

Parent Council Meeting – Minutes – Sept 28, 2021

In attendance:

Mrs. Kristina Worth - Principal
Mrs. Tara Strickland - Teacher representative
Whitney Sterk
Amanda Stewart
Wylie Tan
John Haynes
Karen Maloney-Yunker
Lidia Molek

Council requirements:

Minimum of 4 meetings each school year
Maximum of 21 voting members, as many people to attend the meetings as would like to join
One teacher representative
Principal's report
Chair or Co-chair sets the agenda
Teacher or student presentations possible

Council positions and Roles:

Chair: Lidia Molek completing second year of a 2-year term
Co-chairs: Karen Maloney-Yunker and Amanda Stewart to support the Chair and share those duties
Secretary: Karen Maloney-Yunker, minutes from each meeting
Treasurer: Whitney Sterk, to review finances of the council, in conjunction with the school
Principal to share information with the council from the school and to share information from council with the school community; administrative support with council meetings; acquiring programs and materials to assist council

Review of School Constitution – required within 60 days of start of new school year
Motion to approve the constitution: 1st Whitney Sterk, 2nd Lidia Molek, motion passed

Principal's Update

1. New staff this year at Woodland
Mrs. Bridges 6/7
Mrs. Sulisz 4/5 in place until Mrs. Bingham returns
Mr. Pietrantonio Educational Assistant
Mrs. Vollmer temporary secretary until October 4th
Mrs. Craig permanent secretary beginning October 4th, coming from Crossroads Public School
2. Student population: 127 students, with 7 remote learners, room for those students to return should they choose to

3. Review of Covid Protocols

Social distancing, able to remove masks outdoors but must maintain distance
Personal protective equipment for staff, masks, face shields or goggles as needed
Enhanced cleaning protocols, evening custodian Ellie, coming in to clean at lunch time

4. Terry Fox Run - \$2100 raised in the Woodland community

5. Student Recognition Assemblies

To take place virtually or outdoors while the weather permits

6. Playground

Inspection was completed at the end of the summer
Work order submitted for repairs – main repair required rototilling the gravel under the structures to ensure a softer landing to prevent injuries, also painting of structures
Cost to be covered by the school bank account

7. First Fire drill completed, fire drills 2 and 3 to be completed throughout the fall

8. School Photos

To resume this year, individual photos only, no class pictures
Tuesday, November 16 is photo day
Photographers are vaccinated

9. Days of Significance

Rowan's Law Sept 29, 2021 Concussion awareness and safety – purple shirts
Truth and Reconciliation Day Sept 30, 2021 – orange shirts and age appropriate discussion of residential schools

10. CCAT – Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test

For Grade 5 students, taking place Oct 4,5,6
1 hour each day to complete the test
Mrs. Strickland shares that the students usually find the process reasonable and the pressure is low because it is not included in their school grades.

11. World Teacher Day Oct 5th

Opportunity to celebrate Woodland teachers

12. Halloween

Waiting for guidance from Niagara Regional Public Health and the DSBN
Likely similar to last year with no treats to share brought in, party with cohort in classrooms.

Question: Are supplies needed for recess since the playground isn't able to be used at this time?

Answer: Kids are enjoying 4 square, basketball, soccer, etc. Sufficient equipment at this time.

Question: Can the second tether ball pole be repaired?

Answer: Principal will address this with Mr. Jones

Outdoor Classroom:

Staff used the outdoor classroom for their staff meeting today

Resources provided from DSBN for outdoor education, discussed at the meeting

Teachers already have clipboards.

Butterfly Garden:

Lindsey Curry the point person on this, and reporting to the council via principal

Plants ready to add to the garden, possibility for teachers to do that with their class.

Watering cans could be useful for younger grades.

Mrs. Masterson is hatching butterflies and teaching the butterfly lifecycle in her classroom, (short video clip of the butterflies and chrysalises)

Mrs. Worth Question: Other green initiatives to propose?

Suggestion: Composting and vermiculture.

Mrs. Strickland: It has been tried before and attracted rats, Mr. Jones was not pleased!

Question: What is needed to have the long jump/triple jump pit ready for spring? Should a work order be put in now?

Answer: Work order for sand to be done in the spring.

Financial Information

Currently \$5087.92 in School Advisory Account

Fundraising Initiatives?

1. FlipGive account has been closed, very little activity in the past number of months. Cheque to be deposited into School Advisory Account for \$489.54
2. Woodland toques are still available for purchase, a good fundraising initiative, Sarah Whitty organized this. Possible to add additional items. Ordering done through school cash online, hats sent home with students. Surplus of hats stored at the school currently.
3. Possibility of an additional fundraising that can be run offsite, such as wine online. As of now Breakfast with Santa and the Strawberry Social are paused.

4. Possibility of running an online Scholastic Book Fair to raise money and acquire books for the library.

Library

A slight delay in the library organization, waiting for additional shelving, to be ordered, was out of stock last school year Mrs. Phillips wasn't able to order before summer. Continue to check daily for the shelving to be ordered but is continually out of stock.

The ventilation upgrades have also been the upgrade over the summer so the library has been delayed by that as well.

Question: Donation of books by council to the library? Answer: A possibility to be discussed once the shelving is in place and current books are back on the shelves.

Woodland has an Instagram account.

Handle is @woodlanddsbn

Information about the school community is posted here.

No student photos without express consent from parents.

Public Health Reminders

Distancing – students are reminded to maintain distance, especially outdoors while unmasked

Complete Self-assessment screening each morning for your child/children

Masks indoors, additional PPE as needed

Enhanced cleaning protocols

No visitors into the building

Hand hygiene being practised and reminders to cough into sleeve

No sharing lunches or snacks

Management of symptomatic students – placed in designated room to wait for parent pick up

Niagara Nutrition Program

Breakfast or additional food as needed.

Non-perishable items (granola bars, fruit cups) stored in classrooms and handed out by teachers.

Ventilation upgrades

Great job done, most work completed throughout the summer, some work being completed at start of school year away from areas with students.

Spirit Wear

To be organized again this year

Call to Greg at Regatta Sport to be done shortly.

Comment from parent: A thank you to teachers and staff for a good transition back to school and start of the school year.

Future meeting schedule proposed:

Tuesday, Nov 23rd 6:30pm

Tuesday, Jan 25th 6:30pm

Tuesday, Mar 22nd 6:30pm

Tuesday, May 24th 6:30pm

Agreement to this meeting schedule, additional meetings to be scheduled if needed.

Question: Painting and branding of school logo?

Mrs. Worth proposes to discuss this in October.

Proposal to set up Woodland email contact list for council.

“Hello” email to be sent from Woodland council email account.

Mrs. Worth to create list and confirm sharing email information is acceptable to each parent.

Proposal to support teachers and classrooms with funding of \$10/student for any needed supplies or programming for the classroom. To be decided upon once the finances are reviewed by council members. Perhaps additional money to be allocated? Vote to be done by email proposed.

Any other initiatives or costs that council could support?

Chrome books all returned at the end of the school year and in good working order as far as Mrs. Worth and Mrs. Strickland know.

Headsets often get broken and more could be an asset. Mrs. Worth: There is money in the school budget to purchase headsets.

Adjournment of meeting.

