

Minutes

Participants

Parents: 9

School admin: Megan and Pascale

1. Welcome

2. Motions to amend the budget 2020-21

- Move the \$150 left in Emotional Wellbeing to the Staff Appreciation Budget which increases the budget to \$400. This will allow Council to purchase \$5 Tim Hortons gift cards for all staff which will be delivered on Monday March 15th as a thank you and show of appreciation for their hard work (cost \$350 for 70 staff).
- Community outreach - \$1000 paid out to Pinecrest Public School
- "One time Donation to WAPS for school supplies" - amend that to make it "Donation for School Supplies" (this covers bins, pencil cases and shoe bags purchased this year)
- Classroom learning support (\$200) instead of doing staff grant program we will allocate the funds to helping offset the cost of March Break programming. The school will also contribute \$2000 from School Generated Funds and then charge parents the rest (suggested contribution of \$10 per child). This will cover costs for each class to have a Scientists in the School virtual hands-on science presentation (booked in March or April). Each age group has a lead: Kinders - Ms. Reeves, Grade 1-3 - Mrs. Morris, Juniors - Ms. Reid, Grades 7-8 - Chantal.

3. Parent social night - virtual get together

- Potentially April. More details to come

4. Resilience workshop on Mar 3rd

- Adrienne Matheson, was very well attended and good information presented
- \$350 donation to Bridges over Barriers in lieu of payment.

5. OCASC - Maggie

- o Guest speaker at the last meeting
- o Bulk of the meeting was about the new Human Rights and Equity Advisor hired by the OCDSB - Carolyn Tanner. Carolyn explained her role in the board. This is a new position. She is starting a consultation process around how to address issues about human rights and equity and how to establish the proper escalation process when students bring up issues related to this topic.

- http://bit.ly/human_rights_policy_presentation
- Anyone can register for the upcoming consultation.
- <https://ocasc.ca/ocasc-meetings-2/>
- The goal is to have everything to the board of trustees in October

6. Garden - there is a grant application (Whole Foods, due end of March)

- Kristin Macrae - The application requires work up front and work with the teachers because parents cannot volunteer right now. You have to have a community partner who could be the food bank, a grocery store, anything, even an agency who will provide monetary support. We would have to have a garden with vegetables and students who would have to actively participate. It is for next year.
- Megan thinks that the challenge is that they cannot have clubs this year which means that there would be one teacher having to take this on. If it is in the Fall, it might be more feasible. Megan will find out if any teacher is interested and then see if they can find a community partner.
- The school has 3 stations to grow vegetables in the classrooms but they cannot be used right now because everything extra had to be removed from the classrooms.

7. Megan's update

- Grade 8 grad photos will be done outside when the yard is dry (by Earl Havlin)
- Possibly every home room teacher will take an individual photo of each child with and without the mask outside so that parents have something from this school year.
- "Not March Break" March Break - a movie in the gym, something different or an activity. The grade 8s created a scavenger hunt. The juniors created another type of scavenger hunt. Teachers will sign them up at different times. "Name that song", "online BINGO" trying to get some fun and something different.
- They would like to see the independence that kids had by parents dropping them off at the gate and then have the kids looking after their things in the classroom. A direction they want to continue with.
- Concerned about the level of French at the school. Students are not speaking French. Encouraging staff to stop translating. Staff will speak only in French. Students who need support will be helped quietly.
- There will be a push for families to spend more time reading in the evening and on the April break. As expected after last school year, reading levels are very low. Megan is doing some research on an online French reading program. Some books may be donated to families in need.

- If you know of students you know who haven't registered for kindergarten, encourage them to register.
- There will likely be cuts to staffing across the OCDSB (As we go back to regular class sizes), but the school doesn't know specifics yet
- Staffing - it begins now. Jennifer and Megan are working on staffing for next year. The school knows that some kids cannot be in person at school. Very small population who are not returning in person. The majority will return in person.
- Grade 6 students from Severn Ave Public School will be returning to WAPS for grade 7. Some kids from the French board and other area schools have also registered.
- There are a few Woodroffe teachers who will be taking a leave of absence next year (1/3 program with the OCDSB). Therefore WAPS will likely be hiring for some new French teachers.
- Starting to plan for indoor gym classes.
- Social distancing is a problem. Students have a hard time keeping the distance. Please keep reinforcing at home as we do in school.
- An update in June about what renovations will happen at WAPS in the summer (AC update, continue electrical and duct work updates).
- Daily Occasional Teacher hired - to replace Mr Den Boar. She is from Toronto and Francophone and will be in the school to be a daily supply teacher as needed. The school is short on a daily basis.
- Megan wants to leave the support teachers in place. This should not be a solution for covering classes, but they are running into this situation. Next year potentially even more. Not enough teachers. Massive declines in the teacher college applications due to now being a 2 year program.
- Megan is in her 5th year at WAPS. Pascal is in her 4th year in their partnership. They both would like to stay together and remain at WAPS. If families feel strongly that this is a positive thing, they would benefit if people reached out to the superintendent (Shannon Smith) to share how they feel. If people feel that the time for change has come, people could share that too.
- Discussion about yearbook and the impossible challenge of putting something together this year. Will try for a memory book for grade 8s as they graduate. Laura and Lisa to discuss options.
- M. Charnonneau is back to teach Mme Timbers who lost her father.
- Parents please wear masks when you are in the perimeter of the school. Parents and children are uncomfortable.
- There are families walking their dogs and coming onto the parking lot, sidewalk or even up to the front door. Please keep dogs off the school property as some people are afraid of dogs.
- The church (Woodroffe United) may not let WAPS staff and parents to park there. They are liable for anything that happens in the parking lot. It is not taken away yet, but it is becoming a problem racing into the parking lot, sometimes not having the right attitude. Paying a nominal fee was put on the table. Parents are not allowed to park at St Martins Church (back of the school on Neepawa).

- Parking at the mall may be an option for drop off. The mall cannot promote the parking for WAPS parents, but Megan will go talk to them again for morning drop off.
- Tricia can write a letter on behalf of the school to the mall to see if they can find a deal for parking. People are also not using the bus service.

Question: Are teachers still assessing the levels of reading and can that be shared with parents? This allows parents to get resources (library readers, GB+ etc) that are the right level.

Response: Yes, this can be done. Pascale made a great handout about how to read with your child in French. Megan will see about sending this to parents along with some resources and suggestions.