

Willow Road Public School Council Meeting

Minutes - January 25, 2017

Attendance: Steve, Donna, James, Nancy, Mitra, Lorie, Diane and Karrie

Regrets: Amanda, Hong, Mark

Acceptance of last months minutes: Steve, seconded by James

Acceptance of Agenda: Nancy, seconded by Steve

Principal's Report: Wellness day for the younger students coming up, we got some funding for this event. Local Professionals will be invited to come and share expertise on mindfulness through workshops where families are included to share. It is hoped that this will help reduce the excessive hands on with the younger students, by helping them become more aware of their behavior/actions and how others are affected.

The grade 7's are just getting into a big exciting project to build a solar powered hot dog maker. This project will incorporate many of the student's different classes, not just science. The student's went to College Heights for hands on experience in relation to this project.

Skills Canada is this Friday; lots of kids are involved in a big way doing team work at the event.

WPS will become a one-year holding spot for French immersion JK next year, this could lead to bigger changes down the road.

Treasure's Report: No changes to report. We can use the PIC grant of \$500 towards some Diversity Day expenses; otherwise the expenses can go through cash on-line.

Update on playground proposal: No changes to report, however Steve agreed that an infomercial would be a good idea, and has a student in mind to put it together. The Science teacher who runs the video club could possibly be used as a resource for this as well. Steve will follow up with them. Steve just needs a time & date and he will make the presentation happen.

Lorie and Dana Nutley forwarded the name and contact information of the current president of the Rotary club to Donna, but Lorie suggests a call be made first to identify who is responsible for the children's committee. Lorie also suggests that Councilor Phil Alt be contacted or invited to a meeting, in regards to fundraising for the playground.

Update on Diversity day plans: Susan Pitman will help Diane and Shreya with the fashion show, and needs to know how many additional acts we want for the dance/entertainment side of the event. Mitra has shared several names of women of culture who may be able to help in the fashion show. Steve will approach Mr. Teasdale to help with sound system/electronics during the entertainment portion. Steve will also look after the finances, and book the tables and chairs for the event. Donna has booked the Bookmobile to come again for the evening. Donna, Amanda and Hong will do the posters, marketing and food co-ordination. James has arranged for a neighbour to come help with cricket. Karrie and Nancy will co-ordinate all the volunteers for the night. Jen Moir will run the library again with help from Lorie Delane in terms of henna supplies, and volunteers to do henna & face paint. We are always looking for as many volunteers as possible for this event, which will take place from 5:30-7:30 on Wed. May 31st. If you would like to help, or know someone who could help, please contact Karrie or Nancy. Our next Diversity Day meeting is at Shelldale Ctr., 12pm Friday May 5th.

New Business/announcements: The Guelph Library Book mobile is having a ribbon cutting ceremony at the East side branch, on Friday April 28th (a PD day) @ 12:30. It will be followed by a magician for the kids enjoyment.

Charlie Whittaker passed away on March 28 at the age of 84. He was a long time caring community member, and will be drastically missed by this community. He was extremely passionate about our neighborhood, and the safety of our children. His contributions through gardening and volunteer service helped with many tough times in the Onward Willow area. Every year we will remember his tenacity through his beautiful daffodils and tulips cropping up all around us. You can visit his on-site memorial here:

<https://www.arbormemorial.ca/memory/obituaries/charles-james-whittaker/3525/>

Steve is still waiting to hear from Moritz, regarding the date of the WPS spring clean up/gardening day. Steve is able to get all the stuff needed for the event. Steve will be in touch with Lorie regarding any extra mulch or wood chips the school might be able to use, as well as what, if anything they would like help with in terms of a BBQ or otherwise once the date is set. Lorie has a clean up date planned during mentoring, and feels it would be too much to combine it with the school, this year. Steve offered some students to Lorie for helping her with rototilling the BBBF community garden.

There is an excellent program running through the U of G, for any families in the Guelph-Wellington area, who have children between 2 & 5 years old. Families who volunteer to participate in the "Family Mealtime Observation Study" could receive up to \$300 in gift cards as a thank-you! For more information, call Valerie at 519-767-8466, or e-mail to famos@uoguelph.ca

Next meeting: Wed., May 3rd, @ 12:45 in the WPS Room 141