

West St. Paul Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 8th, 2025

In Attendance:

Christine Collings, Dayna Trann, Michelle Kippen, Brianne Lisecki, Vanessa Cecchini, Eleanor Laminger, Manjot Kaur, Theresa Pihulak, Ramajeet Kaur Dhaliwal, Sandeep Kaur Sran, Evan Mohr, Yolanda Czerwonka, Jason Hayward, Jenny MacDonald, Whitney Harms, Lisa Whiteside, Amanpreet Kaur, Alana Woods

Regrets: Amanda Kruger

Call to Order and Greetings:

- Greetings and call to order at 6:03 pm.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Motion made to accept the agenda by Michelle Kippen; seconded by Brianne Lisecki. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Minutes from May 8, 2025

- Motion made to accept the minutes by Vanessa Cecchini; seconded by Dayna Trann. Motion carried.

Administrative Report:

- current enrollment: 625 students
- Construction updates:
 - Red River Hall now has a temporary wall up and there are two classrooms in the space
 - The new portables arrived last week; they are doing work on installing the portables now.
 - Permits for the portable are on track and in place, but the electricity cannot be hooked up until a part is brought in (currently being manufactured).
 - There is a fence to section the portables off and keep the area safe.
 - The school is waiting on a railing for the room outside of the Kindergarten classroom; it should be in by the end of the month.

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- Once the portables are ready to go, the classes in Red River Hall will probably be moving out to those portables, and the administration will decide how to use the Red River Hall space at that time.
- Currently, music classes are on the stage. Some choir classes are taking place in the band space as well.
- There is new flooring in the old library space (new classrooms).
- Breakfast Program - update:
 - There has been an increase in staff time devoted to the program. We now have two Educational Assistants (EAs) using 1/2 hour each (a total of 1 hour in staff time) to run the breakfast program (from one EA at .25 hours total).
 - Everyone is welcome!
 - Most students come in at 7:45 am and it's currently a "grab and go" system. When it's colder, students can come in earlier.
 - It's a pretty robust program (food has included kabalassa, egg, cheese, toast, etc.).
 - Funding comes from the province and the division.
 - Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba oversees the program. The school is required to submit a report and expenses. This council ensures that food is healthy and meeting nutrition requirements.
 - Waffle Wednesday is coming up this week!
- We then had a tour of the school and we were able to ask questions!
 - Notes:
 - There are fold up tables in the library area to use for the breakfast program. They are tucked away during the day.
 - The librarian is a full time position and she goes to visit the classrooms as well.
- Immunization clinic is Thursday, Oct.2nd.
 - Parents were invited to help out between 8 - 11 am (serving juice and cookies, etc.). Let Yolanda know.
- Family Fun Evening will be put on by the school on **Thursday, Sept 25th.**
 - It will include bouncers, music, pizza, etc.
 - Intended for all families in the community.
 - More information will be coming out soon! ***volunteers would be great
- Safe and Caring Schools document
 - Jenny sent out to the school community electronically - and handed out at today's meeting

Executive Reports:

Chair:

- nothing to report

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Vice Chair:

- nothing to report

Past Chair:

- Not present.

Financial Report:

- Our current balance is sitting around \$20 000.
- A full report will be given at October's meeting.

Fundraising:

- Last year, we had a lot of success with Kristy Kreme (spring) and the Shelmerdine sales (December).
- We usually do two fundraisers a year.
- Some ideas to look into:
 - Kernels (lot of work)
 - Fundscrip (gift cards)
 - Utoffee - local company/ really good
 - Krispy Kreme again
 - Peak of the Market - will be done by the school
 - Shelmerdines again

Hot Lunch:

- Pizza lunches will still be happening every second Wednesday (put on by the school).
- PAC would like to offer a hot lunch on Wednesdays where pizza is not being offered.
- Last year, we did Subway and McDonald's.
- Vanessa is looking at McDonald's and prices at other locations.
- Bar Burrito reached out to us. They are located right next to the Subway on Main Street.
 - All meals are \$7
 - There are four options (burritos, tacos, salad bowls, and quesadillas). We don't have to do all four options - we can streamline it as well
 - Vanessa will confirm gluten-free options. There are vegetarian options.

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- Do we want to offer three different options, or is that too complicated?
- We would like to try Bar Burrito and commit to at least one time to see what the reception is like in the school. We will make our decision from there.

Ongoing Business:

- **Halloween Dance:**
 - Thursday, October 23rd from 6 - 8 pm.
 - Dayna told us that the DJ is booked.
 - We will have black light cannons, and a Glow in the Dark theme.
 - We had 700 people last year.
 - It will be a family dance, with a canteen.
 - We will require volunteers (including 10 high school students - Lisa).
 - Canteen - we will reach out to see if Kelly can organize.
 - No food in the gym.
- Dayna Trann made a motion to have a budget of \$2500 for the Halloween Family Dance. Brianne Liseck seconded it. All in favour. Motion carried.
- **Craft Sale**
 - Saturday, November 15th from 10 - 3
 - We have 20 empty tables and we're looking to fill those. Yolanda will put out an advertisement on Instagram.
 - We will have a bake sale, canteen, etc. same as last year.

New Business:

- West St Paul Fall Fair
 - We will send our regrets to Councillor Mike Paktagan. We are not able to put something together for Sept 27th, but can prepare for next year. Thank you for thinking of us.
- School Yard - Vision
 - We would like to work to build a better outdoor play space for our children.
 - We have had many ideas over the years, but have been hampered by a variety of issues, including plans for highway expansion, a daycare build, and a possible restructuring of the whole yard. We would like to know if we can pursue smaller, more manageable goals in a more timely manner (ie. mud kitchens, art or music equipment, etc.)
 - This administration will discuss and look into the logistics at the present time and give us some information at the next meeting.

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- Back Fence
 - There are trees planted along the back fence, and a rented fence that was meant to protect those trees.
 - At this point, the weeds have encroached upon that whole area. It's an eye sore and a safety concern. Can we have the fence removed?
 - Admin will be looking into the possibilities.
- School Wide No Nut Policy
 - We have a variety of life-threatening allergies throughout the whole school and classroom have very important classroom bans to protect the safety of those with allergies.
 - Can we focus on classroom bans - on any allergens that are specific to the room - as opposed to a school wide ban that is not inclusive of all items anyways?
 - Admin will look into the issue.
- Parent concern: Boomerang lunches can be difficult to abide by and leave students and parents grappling with dirty lunch boxes. We discussed the intentions and the realities. Admin will be discussing details with staff.

Adjournment:

- A motion was made by Christine Collings to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm. Seconded by Dayna Trann. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 8th from 6:00 – 7:30 pm
with childcare provided.**