slate be accepted as presented.

C. Meek/J. Irwin

Principal's Report

Marilyn reported that school sitting at 674 with 31 homerooms, 62 staff and using 11 buses plus 4 van taxis. Have to keep a tight rein on the bus area for safety of our students.

Extended Day- care begins at 7 a.m. then at 9 a.m. join peers on the yard. After care goes until 6 p.m. Will accept more students on an on-going basis.

School activities coming soon include: Terry Fox Run on Thursday, parents are welcome to join in. Fire drill next week- will announce it's a practice to decrease fear in younger students doing this for the first time. Will have 3 in the Fall period. Meet the Teacher Oct. 4th. Photo Day Oct. 17. ?Asked if families would like an opportunity after school to have group picture done? Carp Fair Friday- Juniors there most of the day, Primary goes later with 2:00 bus back to school.

EQAO grades 3/6 province wide end of May/June. Scores from 2013

Grade 3WEJ	Board	Province
Reading 90	68	68
Writing 90	75	77
Math 90	65	67

Grade 6

Reading 78	78	77
Writing 68	77	76
Math 65	60	57

Scores made public- some comments in newspapers on province-wide decrease.

?Explanation of drop-off?

A-Now have scores look at data, work through it. Gender/ESL/support etc. then figure areas of improvement.

School Improvement Plan- help teachers decide focus- Fri. Oct. 11 P.A. Day.

Board asks that take specific expectation and work on it. Instructional guidelines to reach goal more widespread. 1st staff meeting wished to focus on mathematics.

?How results compare to prior years of grade 6?

A- Board grade 6 and school still above province. Writing mark of 6 want to look at.

?Discussion at Board- Full-day K jump?

A- Language skills going into Grade 1. Full -day still play based but focused. Are seeing children going into grade 1 with well developed language skills. Full-day gives more opportunity to id students with difficulties.

?Primary grades- what strategy be if teachers have done best to prepare?

A- Smaller schools can skew data. Also if don't write are given zero.
Accommodation can use computer/scribe/environment different for writing.

?Absent?

A-Zero score is given.

?Why Math picked to work on given 68 grade 6 writing score?

A- Will look at further.

?1st year MFI- Reading in English?

A- Grade 3 not in Immersion. Our MFI kids will do writing section in English.

?School Improvement Plan based just on test?

A- No- lot of discussion- EQAO just a snap shot so when we look at data as staff look at everything- projects/tests/report cards. Where do need work. Province really focuses on EQAO. Funding comes from Ministry Literacy/Numeracy.

?Homework to help improve grades?

A-Quite a bit of discussion on homework- activities to solidify children's understanding of a concept. Number facts/reading out loud.

Something new or not understanding.

?Comment- repetition of concepts..some benefits in the process of homework.

A-Read every night. Not see a lot go home which comes back to be assessed.

?Another reason to have homework...high school life changes- hard to pick up having a lot.

A-7/8 grades get homework.

?Grade 6 no homework?

Comment- send home worksheets.

Comment- Parents also have some responsibility.

A-Blogs coming up- added features.

Student numbers went into Board last week then will get staff allocation. No change in overall allocation. No new classes or any taken away. Eg. 2/3 balanced had to move a couple of students.

? Extracurricular activities 7/8 Band?

A- Activities for this year coming out soon:

-Cross country/intermed. Boys football/jun. & intermed. Borden ball (Nov.)/volleyball (Jan.)/basketball/clubs (electric boogaloo/green team etc.)

?When recess/after school

A- lots at recess due to high # students who take bus

?Math contest?

A- Teacher led.

? Math contest last year grade 7 results??

A- will check (Officer)

?Vanier Yard Duty- not there Thursday/Friday??

A- will take a look to see what happened.

?Reading Buddies?

A-will check if doing.

?Food Rewards?

A- Discourage food treats.

International Walk to School Day

Council has provided juice boxes in previous years. For students who come by bus suggest they take a lap around the track.

Pizza- much discussion on subject of pizza day: cost too high?, parents having say in how profit spent.

Note that pizza revenue is reported in School Generated Funds.

Committees

Megan C. produced sign up sheets for people to indicate committees interested in.

- 1) Fundraising
- 2) Events
- 3) Programme
- 4) Communications
- 5) Grade 8 grad
- 6) External committees
- 7) Grade Groups: kinder/1-3/4-6/7-8

Comment on the loss of a grade 7 student last year- concern that school hadn't done anything, some sort of acknowledgement. Difficult to know what to do.

Principal Burans responded that can only do tribute with the parents input & approval.

Designated bulletin board for Council use- Suggested could have one to use in main hallway by the washrooms.

Meeting adjourned 8:26 p.m.

Next meeting Tuesday, October 22, 2013

-S. Cramm