John Mahood School Council

Meeting Minutes May 10th, 2023

Present:

Online:
Pam Mustin
Stephanie Rempel
Kristen Dorscht
Bethany Metzger
Chyenne Vautour
Emily McConnell
Kacheena Morrison
Natalie Anglin
Sarah Pollice
Kristen Walker
Catherine Hibbard
Laura Fehrenbach
Katie Veitch

Absent:

Angie Melchin (with regrets)
Renee Dick (with regrets)
Jennie McGovern (with regrets)
Courney Dyer (with regrets)
Melissa Grimes (with regrets)
Christine Martin
Meaghan Hachey
Cait Smith

Territorial Acknowledgement - Pam

Pam offered her condolences to the school community on the passing away of Fred Meissner, WRDSB Trustee & long-time teacher in Elmira at EDSS.
In Memory of Trustee Fred Meissner - Waterloo Region District School Board (Waterloo Region District School Board) (wrdsb.ca)

Discussion of Previous Minutes - Kristen/Stephanie

- See last month's minutes Here
    - Motion to Approve - Stephanie
    - Accepted by - Kristen
    - Seconded by - Mary

Principal's Report - Pam

- Gaga Ball Pit - Previously council approved the allocation of $1500
    - Cost has gone up to $2500 with HST (not including prep)
    - Up to $7000+ including labour & materials
    - WRDSB Facilities Dept. recommendations: consider using professional products, excavate to 8" depth (about a dump truck load of dirt) and fill with stone dust to facilitate drainage
    - With the cost increase above what was already allocated, more fundraising may be required.
    - Steaphanie asked for an informal vote on whether council is in favour of continuing with exploration of funding for the gaga ball pit - approx half in favour to continue
- EQAO
    - Grade 6s May 29th - June 2nd

    - Grade 3s June 5th - 9th
- Classroom events
    - More events happening,
    - Kindies went to see “The Claw”
    - Grade 4s doing a sports thing on Friday
    - Kindies going to Kate’s Place
    - Vision Team, mobility & orientation from CCAC(?) working with 4/5s to do sight guided site touring, working with a blind student at JMA as part of their growth goals in participating in nutrition break outdoors. Had a blind student from EDSS come and talk to the class
    - Grade 6 camp is approved!
        - Cost for camp has gone up
    - Grade 6 celebration
        - June 27th at 12-1pm
        - Are siblings from the school invited, or just parents? Pam to look into
    - Jungle Sport May 23-26th
    - Staff information, some teachers have come back from leave
        - Teacher assignments for next year looks relatively close to the same as it is this year
    - Kindergarten registration is still down
    - French Immersion
        - 58% French (Language, Social Studies, Math, Phys. Ed/Health, Dance/Drama/Music) 42% (Language, Math, Science)
        - Finalization of the french subjects and teacher assignments is still ongoing
        - For more information email frenchprograms@wrdsb.ca

Chair’s Report - Kristen/Stephanie

- Bingo Night went great - earned $900+
    - Lions were pleased with the turnout
    - Thank-you Lion’s Club!
- Volunteer T-shirts - two shirts ordered, have not been delivered - came in under budget
- WRAPSC Meeting May 2nd - was unable to attend, for information see links below
    - Agenda/Slides
    - Best Practice Presentation
    - Meeting Minutes

Social Media - Kristen

- Pancake day event generated excellent interaction
- Lot of posts upcoming, with so many events and dates to remember

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Fundraising & Community Engagement

- Visions of Turtle Island event with Riverside unfortunately had to be canceled, hoping to hear about a reschedule date before the grant deadline so grant money is not lost
- Mahoodfest Update
    - Meeting every three weeks, lots happening
    - Next week will be posting volunteer survey - watch for that, many volunteers needed
        - Also asking for donations of cupcakes for cupcake walk
        - Please use the survey to indicate all areas in which you are able to help to keep the information organized and in one place and for the event organizers
    - Sarah and Robin working on a series of social media posts to generate excitement and share information to those unfamiliar with Mahoodfest
    - Sarah has gathered pictures of past Mahoodfests, wondering whether it would be okay to share old pictures on social media for “Throwback Thursday” - Will share images with Pam and long-time staff for their input
    - Kristen to share volunteer survey information with Pam for staff volunteering/assignments for the event

Treasury Report - Renee

- See Treasurer’s report here
- Additional 3rd round pizza sales of $5,082 net of school day fees (actual)
    - 5 Pizza invoices paid totaling $2,801 (net of HST rebate)
    - School day fees of $74 paid
    - Accrue pizza invoices of $6,000 (less prior month accrual)
- Mabel's Label ($68) and Tru-Earth ($22) cheques deposited
- Pancake day expenses paid totaling $297 (net of HST rebate)
- Picnic table invoice paid totaling $1,072 (net of HST rebate)
    - Note: This was paid from the general cash account instead of the WEFI account
    - the invoice total was more than the approved amount of $800
        - **Motion to approve over-spend on picnic table - Stephanie**
            - Due to there not being enough voting members present, vote to happen via email after the meeting
        - **Motion to approve an additional $272 in spending to cover the cost increase of the picnic table via email from Stephanie on May 10th**
        - **Passed: by majority vote**
- Paid $174 to volunteer lanyards purchase
- Paid $654 for the Current Year fundraising initiative ($300/19 classes + Rotary teachers)

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- Accrue:
    - Additional Mahoodfest expenses of $1,820
    - T-shirt purchases $76
    - Data projector $1,200
- Estimated cash balance available $8,335

Open Discussion - All

- French volunteer would like to host a french book fair in September - Pam
- Grade 6 Camp $12,407.40, busing $1700+,
    - $262.20 per student - with no fundraising
    - With funds from school council and student fundraising, the cost is down to $140 per student
    - Would like to reduce the cost to $100 per student. To do that they need $2,240 more
    - Kristen/Stephanie/Leanne to look into how much was raised from Pita sales this year to help offset the cost
    - Followup discussion & vote to happen via email on whether the council will contribute more funds to help bring the cost down.
- Teacher request for Freezies or Popscicles for Jump Rope for Heart
    - **Motion to spend up to $125 on freezies for June 15th Jump Rope for Heart event - Stephanie**
        - Due to there not being enough voting members present, vote to happen via email after the meeting
        - **Motion to approve spending of up to $125 for freezies via email from Stephanie on May 10th**
        - **Passed: by majority vote**

Next meeting

- May 31st at 6:30pm in person in the school library and virtual
- Council members may arrive at 6:15 for a tour of the school

Additional discussion / activities after the meeting

- Email from Kristen on Tuesday May 16th
    - Received a funding request for $250 for the Grade 6 Celebration (same as what we gave last year)
        - **Motion to approve $250 in spending to go towards Grade 6 Celebration**
        - **Passed: by majority vote**
- Email from Kristen on Wednesday May 17th

- The sound system in the school gym has unfortunately broken (not only used in the gym for assemblies and events, but used outside as well for events). The ask is for $2,000 - $2,500. We should vote on the maximum cost of $2,500.
  - **Motion to approve up to $2500 in spending to replace the sound system**
  - **Passed: 18 votes YES, 0 votes NO**
- As discussed at the Council meeting, there is a request for $1,000 towards the cost of the Grade 6 Camp Kintail trip. Costs are much higher this year because it is an overnight trip, and also 2 buses are required this year due to having to transport bags along with people.
  - **Motion to approve $1,000 towards the cost of the Grade 6 Trip**
  - **Passed: 15 votes YES, 3 votes NO**