

West St. Paul Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 17th, 2024

In Attendance:

Christine Collings, Brianne Lisecki, Michelle Kippen, Dayna Trann, Theresa Pihulak, Amanda Kruger, Chad and Lauren Sykes, Candace Coelho, Alex Yuen, Stephanie Reis-Correia, Eleanor Laminger, Natalie Herman, Jaspreet Gill, Kristy Arbeau, Alana Woods, Maninderpal Rai, Kelly Bishop, Amber and Aaron Ayres, Tammy Harder, Jenny Macdonald, David Ingram

Call to Order and Greetings:

Greetings and call to order at 6:04 pm.

Adoption of the Agenda

- Motion made to accept the agenda by Christine Collings; seconded by Brianne Lisecki. Motion carried.

Adoption of the Minutes from May 8, 2024:

- Motion made to accept the minutes by Amber Ayres; seconded by Dayna Trann. Motion carried.

Administrative Report:

- We started with a tour of the library and the two classrooms in the old library space. David explained to us about the decisions made for the set up and the changes that have been made.
- Originally, the plan was to have a wall between the two classrooms and is still under consideration; at this point, it is an open concept with no full divider between the two classes. Sometimes the two teachers co-teach; at other times, they run their classes separately.
- There was time for some feedback and questions from parents.

- We then returned back to the meeting room for more updates.
- Student enrolment update:
 - These are based on numbers from the end of September.
 - In the past 5 years, enrolment has gone from 477 students to 599 (current number).

West St. Paul Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

- 2020 - 477 students; 2021 - 472 students; 2022 - 529 students; 2023 - 593 students; currently - 599 students)
- Admin added one extra class this year to keep class sizes down.
- With more classes comes more teachers, and more opportunities. We have an excellent staff who does a lot of things on their own time to provide exciting clubs and events for our students.
- Current catchment? Right now, any kids outside of our catchment area are not able to come to the school. Kids in the West St. Paul area south of the North Perimeter are also going to another school within the division.
- The growth in numbers and lack of space is nothing new. Admin has been advocating for long-term planning for a long time.
- Currently, there are two portables ready to go, but not enough electrical power to run them, so we are waiting on an update on the current status of that project.
- On Tuesday of last week, the superintendent, two trustees, and two MLAs came for a tour of the facility. On Thursday, the superintendent and some trustees met with the Minister of Education and Deputy Minister to discuss funding.
- There are still empty classrooms within the division; if the numbers continue to grow in our area, students may be bussed to another school in the division.
- There is a plan to put a new school in the Meadowlands area just south of the Perimeter, but that will not be for awhile.
- We still await plans for the building of a daycare, the twinning of the provincial highway, and other long term projects. Before we can move ahead with any new playground equipment (for example), those pieces have to fall into place.

Executive Reports:

Chair:

- Welcome! We hope all of our parents keep coming back for these good discussions.

Vice Chair:

- Happy to see everyone. Thanks for coming!

Past Chair:

- Not present.

West St. Paul Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Financial Report:

- Our current amount of money in the account is just over \$28 000 but some money that was allocated last year for particular projects (ie. the microscopes) has not been spent yet.

Fundraising:

- We have a lot of information about various fundraising opportunities. Amanda will review those and prepare a list of options for the next meeting.
- Call for feedback:
 - Frozen pizza sale was good.
 - Popcorn was well received

Hot Lunch:

- We would like to do a McDonald's hot lunch again this year.
- We would like to add another day as well, so that every Wednesday has a "hot lunch" option.
 - Pizza runs on every second Wednesday (this is not a PAC initiative, but is run by a teacher and class).
 - We would like to explore more options, but would need help. Several parents expressed interest in helping and Brianne will follow up.
 - We can also look at other options (ie. Subway).

Family Fun Events - Report

- It was a great success!
- Thank you to everyone - the staff, the PAC, all the parents, people who went in the dunk tank, etc.!
- Mr. Jeremy was an awesome DJ, who also arranged for the grass to be cut and had another custodian brought in to help out.
- Thanks to Anita Sharma Turner for connecting us to Dawat for the great samosas.
- Thanks to the firefighters for helping with the food, dunk tanks, tables, and for bringing their truck!
- Thanks to the Garden City student volunteers as well.
- There were 605 food tickets used, but the total attendance was probably closer to 700 people.
- We also learned a lot:
 - Bouncers need an adult volunteer as well. The high school students were overwhelmed and kids weren't always listening.
 - Having a rain date was helpful.
 - The dunk tank may be placed in the field, but safety is a consideration.
- Budget of \$2000 was spent and there was an additional \$374.17 needed.

West St. Paul Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by Dayna Trann to cover the additional \$374.17 overage; seconded by Christine Collings. Motion approved.
- The food cost of approximately \$1385 was covered by administration. Thank you to them.
- Lots of positive feedback from many! Thank you from Kim Greening (teacher) & Tiffany Winchar (trustee).
- Other feedback to consider:
 - Can we get t-shirts made for PAC members? It would be nice to know who was volunteering with PAC.
 - Mr Jeremy could be closer and louder - for next year.
 - We can advertise earlier/ more often before the event.

Halloween Dance:

- Date change: Thursday, Oct. 24
- There is a committee who is working on details. We now need volunteers.

Fundraising: Craft Sale

- Date: Saturday, Nov. 16
- There is room for 58 tables in the gym. 53 are already booked.
- We will be having a bake sale, and have 15 or 16 parents who have signed up to bring baking. We need more. All food must be labeled with ingredients.
- We can resend the call for baking AND send out another call for volunteers. There is a lot of information for orientation days and it sometimes gets missed.
- We also need donations for raffle prizes. Brianne has a donation letter ready to go.

Ongoing Business:

- MB Parent Council - Christine is still waiting to hear from them.
 - We are hoping to have a presentation about the roles of parent councils, as well as Robert's Rules of Order, etc.
- Goals for this year
 - The PAC constitution has not been updated since 2013. It's time to re-read and re-visit that important document.
 - We would like feedback from the community.
 - What would we like to see from PAC? What is the purpose of PAC?
- Newsletter
 - We will continue to provide mini minutes and a calendar of upcoming events.

West St. Paul Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

- Suggestion made: what about a PAC bulletin board somewhere within the school? It might be helpful to visually see important events, notices, etc. when parents visit the school.
- Volunteer List
 - Lisa is working on a document that will be a database of volunteers who may be able and willing to help with various events.

New Business:

- Teachers Appreciation Day is on Oct. 5, 2024
 - We would like to provide donuts and coffee, like we did last year.
 - Michelle Kippen will be in charge of that; Christine and Amber may be able to help.
 - Christine Collings made a motion to spend up to \$250 for this event; seconded by Dayna Trann. Motion carried.
- We will look into shirts for members of PAC or other parent volunteers who are helping with a PAC event.
 - This will make it easier for people to direct questions to.
 - Eleanor will look into prices.
 - WSP School will also send along their information.
 - A decision will be made next month.
- A motion was made by Christine Collings to pay the babysitters \$30 a meeting (8 meetings x \$30 = \$240.00 for the year); seconded by s. Motion carried.
- West St. Paul has an email address - weststpaulpac@gmail.com. We will add that email address to more of the correspondence, including the agenda.
- Kelly Bishop explained her work to get parents to advocate to the province for adequate funding of our school spaces. If she doesn't hear back soon, she will carry on with a petition and other long term plans.

Adjournment:

- A motion was made by Christine Collings to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm. Seconded by Dayna Trann. Motion carried.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, Oct. 9th, 2024 @ 6:00 – 7:30 pm
with child care provided.**