

# **École Sir William Osler**

## **Parent Council Meeting Minutes**

**Date / Time :** February 18, 2025, 6pm

**Meeting Location:** Virtual Meeting – Google Meet

**Meeting Chair:** Caitlin Buchel

**Minutes Taken By:** Rebecca Simpson-Litke

(11 participants)

### **Chair Greeting & Land Acknowledgment (Caitlin)**

- Land Acknowledgment Committee Update – tabled until next meeting
- Add Delegation to Wpg School Board Meeting Update

### **Adoption of Minutes**

- Adoption of minutes from January 21, 2024 – some typographical revisions required
- Moved to adopt minutes with revisions – moved by Avery, seconded by Andrew, approved

### **Treasurer Report (Mme Ostermann)**

- Lunch program account
  - January opening balance was \$14,186.60
  - Revenue – lunch fees \$40
  - Expenditures – wages \$562.77, composting \$105
  - Current balance as of January 31 is \$13,558.83
  - Remainder of Lunch Program fees came in in February and will be reported next meeting
- January PAC opening balance was \$19,571.35 – no revenues or expenditures, so current balance is the same

### **Principal's Report (Mme Ostermann)**

- **IHop Fun Breakfast** – this Friday, February 21, 8am – volunteers welcome
- **Student Intention Forms** – most already completed, all families in N-Grade 5 are returning, a few Grade 6 forms not yet submitted
- **Staff Intention forms** also completed – all staff returning – staffing has not yet been confirmed by division
- **Festival du Voyageur Week** – Winter activity day has been bumped to February 25 – volunteers welcome
- **Student-Led Conferences** – March 13 in evening, March 14 morning
- **Report Cards** – March 17
- **Grade 4 Swimming Counts** – begin this week for group 1, group 2 in April
- **CPAWS** – 45 min session on Polar Bears with each class – outdoor learning was scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, but postponed due to cold until March
- **PAC meetings** – 2 more: April 15 and AGM on May 20

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- **Construction** – still same schedule – gym done end of June, classrooms done end of July, furniture moved in during August – only 1 Grade 6 student has indicated that they are staying, the rest are going to River Heights – have not yet heard about enrolment from JB Mitchell – the division is handling registrations, so we won't know until March 3
- **Fun Lunch Allergies** – Mme O will send out restaurant contact info so families can find out the risks directly – open to further discussion about fun lunches and Healthy Hunger – is there still interest in doing this? – we don't want kids to miss out due to financial constraints – could set aside funds through PAC or school to help provide lunches for these kids?
  - Have debated whether to continue with these in the past, but there seems to be a desire to continue amongst those at the meeting
  - Preference for PAC to set aside funds for families who need it
  - Could prioritize restaurants who have good allergy info and flexibility about accommodating those who need it
  - Seems like the frequency of fun lunches has been about right
- **Festival du Voyageur** – classroom teachers did not express interest this year in going (has been cold in past, limited programming in French during the day) – division is paying for one field trip per class if fees are involved, so teachers choose something that connects to their curriculum
- **Lunch Program** – staffing should improve – division providing a supply EA who can help cover lunches – we also have an emergency EA from JB Mitchell at the moment – conducting interviews to fill Mme Denessa's vacancy – thank you to families who have been able to volunteer to supervise lunches!
- **PAC AGM** – Please consider putting your name forward for one of our Executive Positions – email intentions to PAC

### Teacher Representative (Mme Sara Tham)

- Mme O clarified that the role of the teacher rep is to be another observer that can take info from the PAC meeting back to the staff
  - Sometimes teachers do have information they want to share, which is welcome but not required
- Mme Sara spoke about Quiet Recess:
  - <https://www.winnipegssd.ca/sirwilliamosler/ci/p/28813>
  - This is an option available to Gr1-6 to help support all types of learners – some kids want to socialize and move around, while others need a break to do something independently – includes quiet space, calm music, natural light, they bring their own materials (books, art, etc.), breathing exercises, affirmations, etc.
  - Mme Sara has the opportunity to check in with students in her office if needed
  - This is going really well and gives kids more options for what to do with their break time

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### PAC School Directory Update (Caitlin)

- Coming soon! Thank you to Jennifer for doing this!

### Greenspace Committee (Caitlin)

- **Gagaball Pit** – Blue Imp had a subcontractor that installed the pit – some damage to the panels, concern about longevity and reinstallation after the floor is poured – Blue Imp said this was typical of installation and doesn't have an impact on longevity, but can ask the subcontractor to apply sealant when they come to reinstall – we will go ahead and pay the subcontractor the last \$4000
- **Play Structure** – we connected with the division about the timing of the reinstallation of the old structure and whether it can be coordinated with the new sticks and stones play area – Playgrounds R Us can both reinstall and prepare the ground for the new and this would be a cost saving for us – looking at July, so need to order equipment very soon (landscape architects Scott and Elizabeth say order time is 12-15 weeks)
  - We have about \$40,000 but \$4000 install needs to come out + \$10,000 for the floor pour
  - Adding this year's fundraising results, we're probably looking at having about \$50,000 to spend on playground equipment
  - Ask people from Daycare + Greenspace Committee + PAC Exec to meet with Scott and Elizabeth to discuss ideas – they use their expertise and knowledge of our school and expansion plan to provide a few options that fit within our timeline and budget to be provided in a survey to parents to find out preferences
  - Are we still looking to apply for grants or is the timeline too short?
    - Probably too short for this phase, but can look into corporate grants for future phases (ex: landscaping, shade structure, trees, other kinds of play equipment, etc.)

### Fundraising Update (Avery, Caitlin, Dominique)

- No pressure to participate, but here are some options:
- **Glenlea** – ordering is open, info sent out – have until April 14 to submit orders – delivery date is Monday, May 12, around 7:30am – please order earlier than later – a request for volunteers will come closer to the date
- **Coffee & Donuts** – local coffee roaster selling bags for purchase, plus Krispy Kreme donuts – families can choose from both on the order form – will use an e-transfer system – orders go in google form and funds transferred to PAC account – volunteers needed to hand out orders from 3-5pm
  - Need to finalize info poster about how to order and pay
  - Confirm dates for orders and delivery
  - Send out by end of week

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### OLD BUSINESS

#### PAC Meeting Schedule (Caitlin)

- Leave schedule same for this year, but discuss again at AGM
- Virtual is convenient, but in-person is also nice occasionally, possibly coordinated with babysitting

#### Communication Plan (Caitlin)

- Follow up with Lauren about creating a survey of parents as to preferred methods of communication

#### South District Committee Meeting Update (Andrew)

- Most recent meeting was on February 11
- Two new orders of business:
  - Budget consultation process – see attached infographic that can be shared – government funding has been static, but property taxes are generating an increase – see staffing levels, including numbers of positions that need to be filled – see info about PD – Jordan's Principle funding likely to be cut for the division for next year – 2 schools in the division will be implementing IB programming next year – discussion of librarians in schools and a desire to provide more – school board budget meeting is on February 24, which you can register to attend
  - Wpg School Division Strat Plan 2025-30 – has worked with a consulting firm to develop plan – see document
- Three additional info items – guidelines for board advisory committees, WSD 123 Continuous Improvement, fundraising policy in schools

#### Community Picnic

- We didn't do something last year due to lack of volunteers and construction – if there is desire to do one this year, we will need a coordinator and a 2-3-person team to execute
- Mme O will send out info about what the picnic has looked like in the past, along with a call for volunteers if people want to make this happen this year
  - **Motion:** To approve a preliminary budget of up to \$600 in the event a coordinator + team volunteers to make this happen. Moved by Andrew, seconded by Rebecca, approved.

#### Delegation to Wpg Division School Board Meetings

- A trustee is elected to represent you as a parent – the first Monday of every month, there is a meeting with school trustees and parents – we can create motions at PAC and send a delegation to bring them forward – the division needs to respond to these motions formally

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- We can coordinate a delegation to attend, speak for 10 minutes, and bring our PAC concerns forward
- Here are some possible concerns to raise:
  - **Fundraising Policy** – there are some positive aspects to this new policy, but problematic aspects: fundraising not for things that are normally school expenditures, but what happens when the division doesn't have enough money to pay adequately for these things (ex: play structure, field trips, etc.)? – seems to be addressing parent concerns ad hoc, which doesn't seem equitable – grant writing seems to be okay, but privileges communities who have members who can do this work – the policy doesn't provide a mechanism for schools to buddy with a less affluent school or find ways to share the wealth
    - **Motion:** To send a delegation from PAC to present these concerns at the meeting on March 3. Moved by Avery, seconded by Kristy, approved.
  - **Lunch Program Policy** – PACs will no longer staff or run their own lunch programs, this will be done by the division – ratio of 1 adult to 20 students recommended, 2 staff in school yard to supervise recess – with our regular EA staffing, this would be impossible for our school – very concerning to use teacher or literacy support staff time to cover this – concerning to *prevent* PACs from supplementing lunch program staffing
    - **Motion:** To send a delegation from PAC to present these concerns at meeting on March 3. Moved by Kristy, seconded by Avery, approved.
  - Caitlin and Andrew will put Powerpoints together about these concerns, to be made available to PAC (anyone interested in also attending can contact them – Kristy is happy to collaborate) and will connect with other schools in the division to see if they want to support and also attend

### Polar Bear Club?

- Mme O was away and then was ill so she was not able to take the kids out recently

### Meeting Adjourned (Caitlin) 8:02 pm

- Moved by Andrew, seconded by Rebecca, approved
- Next meeting April 15