

WPS Parent Council Minutes – Oct. 25th, 2017

Attendance: Donna, Chad, Cecelia, James, Mark, Siforan, Hong, Lori

Regrets: Lorie Delane, Karrie Cumming, Glenn Teasdale and Darwin Diebel

Agenda: Motion to accept by Mark, seconded by Cecelia

Last month's minutes: Motion to accept by Cecelia, seconded by Siforan

Principals Report:

- This Friday the PD day, teachers will be writing up progress reports to go home Nov. 16th. Parent/teacher Interviews will be held from 4-8 on the 23rd, and during the school day on the 24th.
- Many of the teachers are using Messenger to communicate with parents now, any printed copies of the newsletter can still be accessed at the front of the school. We are heading more and more towards paperless communication. James commented that he does not receive correspondence from the teachers regularly, and feels there is a gap in communication because of this new direction in communication, Chad suggested he take it up with the teachers directly, as the whole board is forcing the issue to go paperless. James expressed his frustration with the difficulty in using these "aps", and that you need to have a smart phone to access them. Chad reported that very few parents from the school do not have a smart phone, and it is the fastest and easiest way to communicate. Donna commented that it is ironic that all the members at the meeting tonight don't have these devices, or access to them, but yet are present to council meeting; when the rest of the parents who apparently are the majority, don't seem to even know about the meetings or choose not to participate.
- The Terry Fox run was a huge success this year, the school raised 3,793 dollars for cancer research!
- Anshu from Immigrant Services will soon be in the school fulltime to help as a settlement worker for our immigrant families.
- WPS has put a request in for some grant money from the board for a library re-vamping. This could cost upwards of 10,000 dollars, and the library would be completely renovated into a "Think tank" type room, with interactive stations or "maker spaces". Books will still be accessible to borrow there but would no longer be the main focus of the space. It would be used for building and creating, as well as "tech interaction" based learning. Donna asked where the money comes from for this, and who decides how the space will work/look, Chad said the board has a specific fund for this type of project and the planning is done by the librarian, Principal and himself. Members commented that it would have been nice to know about this plan in advance, but Chad said the board didn't give them much time.

Treasurer's Report:

- No change to the funds in the account: \$ 1,127.94
- Donna and James's proposal for the PRO grant was approved, \$1000. Is now available to be used for parent engagement at the school during the parent teacher interviews.
- \$500.00 available from the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC), to be used for something to help get parents involved at the school.
- Cecelia asked where the money raised from frozen yogurt went, these funds were used around the school for athletics, and school trips to support those children who could not afford.

Fundraising updates:

- Lorie Delane connected with someone from Canadian Tire's Jumpstart program, who suggested WPS try for funding for the playground from there. She will send Donna the info when the grant is available.
- Donna also met someone today from United way and the Co-operators, who passed along some great leads to follow up on for fundraising.
- It was requested that Steve bring the playground proposal to the next meeting, to show new committee members.

Events updates:

- For all grades, there is a homework club available every Thursday in the Shelldale Youth program Room, from 5:30-7pm. This is a free program, offered through Onward Willow and Frontier College. Snacks are included, and there are tutors available for help with reading, writing, math, science, geography, history and French homework skills. Contact Liz Vardon for more info @ 519-767-8642 or elizabethvardon@icloud.com

- BBBF is hosting a Hallowe'en costume workshop and swap on this PD day/Friday, Oct. 27th, from 10-11:30 in the Shelldale gym. Bring your family to prepare costumes for Hallowe'en, there will be light snacks and if you have any old costumes to get rid of, bring them too.

- PIC is hosting 2 events upcoming. 1 for parents needing strategies to get their kids to co-operate with them without anger, yelling, or punishments; the other is a meeting about parent involvement. Donna will send the info attached to the minutes of this meeting.

- A reminder for the families of our school children, that there is a free food market on the 3rd Thursday of every month, at St. Paul's Evangelical Church, beside Value Village, from 2-3:30. Entry is at the back of the church. Thanks to Onward Willow for this helpful information.

New Business:

- Council elections are due to happen again, Donna will send all members a list of council duties. Roles to vote on are chairperson, co-chair person, secretary and treasurer. It would be good to also have a co-secretary.
 - Margie who volunteers for the snack program is looking for more people to help. She needs help for 1-2 hours from Mon-Wed. in the mornings, to prepare the snack bins for the week. Cecelia offered to help on Mondays, Mark and Siforan also offered to help. Thanks folks!!
 - James has taken on Donna's role as the community/parent rep for the conflict resolution committee in the school, and believes that if this was a topic for discussion at a meeting, considerably more parents would come out. He expressed his disappointment that there was not enough time to provide feedback to the plan for the parents. Chad reported that the Bullying prevention plan is done for the year now and cannot be altered, but if a community member wants to be involved in next year's plan, they can. Also, that the School improvement plan (which can be viewed online) covers many areas that were brought up as concerns when Donna reviewed the plan. James asked why more time was not given for feedback of the Bullying prevention plan, Chad replied that he was given very little notice to review the plan from UGDSB.
- Mark suggested we change the name of the "Parent council meeting" so that people are not confused or intimidated to come, Chad replied that it is policy to call it a council meeting.
- Mark suggests (again) that a sign is needed at the front and back of the school, and that the low lighting at night, as well as the lack of a fence at the back of the school are a safety hazard. Chad was concerned that funding for these initiatives would take away from the greening project finances/playground. It was agreed that council needs to form a fundraising committee, to work towards the various concerns.
- James volunteered to find and maintain sign boards for the kindee area and the back of the school, for parents to read about all the upcoming events and news. These are the areas where parents "hang out" to pick up or drop off their children. Chad felt it would not be a good idea, as it would be difficult to maintain, and again would distract finances from the playground initiative. James will look into the cost involved, and Chad will check with UGDSB to see if there are any parameters of restriction for this type of project.
- The skating rink is a go for the back of the school, Andrew Seagram of UGDSB doesn't feel light will be an issue as the rink will be for use during early evenings and weekends.

Next Meeting: Wed., Nov. 29th, in the library with refreshments at 6:30.

**** Childcare will be provided if requested. ****