

WGH Parent Council Meeting

November 1, 2022

In attendance: Mr. Thomas (Principal), Shruti Sharma (Chair), Swapnil Sharma (Parent School Advisor/Grade 3 class rep), Marie McKay (Director), Christina Oxamitny (Secretary), Erinn Marten (supporting Grade), Tomislav Miljanovic, Chauntelle McCallum (Director at Large), Elena Gould, Mindy Francis, Kriscinda Maki (Director at Large), Marci Rosser

1) Meeting called to order by Shruti: 6:04

Land Acknowledgement

Introduction of all present

2) Review of Agenda

3) Approval of September meeting minutes:

Motioned by Marie, seconded by Swapnil

4) Principal Report by Mr. Andrews

It's been a busy last month here at the school. We've had a lot going on:

- Firefighters came and did a presentation to our students on Fire Safety
- Safe Community Wood Buffalo presented to our students about Halloween Safety
- Our Boys and Girls Volleyball teams both had their first tournaments. They managed to win all their games while showing lots of sportsmanship
- Chinese flute and dance clubs have started after school as well
- Enrichment classes have started in Gr
- Our Halloween Dance was a huge success and we think we had 700-800 people in attendance
- Thanks to our parents for supporting our Gr 6 trip to Gregoire Lake for Inside Education
- We had a Fall Family Feast with our school's Indigenous Families and Staff. It was a great celebration connecting our families and staff
- Remembrance Day Assembly on November 10th, all parents, as always, are invited to join.

- Questions for parents would you like to know about the work teachers do on PLFs?
Attendees indicate yes. At future meeting the agenda of a recent PLF will be shared, with an explanation of activities as required
 - Last PLF: this was a District-based PLF with break out groups focusing on literary through a diversity lens, followed by a CRM model used by the school that pools staff resources/skills to help tackle difficulties faced by students

Can we present to you at the next meeting our report to the division about the Assurance Results?

- Results available publicly, but Mr. Andrews and Ms. Hiscock would like to present the results (ex. Parent involvement) so Parent Council can provide feedback on some of the findings
 - Mr. Andrews noted a historical low for survey feedback (8 parents responded to survey)
 - Parent involvement (discussion highlights):
 - After COVID protocols, parents unsure about can they/when they can enter school. Increased communication from admin/teachers about parents entering the school and classroom would be appreciated. School social media used to share events, and has been seeing more comments and activity lately. Pictures and information are also on school website
 - Text messages from school to parents is used, but parents have to sign up for it
 - Sign up information to help with book fair was limited: is there a better way to reach parents?

Other topics:

- Mr. Andrews noted after school activities are run by teachers volunteering their time. 2 teachers currently being trained on coding, outside sources (Westwood) coming in for robotics
- Number of PLFs compared to other divisions was discussed. School calendars are set by district, and there are on going conversations about scheduling. This is also a great opportunity for our representative at Network Meeting to share our thoughts.

5a) Update on Network meeting (October 11th): Shruti Sharma

- Our parent council was represented by Shruti. Three board members were also present with other representatives for a thought exchange re
 - School start up (staggered entry). Possible improvement of 2 days vs 4. Concerns of loss of instructional days, would prefer starting after Labour Day.
 - Report cards: district decision to move online, parents can request a printed copy through the school. Discussion of parent familiarity with technology and sites used (Parent Portal, PowerSchool). District will also be looking at how many parents have accessed report cards online.
 - District will also be looking at number of PTI bookings to see parent engagement
 - September 30th: National Day of Truth and Reconciliation: are students being engaged by the meaning of this day? Should schools be kept open and activities about Truth and Reconciliation be shared by the schools this day?

- Joint Network Meeting: Nov 8th at 6:30. Our volunteer (representative) for this meeting will be Shruti.
- Parent Engagement Sessions: 2 finished, 3 upcoming. Completed sessions are on Youtube. Questions are submitted via Google Forms, then Superintendent Nutter will answer questions at the next engagement session.

Playground structures

- We have been working with RMWB re Playground structures. Historically this Council (led by Freya Fourney) very involved in advocating for replacement/updating of playground for more accessible equipment. RMWB has protocols to replace after x number of years. Capital budget will be released beginning of December.

Motion: Shruti: council will apply to present to RMWB council during budget council proceedings to prioritize WG Hill playground.

Motion passed by show of hands

b) **Other business related to Network Meeting**

- ASCA gave \$500 to use for workshops/use as wish for education to build a skills for Parent Council. This is the second year this has been available, to the amount of \$500 for the Parent Council. The workshops can be open for all parents.
Ideas for what funds could be used for will be looked into by Shruti
- Traffic Committee: email sent out about joining that committee, Kriscinda has already volunteered. Parking lot jurisdiction of school/division, once vehicles leave the parking lot they are jurisdiction of RMWB.
Clarification discussion: schools are not consulted by RMWB for park development, but Parent Council and community members can send emails to mayor and City Council for desired outcomes.
- Response to Others Protocol: this will be a new protocol on how to approach students that are making threats: conversations with students about why threats are made.
Currently there is "Violent Risk and Assessment" training on protocols on how to deal with violent threats (verbal or actions). Currently 4 staff members are trained in this protocol

6) **Update on "Rally for Public Education"**

ATA rally for Public Education was on October 22nd.

7) **Next meeting December 6th at 6:00**

8) **Meeting adjourned: 6:59 pm**

9) **To discuss for the next meeting:**

- what should the roles/responsibilities of class representatives be? Would this be better benefited by WGFORS?
- How can we facilitate communication?