

École Sir William Osler

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Date / Time : April 16, 2024, 6pm

Meeting Location: Virtual Meeting – Google Meet

Meeting Chair: Caitlin Buchel

Minutes Taken By: Rebecca Simpson-Litke

(14 participants)

Chair Greeting (Avery)

- Adoption of (revised) minutes from February 27, 2024 – moved by Amy, seconded by Avery, approved

Treasurer Report (Amy)

- Lunch program account is \$53,066.25, PAC account is \$21,572.77
- A reminder that the lunch program is not supposed to make a profit, but we've had a hard time fully staffing the program. We need to spend the extra money (as well as grant money we've received) – see principal's report

Principal's Report (Mme Ostermann)

- **Drills** – 8 fire, 1 evacuation, all lockdown drills completed
- **Illness** – reminder to keep sick kids at home until symptoms improve, can participate fully
- **Concert** – Wednesday, June 12, 6pm, Grant Park High School
- **Registration** – getting a little better
 - **Nursery** – had been dissolved due to low enrolment, but is now back on
 - **Kindergarten** – 21 currently registered – would be good to have a few more to guarantee 2 classes
- **Community Picnic** –PAC exec decided not to have it this year, due to field and construction conditions (but see further discussion below)
- **Glenlea Plant Pickup** – May 13
- **Grade 6 Farewell** – now June 21, afternoon
- **Construction**
 - Good news: running on schedule, supposed to pour concrete for gym addition this week
 - Bad news: play structure is not going to be put back for another full year because it will be too close to the construction site and hydro pole is in the way – once exterior walls for new addition are done, they can put the play structure back (spring-fall 2025)
 - Will need to meet with the division and construction company to find out what can be done to provide alternative programming/equipment, including how/when to spend the grant funding we already have
 - Have ordered more play equipment in the meantime

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- **Staffing** – K(am) = 12, K(pm) = 11, Grade 1 = 21, 1/2 = 21 (6/15), 2/3 = 21 (16/5), 3/4 = 21 (15/6), 4 = 22, 4/5 = 23 (5/18), 6 = 20
 - Have been granted an extra class, so will be using the music room as a classroom (grade 1), moving music to the library until the new addition is done
 - Interviewing for ½ time kindergarten teacher – M Saiko will stay with K, but also as a learning support teacher
 - Mme Sarah will stay on
 - Mme Helene will stay as other ½ learning support
 - Mme Heinrichs and Van Leishout each ½ time
 - Grade 2/3 – will be hiring
 - Mme Leianne/Wood – staying on (already putting on a chess club this year!)
 - Mme Toews will return to grade 6
 - Rest is not finalized
 - Many factors go into creating the grade splits and deciding which kids go where – kids have a range of abilities in any classroom
 - Could the Grade 5 class be split so there are not so few Grade 4s in with them? – Mme Ostermann will look at it and get back to PAC in May

Teacher Representative (Mme Toews)

- Chess club, Theatre club, Green club – lots of great things going on with more stability in staffing the last few years
- Recess is going well despite the lack of play structure

Greenspace Committee Update (Lauren/Meghan)

- New budget with new superintendent (Matt Henderson) – believes that it shouldn't be up to parents to fundraise for new play equipment – line item in new budget about play structures – our dismantled equipment is a hand-me-down from LaVérendrye school, so we could be a prime candidate for a new structure – Caitlin will be following up on this
- Could adults take kids to the far park during recess?
- Meghan has been watering the new trees at the outdoor classroom – could the Green Team water the trees while in school? – Lauren will ask Meghan what would be most helpful
- Berms are muddy – can we throw down grass seed? – use grant funding to improve these? – need to have a conversation with Brent and landscape architects
- Fence art for Grade 6 graduands – spoke to Mme Annalise and decided to do birds – can we use PAC funds to pay for plywood sheets, paint, sealer? – also need parent volunteers – get ballpark cost and PAC will discuss/approve next meeting (\$110 was spent last year)
- Looking into paddling day for Grade 5 class and overnights at a camp for next year's Grade 6 class (aiming for next spring)

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- Community cleanup – is this a good year for it, given the state of the field? – typically done in early May – we can do this with the kids instead, each grade cleaning a different area during Take Pride Wpg
- Wpg Foundation application – submitted by Avery – will know late May, early June if we were successful

NEW BUSINESS

Picnic

- We had decided not to have one due to the construction, but there is a desire amongst some parents to have a celebration of our community of some sort
- In lieu of a formal picnic, we could have a casual “come to the SWO park” evening at the end of the field – no events or food specifically organized by PAC, but people are free to gather or coordinate their own activities and bring food
- Will set a date sometime in June and send out a specific email announcement

Student Lunch Monitors

- Last June, we sent lunch monitors and patrols to Activate (\$420 from PAC funds last year) and also provided Subway lunch
- Mme Ginette was wondering if we could provide another Subway lunch to thank lunch program staff and these grade 6 volunteers?
 - Motion: To spend up to \$400 on Subway lunch for lunch program staff and lunch monitors – moved by Caitlin, second by Lauren, approved

Grade 6 Farewell

- Note date change (see principal’s report) – Mme Annelise may be doing a movie and pizza night (date TBA)

AGM May

- Elections for executive positions – please don’t hesitate to put your names forward!
- Descriptions of positions have been sent out or contact Mme O/Caitlin with questions

School Trustee Jamie Dumont

- Representing Wpg 1 school division for a 6th year – feel free to contact her to raise concerns – jdumont@wsd1.org
- New superintendent has been a pleasure to work with this year
- Other PACs have also had a hard time staffing lunch programs
- Goal is small class sizes
- Will follow up on what the options are for our play structure – she also does not want us to lose provincial grant money!
- Berms – could we have creative solutions about what to plant on them?

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- Grant & Lanark – unfortunate situation where someone was hit by a vehicle – having conversations with the city about how to prevent this
- School divisions in general are looking to strengthen relationships with the City – how can we work together on things like safety, active transportation, etc.
- Board is going through strategic planning process – have brought in an external expert, will reach out to school communities for feedback – community engagement, community centres, etc. – please watch for this

Meeting Adjourned (Caitlin) 7:41 pm

- Moved by Amy, seconded by Avery, approved
- Next meeting is May 21 (AGM)