

Minutes

Participants

Parents: 10

School admin: Megan and Pascale

Proposed budget 2020-2021 - Steph

Details in the budget document.

Goals for this year:

- To be financially responsible
- 0% fund raising this year
- Focus on health and well being
- Opportunity to look at what programs kids missed and what doesn't have to come back in the future

Council expenses summary

Details in the budget document.

- **Event hosting** - \$250 for incidentals that come up.
- **STEM, arts, cultural, or cultivating cooks** - nothing allocated this year
- **Emotional well being** - \$500 received from the board
- **Garden and play yard** - \$2000 for possibly the front garden and soil for the vegetable garden
- **Classroom learning support/staff grant program** - \$2000 for staff grants
- **Community outreach** - last year we did 10% of fundraising, this year we are not doing any fundraising at the moment, but we would like to allocate \$1000 to help out the community. We are thinking Pinecrest again.
- \$1500 for bins and pencil cases at the beginning of the year

General admin expenses

- OCASC membership
- Office supplies
- Amount of money sent to Pinecrest
- \$9400 total expense
- Balance of \$7000 for next year if not fund raising happens.
- Ski club money carries over for next year

Comments/Questions around budget

Megan

- We are limited this year in what we can do for the outreach. Even art work at the Carlingwood Retirement Community had to be brought in on Thursday and put up on Sunday.

- There are strict COVID-related policies at WAPS that have kept our children and staff safe and healthy and we are not comfortable collecting food for the food drive and mixing cohorts in the process.
- Poppies for Remembrance Day also needed a lot of thought and evaluation and finally decided that it was not worth the risk of touching the poppies to hand to children. Opted for extra caution.
- Reach out if you can think of creative ideas. Pascale and Megan are thinking carefully about everything with the goal to keep the school open.

Tricia

- School Council will defer to the school to make these decisions.

Lisa

- In order to organize STEM, Cultivating Cooks and Multicultural Arts we would require \$10,000 that we don't have.

Steph

Last year the total expense for these programs was \$19,000.

Majority voted in favour of the budget. One person abstained.

Budget approved.

Committee reports

- **OCASC Rep update**
 - Jennifer will post links from Magie's email.
 - Consultation is coming to parents for systemic racism in the board.
 - Parent involvement update - there could be spots available for parents - form to be filled will be posted
 - Thu Nov 12 at 7 pm will be the next OCASC meeting
- **Safe Travel Planning update**
 - No rep for this yet. Megan coordinates right now when there is nobody else.
Stop and drop - The Walk a Block idea is going well. Concerned about winter time since so few students are using the bus and we don't know how traffic will look like.
Megan has a meeting to discuss how traffic will look like in the winter and how the families at WAPS can be supported.
Staggered time may be a solution.
Lisa: Some people did not opt out of the bus. Are they assuming that no students will get on the bus during winter time? Some busses have 4 kids in them.
Megan: Virtually nobody opted out because they know they may have to use the bus in the winter. Right now children are riding bikes, but they may have to use the bus system in the winter.
Parents are nervous because drivers don't have to wear a mask once the bus is moving and the driver cannot discipline students on the bus.

- **Multicultural and Arts update**
 - We don't have them this year.
- **Healthy Active Kids update**
 - There were 3 people interested, but nobody is here today. Tricia will follow up.
- **Student Wellbeing update**
 - Nobody here. Focus is supporting the school in growth mindset and help parents foster it at home.
- **Garden update**
 - Kirstin will work on this. She looked at the front gardens and there is not that much work to do. If there are other people who are willing to help, she is willing to clean up now and take care of them in the spring.
 - Some things may have to be removed - the big juniper and the big cedar. Pascale is willing to help. If we want to do shrubs they are expensive. Maybe widening the walkway, because people step on the grass.
 - There is budget set aside for soil in the back yard for vegetable gardens and science projects.
 - Home Depot may be willing to donate soil. They did last year.
 - Cindy will look into a program that could help with this. Lisa has a list of what the school is allowed to plant and what we are not allowed to plant.
- **Outreach update**
 - Kirstin - no update. Pinecrest got the money. If we cannot raise money for the school, can we raise for other things like Food Bank for example like a virtual paint night?
- **Fundraising update**
 - Nothing planned for now. We will work on some things with the school to help fundraise this way.

Communications update, comments, questions

Jennifer: Right now we have a FB group that is private. FB groups are problematic because they are forums more than an information page. We will look at it as a parent forum and allow other parents to take it over, and have a life of its own because it isn't actually the voice of the school council.

Megan: The group cannot continue unless they rename and have nothing to do with Woodroffe Ave Public School. It should be closed and started again. The board recommends to not have all these individual pages. Instead join forces with the WAPS FB Group.

Tricia: A separation of the voice of the council and the voice of the school may be appreciated by parents. The information will be posted on a public Parent Council page or we can collaborate with the WAPS page. This collaboration decision may require more consultation with other parents. Twitter and Instagram will continue. **If you have ideas, send an email to Tricia.**

Kirstin: Concern that if it is closed, we need something else because there is valuable info there.

Megan: The School Council could use the WAPS Twitter and Instagram to announce that the FB council page is under construction.

Tricia:

- Review at the next meeting.
- The info should be posted on a public site that doesn't require a FB or some other account.
- People should be encouraged to use the WAPS website.
- Timeline for the closure: By December
- Twitter and Instagram feeds can be directed to the web site.
- Motion to dismantle the group. Done.

Updated from Principal and VP (notes sent my Megan)

1. **Ventilation** - In our gym 2 and kindergarten classrooms all have new ventilation systems. We will only be moving to using gym 2 when appropriate. Most of the time we will be outdoors. In our portables new ventilation systems were installed last year. In all other classrooms there have been delivered brand new HEPA filters for the winter. These are already in classrooms and ready to use once we can no longer have the windows open.
2. **Remembrance Day** - We will be doing our online ceremonies and teachers have prepared video presentations that all students and teachers will have access to. Our students were also hard at work creating artwork that went over to the Carlingwood to share with the residents there. There is a school cash online that was sent to all parents in case anyone wanted to donate to the legion. So far we have raised \$507! It will close on Friday. Thank you for your support and generosity
3. **Amazing things happening in classes** - Kindergarten Red and Blue classes have been working on a unit using the book "The Skin You Live In" so that students can see themselves in the room and they have made peg dolls and hand prints and talked about the value celebrating differences. 5B have been learning about Treaty Week which was last week and M. Millen invited a virtual guest speaker to talk to the class. Mrs Jahn has been working with 3A on real world math applications with a real estate project and even had a realtor do a virtual meeting with the class. There are a lot of amazing things happening at Woodroffe.
4. **We are making a survey for families to complete** to get some input moving forward on things we do well, things you would like to change and things you'd like to see come to an end. We are hopeful that it will be brief enough for all families to share their thinking so that we can do our best to make a school that reflects the needs of our community.
5. **Report cards** will be accessible on the portal as of November 20th.
6. **Christmas Hampers** - This year we have to go virtually and we will be asking families to donate on school cash online and then we will buy gift cards for groceries, clothing and toys, bath products, etc. I will be sending out an email asking families to reach out if they could benefit from this support and some families we are already aware of.
7. **Outreach with Carlingwood and Carlingview** - part of the growth mindset initiative - thinking beyond yourself. They will ask kids to make a **wreath for each door**. They are waiting for a fire marshal for approval.

Chalk it up

1. Outdoor classrooms

Megan:

- The outdoor classrooms are already being used. All the autism classes are using the outside as a body break. Gym classes happens outside.
- They have money for a structure for a shaded outdoor classroom but this will be discussed when we are able to do fundraising again because it requires additional support and work.
- They have a number of teachers who will start community walks. Limited because they cannot have parent volunteers and they have to maintain ratios.
- This is the first year in her 11th year as an admin when they didn't have one single kindergarten student cry on the first day. There is something that they did right that made the student feel comfortable when entering the school. We need to look at how parents drop off - in and out works for kids.
- Staggered entry also worked. The smoothest entry into a school year they've ever had. She asked staff to write a list of things that they like about how things are happening now. Tricia would like to have some data and take on to create some advocacy to the ministry to make this change permanent.

Kristen: Will they be able to snow shoe and skate?

Megan: The rink is something she asked the board about. They have a plan to walk kids over. The problem is staff. They have an additional staff member to join the class and make the ratios work. She is looking at the possibility of getting cross country skis. Maybe competition what cohort will build the biggest snow man, etc. Skating will not happen until January. Early planning, we don't have answers to everything.

Next meeting

Tuesday, December 8th, 6:30 pm

No business meeting required.

Should we have a social? We will put it out there and see if people are interested.

Motion to close the meeting: Steph