**Willow Road Public School Parent Council Meeting**

**Minutes – January 9, 2019**

* **Welcome & introductions:** @ 6:30: Steve Viveiros (Principal), Kristin Alie(Vice-Principal), Josh Kearns-Smith(Chair), Kim Richer (Co-Chair), Hong Nguyen (Treasurer), James Gollinger (Secretary)
* **Acceptance of Agenda:**   
  Motion - Steve, Second - James
* **Acceptance of Minutes:**   
  Motion – Steve, Second – James
* **Principal’s Report:**
  + Kindergarten Playground: we’re planning to dig up the mulched area under the log teepee and fill it with sand in the spring
  + Waste Audit: Mary Leach is conducting an audit of all the non-compostable, non-recyclable garbage to get an idea of where our waste is going
    - kids sort and count garbage from the previous day and a report is sent to the board
    - we just won a $500 prize for efforts that we’ve made so far; it will go to buy bins and bags for the composters
  + this month’s theme is Healthy Living; exercise, nutrition, and mental health with an emphasis on healthy goal setting
  + Kristin and a team of teachers are starting a school improvement plan; to be shared next meeting
    - the School Improvement Plan is a floating document which means we can add and change things
  + Dress Code: more focus on how to speak to kids around how they dress and explaining why rules are in place, rather than specific rules
    - it’s no longer appropriate to punish or shame kids by making them justify their clothing or forcing them to wear special clothes that indicate dress code violations
    - more emphasis on safety and hygiene
    - the Dress code is outlined under the Code of Conduct (2018-2019) on the school website: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/willow/resources/>
    - it’s a floating document that is subject to change with further discussion
  + Report Cards will be out soon
  + Renovations around the school are nearly complete; just waiting until spring to paint exterior doors
  + Willow Road PS 50th Anniversary Celebration has a Facebook page to help with planning: [Willow Road 50th!](https://www.facebook.com/events/440932646442794/)
    - Sherrie Engelen is coordinating
* **Treasure’s Report:** There is currently a balance of $1200 in our account. We also have $500 from the PIC grant and $1000 for the PRO grant for the Correspondence Translation project. Steve is handling the playground maintenance fund but Council can assist where needed.
* **Updates:**
  + the PRO grant has been approved for the full $1000
    - we plan to translate a number of documents into a few of the more popular languages at the school to increase parent involvement
    - Susan Pittman has a list of languages spoken in the school
    - we will work with Katie from Immigrant Services to get the translations
    - ideas for correspondence include:
      * Welcome letter
      * Introduction letter from Immigrant Services to outline services they can provide
    - we’ll form a subcommittee that will meet after school
* **Discussions:**
  + Kim would like to have a Council meeting after the School-Age meetings at Shelldale to encourage more parents to engage
    - more informal, more discussion than procedural matters but including either Steve or Kristin to represent the school
    - childcare can be handled by Shelldale but most kids will be in school anyway
    - childcare at the school should be outside the library (parents are concerned their kids will make to much mess)
    - because many students at Shelldale have already finished their community service requirements, we should offer honorariums in exchange for their services
  + Fundraising: Date Night
    - Parents can pay to drop their kids off at the school for a few hours
    - Council and volunteers will watch them
  + Fundraising: many parents would rather just give money to the school than buy things
  + Winter Warm up is happening Thursday February 21, 2019 at from 11:30AM – 2PM
    - proceeds will go to the Breakfast Club; 10% will go to Live Free
  + the school needs more people to supervise lunch breaks
  + Kim would like to start a bottle drive:
    - we’ll ask people to donate bottles (of food, drink, cosmetics etc) that we can use for raffles and/or auctions
    - we should collect now then do a Bottle Table at a large event (50th anniversary or Diversity Day)
* **Next meeting date/Meeting Close: Wednesday, February 13, 2019 – 6:30PM to 7:30PM @ Willow Road PS**

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**Highlights**

* Waste Audit: Mary Leach is conducting an audit of all the non-compostable, non-recyclable garbage to get an idea of where our waste is going
* Dress Code: more focus on how to speak to kids around how they dress and explaining why rules are in place, rather than specific rules
* Willow Road PS 50th Anniversary Celebration has a Facebook page to help with planning: [Willow Road 50th!](https://www.facebook.com/events/440932646442794/)
* The PRO grant application has been approved for the full $1000. It will go towards translating communications from the school into several popular languages
* Discussion on expanding meetings, fundraising and more!