

**Woodroffe School Council Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2017 6:30 – 8:30 PM**

Executive Attendees in attendance

Chair: Lisa Vandermeer
Vice-Chair: Daniela Humeniuk
Treasurer: Wendi Mosher
Secretary: Sarah Futterer
Fundraising Coordinator: Magda Anderchuk
Movie Night Coordinator: Nicole Duguay
Multicultural Arts Coordinator: Sarah Futterer
Spring Fling Coordinators: Daniela Humeniuk
and
Nicole Duguay
Director at Large (Outreach): Pam Cameron
Director at Large (Student Well Being): Tara
Finlay
Director at Large (School Garden): Carley
Schelck

Vice Principal: Monik Beauchemin
Office Administrator: Jennifer Burman
School Board Trustee: Theresa Cavanagh

Total number of persons present (including above): 16 plus 2 staff & Trustee

1. Welcome and introductions (Lisa Vandermeer)

2. Financial Update

- See attached document to show up to date Council spending
- To date fundraising is about on the same level as last year which is great.

3. Vegetable Garden (Carley Schelck carley@theurbanelement.ca)

- A vegetable garden was planted last summer and was maintained over the summer by about 10 families. We will be looking for local family and community volunteers for the summer months again this year.
- This year we are doing an update with help from our community support member Tom Marcantonio
 - Rebuilding raised garden beds and moving slightly for better growing conditions (approximately 100 square feet of garden beds)
 - Adding all new organic soil
 - Class participation (grade 5) as well as community support
 - We are planning a garden clean up day on Sunday May 7th from 9-12. All families are welcome to join us in the school yard as we will be taking apart the old garden beds and building and installing new raised garden beds. Interested families can contact Carley Schelck (carley@theurbanelement.ca)

if they want more information. The school office will also send out these details in the weekly update email to parents.

- Our tentative day for planting will be Sunday, May 28th (9-12).
- 3 seniors from the retirement home next to the school have committed to helping out over the summer for watering. Carley is also reaching out to the Carlingwood Retirement Home to see if we can use their water as its more easily accessible than the school's water source.
- will integrate plaque from former superintendent into garden.
- Looking for committee help, please contact Carley if you are keen to be involved in the planning or discussion of the garden program at Woodroffe.
- **Cultivating Cooks Program**
 - Pilot program currently happening in Mr. Millen's classroom
 - See this program as a long-term option for WAPS at multi-grade level. IT would be great if we could enjoy the summer planting in a school wide fall harvest and classroom tasting.

CULTIVATING COOKS at WAPS

Cultivating Cooks is a classroom based gardening and cooking program that connects students with local chefs, community gardeners and other local food producers. The overall goal is to get kids enthusiastic about “all things green”- understanding how they too can become “green garden stewards” both at school and at home. Teachers are actively involved in the process and have an opportunity to partake alongside the students; learning about healthy food systems and sustainable food practices by engaging in hands-on activities.

The Cultivating Cooks program will allow students to understand more about where our food comes from, identify a wide variety of produce through taste testing and cooking, learn why local food is important, and how to make healthy food choices. Students have an opportunity to tend to the school garden, help grow plants and crops and then cook with the foods they harvest. Farmers and Chefs have an opportunity to engage with the community in which they live and further support and encourage good food sustainability through these vital connections with schools, students and their families. Children learn and are inspired to grow their own food in their “urban centre” and also create important connections with community leaders all the while having fun.

Currently Cultivating Cooks is being piloted at WAPS, in MacArthur Millen's Grade 5, Class 5B

This programming will coordinate well with science-related curriculum in Conservation of Energy as well as health-related curriculum touching on healthy eating and nutritional labeling. Every two weeks, the class will receive a two-hour workshop with the assistance of volunteer chefs, farmers and gardeners. Here is an overview of the workshops:

Monday April 3 - Seeds and Planting

Tuesday April 18 - Roots and Shoots

Monday May 1 - Fruits and Vegetables

Tuesday May 15 - Nutrition and Local Food

Monday May 29 - Waste and Compost

Tuesday June 6 - Bees and Pollinators

Summertime Cultivating Cooks activities include care taking of the school garden. The program will resume in the classroom the autumn, and include a harvest lunch or picnic, and seed saving programs.

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4. Spring Fling – June 9th (PD Day) (Daniela Humeniuk dmhumeniuk@hotmail.com and Nicole Duguay nmduguay@gmail.com)

- Background to event provided for those parents not familiar with it.
- looking to parents to volunteer in replacement of high school students this year to make it more of a school community event
- Change food concessions to either a) pizza again like 2015 or b) bring your own picnic with expanded bake sale
- Thoughts and discussion
 - We didn't make a lot of \$\$ on food concessions last year and it takes a lot of volunteer hours to hand out food over the evening – is there a better way to use our time and energy as a parent community?
 - Parents keen on picnic option as its simpler and more equitable. It allows parents the freedom to come and go as they wish without a specific timeline for food delivery. After many positive comments from parents present at the meeting, consensus is to try “bring your own picnic” this year and see how it is received by families.
 - Lots of discussion on how to make savoury options a possibility to expand the bake sale.
 - For next year – suggestions have been made to not have Spring Fling on the PD Day and instead look at the first Friday evening in June 2018. These dates are booked in June so we will have to decide soon. Parents will thoughts and suggestions for next year's event can contact Daniela or Nicole (see emails above).
- Bake Sale Lead needed
- Tricia Ross has stepped up to lead Silent Auction baskets
- Sarah Berglas is lead for book sale.
 - Would be ideal to have someone to help her this year

5. Committee Updates

- **Healthy Active** (Lisa reporting on Julie Findlay's behalf, julie@mitk.ca)
 - Budget mostly spent for 2016-17. Huge increase in purchase of sports equipment (teachers and students all made a wish list of what was most needed for the school). Julie and Jennifer also did a full inventory of the sports storage room to see where there were equipment gaps. Thanks to both of them for the huge time commitment. The new equipment has been well received.
 - Suggestion to buy some more snow friendly toys (small shovels, square snow block makers, sleds with ropes for pulling, etc). Primary students really enjoy these when they borrow from the Kinder yard.
 - Dance-A-thon (Thursday April 20th) 10:30-noon
 - Raising money for the Education Foundation

- Grades 1-6 participating
 - Cheques can be written directly to school. All payments and forms must be returned by Monday April 24th
 - Professional hoola hooper coming to provide demos, Hot 89.9 with child appropriate music list coming to do music as well as their street performance team
 - Hoping it will be outdoors if weather holds
- **Multicultural and Arts** (Sarah Futterer, sarah.futterer@gmail.com)
 - Grade 1s participated in Chinese New Year presentation in February
 - Grade 2/3 participated in Gumboots Dancing presentation in February
 - Grade 6 participated in Still movie making workshop in March
 - Grade 4 participated in Lantern making project in October for St. Maarten's day
 - Grade 5's will go to Franco-Ontarien festival in June
 - Kinder classes will have a music concert in late May (waiting to confirm dates)
 - **Yearbook** (Laura Olac and Lisa Vandermeer)
 - Local printer this year which saves on cost of driving out of town for pickup
 - Similar structure, size and price as 2016
 - Teachers have until Friday April 21st to update photos to be used
 - Parents have also been sending in photos too which has been great
 - Will try and include the full school aerial photo this year if time permits
 - **Scientist in Schools** (Connie Sutherland)
 - All classes have now booked and many have already happened.
 - **Inside Out** (Pam Cameron)
 - 4 classes at WAPS (all grade 3 classes) and 1 at Regina public school participated.
 - Poetry creating workshops went great
 - Mud Lake year end celebration where Regina PS students are ambassadors to WAPS students. Date to be confirmed with Jennifer in the office. Council budget to cover bus costs

6. Upcoming Events and Volunteer Needs

- Logowear sales are available until Wed, April 26th (online through waps.fundraiserorders.com)
- Scholastic book sale is next week (Wed/Thursday during the day and after school 3-5pm) and finishes Friday Morning
 - i. Librarian Bob is looking for a few parents to help manage day time/after school shopping. Email wapschair@gmail.com if available
- Movie Night – SING is April 28th (last one of the year)
 - i. Looking for bake sale volunteers as well as help during and after the movie. Please sign up on the volunteer site.
<http://signup.com/go/yn47nu>

7. Principal and Vice Principal Report (Monik Beauchemin and Jennifer Burman)

- There is still a great deal of staff shuffling happening at all schools affected by the review
- Once final decisions are made as to who is staying and who will be leaving to go to Severn, it will be shared to parents (not necessarily the grades they are teaching)
- Students impacted by the Accommodation Review/Boundary change should have now received a letter indicating the timing of the open houses at Severn.
- **EQAO** – grades 3 and 6 happening May 24-26 and 29-31
 - i. Please try to have students at school on time for these 2 weeks. Timing is from 8:30-10:30.
- Reminder that April 28th is the last day to email principal Egerton about your student's class needs for next year. This is an opportunity to express learning style and personality trait needs as opposed to staffing requests.
- Talent Show – May 3rd daytime performance for students in the gym and in the evening at Woodroffe HS for parents. \$2.00 for kids during the day. Donations appreciated at the evening performance.
 - i. WAPS wish child this year is a 5-year-old who is in remission with Leukemia
 - ii. Memory book being made by all WAPS students for the child. It is coming along great.
- 1 more remaining hot dog day in May – thank you to all volunteer who have helped so far.

8. Board Update (Theresa Cavanagh, theresa.kavanagh@ocdsb.ca)

- Western review finished and overall has been positive
- Remainder of reviews on pause right now (pushed from Spring start to Fall and most likely will be the East end.
- Current emphasis is on budgets

9. Chalk it Up (Open to all parents)

- Education from Parents Point of View
 - Example given by parent that in Hungary parents and teachers meet once a month for informal update on child's progress and work together to keep the child on track to success. Presently feels that regularly reaching out to his child's teacher for meetings would not be met with openness for collaborative communication to help with the student's success.
 - Parent looking to know what changes can be made at Board level to have a better infrastructure for parents to help and engage with the education of their child
 - OCASC suggested as one option to be engaged in a parent group. Or Parent Involvement Committee which is provincially mandated and meets at the board office.
 - Changes to teacher requirements must be introduced by the province and the school board
- Nutrition Breaks and lunch monitors. How are grade 6 students selected? Trained?
 - Parent expressed concern that the monitors shouldn't be enforcing authority over the students they are monitoring.

- Mr. Charbonneau is in charge and students are given explanations as well as expectations of behaviour
- Students rotate classes twice a year
- Duty teachers always in hallway for problems as grade 6's do not have a disciplinary role.
- New cards made for monitors to report issues directly to homeroom teachers if a specific child is causing a problem or to acknowledge great behaviour.
- If there are any major issues grade 6 students will be removed from monitor position.
- Provides a great mentorship opportunity for older students and connectedness for younger students as well.

Next meeting is Wed, May 17th at 6:30pm. This will be our last meeting of the year.