

# West St. Paul Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

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**Date:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023

**In Attendance:**

Dayna Trann, Amber and Aaron Ayres, David Ingram, Tammy Harder, Christine Collings, Eleanor Laminger, Amanda Kruger, Brianne Lisecki, Michelle Kippen, Satwinder Toor, Candace Burke, Lisa Whiteside

**Call to Order and Greetings:**

- Meeting called to order by Christine Collings at 6:04 pm.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

- Motion made to accept the agenda by Dayna Trann; seconded by Brianne Lisecki. Motion carried.

**Adoption of the Minutes from October 11, 2023:**

- Motion made to accept the minutes by Amanda Kruger; seconded by Amber Ayres. Motion carried.

**Administrative Report:**

- There have been a lot of changes in the higher levels of administration (Board Office; some principals). This is a good thing; it means that the Seven Oaks philosophy is reaching outside of the division. We have lots of positives to our division (ie. philosophy on fees, assessment, etc.) that people are very happy and benefit from.
- Daycare on the school grounds – this project continues to evolve and change. David continues to be consulted and kept in the loop.
- Current attendance: 601 students.
  - Planning for next year has already started, but it's hard to anticipate exactly how many more students will be joining the school.
- Remembrance Day Ceremony will be this Friday morning (Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>). Parents are no longer able to attend, just because of lack of room. Lots of planning has been happening; there will be a lot of student involvement.
- On Tuesday, November 14, the school will be having a Diwali assembly. There is a request to parents to help with henna. The school has purchased samosas for

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- each student and staff member. Bhangra dancers will be performing; the group also performed at the Divisional Mele last week. It was a big success!
- The middle years students also participated in a peace poster contest, from the Lions Club. There were two winners – congratulations!
  - Play Space proposal – David shared the current plans with us.
    - o The company (through the division) is hoping to have a plan prepared by next summer.
    - o This consult will cost \$14 500, and that money will come out of the \$250 000 that we were awarded.
    - o The company will be meeting with the staff and the PAC to get insight and feedback.
    - o The \$250 000 is a very generous gift from the school division, but play equipment is expensive and that money will go quickly. The school has a small amount of money for the PlaySpace project, as does PAC. We could use this extra money to help us with any overages, etc. We will have to discuss what our goals are and what we would like to see (ie. largely natural spaces, etc.)
  - The school recently had their “Shortest Assembly” assembly – to celebrate:
    - o Kim Greening – Prime Minister’s Award
    - o Cathy Gingera and team won the Curling Club Championships and will be going to provincials.
    - o West St Paul School has reached an enrollment of 600 students!
    - o Congratulations to you all!
  - The school has an active Kindness Committee,
    - o Made up of students and staff in the school.
    - o It is similar to an anti-bullying group but takes more of a positive spin.
    - o Some things they will be doing in the near future: read a book to classes, weekly kindness challenges, putting up posters, decorate a tree with kindness messages, Hot Chocolate Day, Koats for Kids, and the Cool to Be Kind campaign, etc.
  - Last meeting, we asked the admin to approach the staff and ask them if they have any requests for funding, to see if we can help them at with their goals. Here are the results:
  - Teacher Wishlist:
    - o Microscope purchases and repairs – (middle school use)
      - Single - \$500 each (only 2 functioning – have 5 in total)
    - o Chrome book cart - just over \$2000
    - o Rocks and mineral sets - \$300 each
    - o Volunteer lanyards - \$400 total
    - o Scoreboard - \$11 000 (needs to be replaced as the bulbs don’t work anymore and can’t be replaced)
    - o Outdoor supplies -\$2700 (\$100 per class, 27 classes)
    - o Fabric for creating our bhangra dancer outfits - \$2000
  - We will discuss our choices at the next meeting.

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## **Executive Reports:**

### **Chair:**

- Christine has contacted the board office to give us some information about the Square. No response yet, but Christine will follow up with an email.

### **Vice Chair:**

- None

### **Past Chair:**

- No report.

## **Financial Report:**

- Our current balance is \$ 37 934.39
- Expenses from the Halloween dance – \$2 664.53
  - o Our profits from the dance = \$1 881.95
- We spent the following for Teacher Appreciation: \$257.96
- We spent the following to purchase Volunteer lanyards: \$ 38.07
- Our total expenses for October = \$ 1 078.61

## **Fundraising:**

- An email went out regarding the poinsettia order. The deadline to order is November 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Pick up is Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> at the Access Centre. Brianne and Amanda will be there for pick up.
- Dayna and Amanda will discuss some other fundraising options to present to the group in the future.

## **Fundraising: Craft Sale**

- No committee at this time

## **Hot Lunch:**

- The hot lunch today was the smoothest one so far.

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- The Grade 8 class that helps out has been doing really well.
- Vegetarian option – some families are just requesting “no meat.”
  - o We will make sure that our January sheet will have that option so that parents don’t feel like they have to ask for a special accommodation.
  - o Maybe we can look at other vegetarian options. For example, we can bring samosas. We will see how the students like the samosas at the Diwali celebration and go from there! We can discuss further in January.

## **Ongoing Business:**

### Halloween Dance – Debrief

- Will speak in more detail next meeting.
- There are some notes for next year about what we could do differently. The committee would like to hear our feedback as well.
- Overall, there were lots of really positive feedback!
- Formal thank you cards to go out - Dayna will get Lisa a list.

### Holiday Concert

- December 20<sup>th</sup> at SOPAC
- Kindergarten classes will have their own concert the night before on the 19<sup>th</sup> – here at the school.
- There will be two shows scheduled for SOPAC but the exact times and schedule haven’t been figured out quite yet.
  - o Possible groupings will be Grades 1-5 & and 6–8.
  - o There will possibly be a dress rehearsal at SOPAC in the afternoon, but we don’t know about that yet.
- We could do a fundraiser – for example, a Cash Calendar.
  - o We could print a cash calendar on our own and then charge \$10 per calendar.
  - o We could sell it at P/T day and then again at holiday concert, with the draws in January.
  - o This may be too much work and not a feasible option at this time. We could possibly move to the spring.
- Instead, we could do a 50/50 at the concert.
- Decision: We will set up a table at the Christmas concert.
  - o We will have a 50/50 draw.
  - o We will also have a door prize – where we give away free tickets, to get people to come over to the table.
  - o We will purchase 2 baskets (no more than \$50).
    - Candace is going to purchase the baskets from Costco.
  - o Amber will get a permit for the 50/50 draw.
  - o Lisa will get a table from GC; Michelle will bring decorations; Dayna will bring our PAC postcards; Brianne will bring a float.

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- A motion was made by Dayna Trann to spend up to \$100 to purchase two gift baskets for the door prize. Seconded by Christine Collings. Motion carried.

## Family Fun Night – New Committee Lead

- Amber and Aaron Ayres would like to be committee leads for the September – Family Fun Night.

## Call for Parent Volunteers

- Will discuss at the next meeting.
- This can be a call for volunteers, and also for donations.

## Communication – Facebook, Instagram?

- Will discuss at the next meeting.

## New Business:

- Dayna has new ideas that she will share with us at the next meeting.
- Tammy mentioned that if we are interested in livestreaming our meetings, we have access to a system called Owl. It is a piece of equipment that gets attached to a laptop.

## Adjournment:

- A motion was made by Christine Collings to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 pm. Seconded by Dayna Trann. Motion carried.

## Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 – 7:30 pm with child care provided.**