



## **School Council Meeting Minutes January 20, 2016 6:30 – 8:00 PM**

### **Executive Attendees**

Chair: Lisa Vandermeer  
Vice-Chair: Magdalena Anderchuk  
Treasurer: Wendi Mosher  
Secretary: Jason Knowles  
Fundraising Coordinator: Daniela Humeniuk  
Communications: Sarah Orsini  
Director at Large (Outreach): Pam Cameron  
Director at Large (Emotional Well Being): Tara Finlay  
OCASC Representative: Danna Campbell

Principal: Kathi Kay  
Vice Principal: Monik Beauchemin  
Teacher Representative: Anthony Marchildon-White

School Board Trustee: Theresa Cavanaugh

Total number of persons present (including above): 19

### **1. Welcome and introductions (Lisa Vandermeer)**

- Upcoming event reminders:
  - Movie night "Homeward Bound" Jan 29th
  - Parent workshop "Helping our Kids Learn Through Transitions" Thurs, Feb 18, free childcare available, registration required by emailing [Woodroffe.wellbeing@gmail.com](mailto:Woodroffe.wellbeing@gmail.com)
  - no Council meeting in February
  - Bay Ward meeting at Severn PS, Thurs, Jan 21st at 7pm, topics for discussion include proposed EFI changes, future school changes, proposed IB program

### **2. Updates from Bay Ward School Trustee (Theresa Kavanaugh)**

- The school board is in the process of gathering information and assessing options for future school changes
- Long term objective is to reduce the number of middle schools in favour of K-to-8 elementary schools and/or 7-to-12 secondary schools
- There will be no changes this year and changes to secondary schools will be considered first
- The board is considering a proposal to create a second International Baccalaureate (IB) program in the West End
- Vote on proposed changes for next year (to Extended French Immersion program (EFI) in grades 1-3 and 50/50 French and English JK and SK at all schools) will happen on February 2, 2016 at 7pm at the Board Office.
- Multiple options are being considered, but the preferred option is for 50/50 French/English instruction in JK/SK and increased English instruction in grades 1-3

- EFI changes would generate budget savings through more effective class balancing through JK/SK split classes
- JK/SK split class use would be a school specific decision
- The school board currently has a budget deficit – cuts will be required but will not affect class sizes

### **3. Announcements and updates (Lisa Vandermeer)**

- School board is conducting a survey on preferences for the 2016-17 Winter Break - options are either for a start date of December 17 or December 24 – survey closes Jan 25, 2016
- New PD Day added Friday, April 15
- Petition for IB Program in the West End, specifically at Woodroffe High School
  - Theresa Kavanagh – all West End locations are under consideration
  - The IB program follows an international standard curriculum that is globally based, including third language instruction
  - The program is application based, with the current program at Colonel By School accepting approximately 80 students/year from 400 applications. It is expected that the East end program will be increasing the number of students they accept per grade.

### **4. Fundraising and upcoming events (Daniela Humeniuk)**

- Family Dance (and cake decorating contest) Friday March 4, 2016 in the evening
  - Parents and students to attend together
  - Fundraising through concessions and food bank donations
  - Music and lighting has been arranged
  - Need to come up with a theme and decorations – possible project for school classes
- Logowear
  - Wide variety of items available this year, including synthetic material sports shirts and toques
- Will be available for online sales soon and will also accept cheque/cash only sales at the Family Dance on March 4. More details to come home in backpacks.
- Yearbook pre-sale timing
  - Discussion of best start and end dates for yearbook sales
  - 40 kids did not provide waiver for inclusion in yearbook pictures; teachers to confirm with parents; wording of waiver to be clarified for next year

### **5. Inside Out (Pam Cameron)**

- Successful pilot program last year fostering relationships of students with peers in another at Regina Street Public School.
- Difficulty matching classes with Regina this year due to a very small single grade 4 class at Regina...may change the pen-pal component and just include the art/poetry component and joint end-of-year school trip
- partnering with D.Roy Kennedy a possibility
- Further update to be provided in April

### **6. Scientists in Schools (Connie Sutherland)**

- Cost of the program is \$185/class (funding provided by council)
- Teachers are required to book individually

- Teachers have the option to spend their funding allocation on another program if they choose (e.g. growing up organic)

## **7. OCASC Update (Danna Campbell)**

- Recent OCASC meetings focused on proposed EFI changes – many strong opinions expressed
- The Ottawa Safety Council offers free school workshops on Pedestrian Safety

## **8. Updates from Principal and Vice Principal (Kathi Kay and Monique Beauchemin)**

- School is currently experiencing an outbreak of stomach flu (vomiting, diarrhea) as well as a cold virus (fever and cough).
  - Public Health has been notified and is monitoring the situation due to more than 10% of students being home sick each day
  - Extra cleaning staff have been brought in to disinfect classrooms
  - Plush toys, sand and water tables have been removed from JK and SK classes
  - Monitoring attendance daily to determine when the Public Health warning can be lifted.
  - Please keep children home for 48 hours after the last episode of vomiting, diarrhea or fever to ensure control of germ spread.
- Implementation of school learning plan is ongoing
- School Reflex Math license has been renewed until June
  - Parents can access progress reports through the website – teachers can provide class login information to parents for grades 2-6)
- Math club to begin in February during 1<sup>st</sup> recess on Mondays – volunteers needed. Please contact Kathi for info. Over 60 students have registered and will be playing/training to compete in the Math competitions in May.
- Classroom skating outings have begun
- Kindergarten registration starts next week and is ongoing after that.
- Window for student school transfer applications is Feb 8-19, 2016
  - Woodroffe is at capacity and will not be accepting transfers from other schools
- Kindergarten Info night was well attended, with thanks to Me-to-We club students for assisting.
- “Bump” basketball competition/activities are taking place school-wide next week – kids are asked to bring a donation for the Britannia food bank.
- School librarian is looking at possibly hosting a scholastic book fair, possibly coordinated with Spring Fling or a movie night. We still like the used book sale at Spring Fling which promotes literacy and allows almost all children at WAPS to spend \$1 to bring home used books. A Scholastic sale at another time with funds going to the school library would be great and also supported by Council.
- WITS program (anti-bullying) relaunching next week with WITS Wednesdays
- Toonie Tuesday coming up to raise funds for the Education Foundation that supports many Woodroffe families as well as students all across the board (hot lunches, school supplies, winter boots and snowpants, etc).
- Registration Information for Putnam has been sent out to Grade 6 students

## **9. Teacher Updates (Mr. White)**

- The Me-to-We club is looking to put together Welcome baskets for Syrian Refugees in Ottawa. More info to come.
- Coming in the spring – Ford Dealership Test drive fundraiser

- Buddy Bench – has been purchased, volunteer needed to lead implementation program along with the WITS team. There needs to be staff and student buy-in for the bench program to be a success.
- School Gardening plan meeting Wednesday January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the school library. – all interested parents/community members welcome. No gardening experience necessary!

Chair adjourned the meeting

Next meeting – No council meeting in February. Instead join us on Thurs Feb 18<sup>th</sup> for our free Parent Workshop on helping our children through transitions. See info above.