

West St. Paul Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, October 9th, 2024

In Attendance:

Christine Collings, Brianne Lisecki, Michelle Kippen, Dayna Trann, Amanda Kruger, Alex Yuen, Eleanor Laminger, Jaspreet Kaur Gill, Kristy Arbeau, Alana Woods, Amber and Aaron Ayres, Vanessa Cecchini, Mandy O'Brien, Lisa Whiteside, Tammy Harder, Jenny Macdonald, David Ingram

Special Guests: Tony Kreml (Superintendent) and Tiffany Winchar (School Board Trustee)

Call to Order and Greetings:

Greetings and call to order at 6:02 pm.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Slight change of agenda to move up Brianne's report for the Craft Sale and Hot Lunch program. Motion made to accept the modified agenda by Amber Ayres; seconded by Alex Yuen. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Minutes from September 17, 2024:

- Motion made to accept the minutes by Amber Ayres; seconded by Brianne Lisecki. Motion carried.

Administrative Report:

- We started with a report from Superintendent Tony Kreml. He wanted to let us know that there have been some changes in the last week and wanted to update us.
 - The funding for the Hydro upgrades that will allow us for the two portables to be moved to our school has been approved.
- The school division has met with the Minister of Education. The province is aware of the new community growth and they know about our increase in population size.
 - A new school in West St. Paul was approved in 2019. We are now awaiting authorization from the province to start the building.
 - In the meantime, adding portables, with the electrical upgrade, is the solution that will help us in the immediate future.
 - Mr. Kreml can't guarantee a date for the portables to be moved to the property, but he is optimistic that it will be within this school year.

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- Seven Oaks School Division continues to do ongoing advocacy work by reaching out to the Province of Manitoba and the Treasury Board, which is where our money comes from.
- **There has already been a formal request made for another two portables.**
- The portables will go in north of the existing portables, and the request for a replacement basketball court has also been made.
- Parent question: Did the parent going to the media help the situation? Answer: Yes, it seemed to amplify the urgency of the request and helped to back up the advocacy work that the trustees were already doing.
- Parent question: Can the school division compensate the teaching staff for their patience and working within a difficult situation? Answer: There is a specific collective agreement that doesn't allow for monetary compensation, but the division is very supportive of our teachers, administration and staff. The division thanks the staff when they can.
- Parent question: Does the situation in the library change with this news? Answer: This will depend on when the next two portables will be coming in. It is costly to add a wall within the library space to separate the two classrooms, and they are conscious of being fiscally responsible. They are meeting with a contractor for options.
- Mr. Kreml is optimistic that the library will be returned to what it once was.
- Mr. Kreml assured us that they have heard PAC and parents' concerns. If possible, we will be invited to the table with the Minister of Education in the future.
- Mr. Kreml and Ms. Winchar then left the meeting.
- Tammy and Jenny - Report
 - A big thank you for the staff for the Staff Appreciation brunch.
 - It was a nice energy and there was lots of time for camaraderie.
 - Big thank you to Michelle for making breakfast (and for planning it) and to all of the PAC members who went to help set up and serve.
- David - Report
 - Enrollment - 599 + 6 students up
 - The Library Technician is doing a fantastic job. She had to change the set up of the library, but has done an amazing job and it's working really well.
 - In mid-October, there will be two new clubs starting: Special Olympics and UNESCO (a school leadership group).
- Parent question: Has the milk program started yet?
 - Not yet. Waiting on the milk. It will be free and available to all students.

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- Administration also put up a bulletin board at the front of the school for PAC announcements. Michelle will decorate. Check it out!

Executive Reports:

Chair:

- After multiple attempts to contact the Manitoba Association of Parent Councils, Christine has discovered that they are no longer in operation. There appears to be some sort of similar organization out of Selkirk and Christine will reach out to them.
- The use of the Square for purchases:
 - We have permission to set up our own account to use the Square; this will be separate from the school's account - Brianne is willing to do this
 - We will need to come up with rules of how this work for upcoming fundraisers.

Vice Chair:

- Nothing at this time.

Past Chair:

- Not present.

Financial Report:

- Current balance is \$28 320.17
- About \$1800 is coming from the rental of craft sale tables.

Fundraising:

- Over the past few years, we have done a winter fundraiser through Shelmerdines (poinsettias, door swag, gift cards, etc.)
 - Are we interested in doing this or is that too much with the craft sale?
 - It's a low effort fundraiser, so we will do this. We can advertise at the craft sale and the Parent Teacher evenings. Amanda will arrange for drop off in the first week of December.

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- Tentative day for the Holiday concert - December 18th, at SOPAC.
 - We can have raffle baskets that evening and in the daytime for the Kindergarten concerts.

Hot Lunch:

- McDonald's lunch forms went out last week.
 - The prices did go up.
 - Brianne organized volunteers to help count money on October 16 and 23.
- Vanessa is going to look into the possibility of Subway as an additional hot lunch option.

Ongoing Business:

- Halloween Dance: Thursday, October 24th
 - group will meet next Thursday to make posters and decorate
 - October 23 and Oct 24- set up for the dance
 - Nov. 1 - take down
- Craft Sale: Saturday, November 16th
 - We need 7 - 8 crafters to fill the tables. Tammy can put another announcement on Instagram.
 - There will be a bake sale, canteen, silent auction, Grinch photos (by donation).
 - Brianne handed out donation letters to ask for prizes.
 - There is a box of raffle tickets, cellophane, coffee, etc. within the school.
 - The gym classes can help out on Friday afternoon as well.

A motion was made by Brianne Lisecki for up to \$1 000 for craft sale supplies, including the canteen; seconded by Amber Ayres. All approved. Motion carried.

- PAC Shirts
 - for members of PAC, to make it easier to identify us at events
 - most will buy their own; we will purchase an additional 5-10 t-shirts

New Business:

- PAC Constitution:
 - please take a copy of the constitution and review

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- we will discuss and make any final changes at our AGM in May
- Dates for the rest of the year:
 - We will continue to meet on Tuesdays of the second week of the month (excluding December and June).
 - Lisa will send all dates to Joanna to update the school's website.
- Teacher/ Staff Appreciation Event - feedback/ discussion
 - There are approximately 65 staff members
 - Do we continue with two events per year? One?
 - We discussed and going forward, we would like to retain a smaller event in the fall and a bigger one in the spring.
 - We are very thankful and supportive of our amazing staff!

A motion was made by Christine Collings to cover the additional \$150 that was spent on this fall's Staff Appreciation; seconded by Amber Ayres. All in favour. Motion carried.

- Volunteer Binder
 - Michelle put together a binder to help fill volunteer shifts at upcoming events. Thanks Michelle!
- Family Fun - Note
 - Less money spent than previously thought.
 - Amber proposed that we add a petting zoo next year!

Adjournment:

- A motion was made by Christine Collings to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm. Seconded by Dayna Trann. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 12th 2024 @ 6:00 – 7:30 pm
with child care provided.**