



WRPACS General Meeting Minutes

Date: February 23, 2023

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Watson Road Elementary Library

Attendees:

Afton Bell
Leslie Atwell
Courtney Ball
Sabrina Chapman
Nicole Hoodicoff
Cheryl Kuyvenhoven
Corrine Wilson

Tanya Osborne
Adam Patterson
Christa Taylor
Janet Williams
Dave Johnson

1. Call meeting to order

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Agenda – Additions/Deletions or Adoption

- a. Courtney to present the COPAC report for Mina, strike the Hot lunch update from the agenda.
- b. Motion: Nicole Hoodicoff; Seconded: Courtney Ball.
- c. Agenda adopted as amended.

3. Approval of minutes from previous general meeting

- a. Motion: Afton Bell; Seconded: Leslie Atwell.
- b. Minutes adopted as presented.

4. Administration Report (Janet Williams)

- a. Thank you to the PAC for organizing the rainbow dance. It was really exciting to see everyone in the school again, as it has been three years since we last had a school dance.
- b. February is an exciting month with lots of hallmark moments—Valentine’s Day, Harmony Day, Family Day and Pink Shirt Day. Kindness has been our theme this month.
 - A school photo was taken on Pink Shirt Day.
 - On Harmony Day, all the Grade 5 students had a chance to attend a keynote address.
- c. Tonight is an information session for Gr. 6 parents at Dr. Knox.
- d. Ball hockey and Grade 6 basketball is ongoing.
- e. Kindergarten registration started Jan. 30, and we will have Early Learning for Families in May. Kindergarten orientation is also coming up. The forecast is for 80 new kindergarten students, but right now the registration numbers are lower.
- f. Staff are working to prepare Term 2 learning updates. Parents will get a written report, but the feedback component will be as part of the parent teacher interviews March 9 and 10. An invite to book times will go out next week.

- g. We'll start looking for written requests from parents about student placements next year. All requests should be pertinent to their child's learning.
- h. Tanya Osborne asked about what the school does on cold days, such as today.
 - Janet said students had "in-day" activities. There were activities to do, but nothing physical. Teachers could take the students outside for a few minutes at second recess.
 - Leslie asked if students have appropriate clothing for the weather conditions. Janet said it is an issue.

5. PAC Reports

a. **Treasurer's Report** (Leslie Atwell for Nancy Schofield)

- January financials
 - Financial documents were presented and school community can access on the PAC webpage.
 - January saw the deposit of fundraising monies from winter plants and Purdys. Expenses included hot lunch, principal's wish list and a contribution to the Gr. 6 camp.
 - Motion to approve financials: Sabrina Chapman; Seconded Afton Bell.
 - Financials adopted as presented.

b. **COPAC Report** (Courtney Ball)

- We had a presentation about the 23-24 draft budget. If you would like to have input or provide feedback, there is a survey that went out. It closes March 3.
- You can write a letter to your MLA if there are issues you would like to see addressed at the provincial level. For next year, there are three new portables being purchased, and two being moved. Funds for the portables come out of the district's operational budget.
- Trustees passed a motion that will go to the board at a future meeting regarding the need for single use washrooms in schools to give all people equitable access.
- The 1400 CUPE members have ratified their contract.
- A letter is being sent to the province about the Crystal Waters area. There is a dangerous left turn on the highway, so the families there can't get bussing.
- There is a discussion about PACs supporting other PACs in the district. If interested, contact Simon or Nicola.

6. PAC Activities

a. **Spring Fair planning** (Corrine Wilson)

- Spring Fair is scheduled for 5:30-8 p.m. on May 26. Janet confirmed she will check that the field is booked for the night.
- The event will be similar to the picnic we had last year. There are 4 food trucks coming. We'll have inflatables. Likely the same ones as last year, with a few extra.
- We do need volunteers to help with the planning and day of. Tanya volunteered to help with games and crafts.
- There was a discussion about having a theme at a planning meeting, but we decided it was not necessarily a good idea, would limit the ideas of what we could do.
- Leslie suggested we also bring in pizza by the slice to help alleviate the lineup. One food truck vendor has several options, and one of his is pizza, so we would need to confirm.
- Dave asked if we would sell wrist bands. Leslie confirmed, yes, students would need a wristband to participate in the activities, as the event has typically been meant as a fundraiser. (Janet noted she helped with the spring picnic costs last year as the event was a way to get people back together). Leslie said incoming kindergarten students have previously been invited to join. In the past, incoming kindie received a "ticket," which allowed them to pick up a wristband and come to the fair.

- Dave suggested a rock climbing wall could be considered. Sabrina noted that some bouncy castle places used to have them.
- Tanya wondered if anyone had contact information for a local hot air balloon company, to see if they could set up and let children ride up and down in the balloon (with it still being tied off to the ground). Afton noted we would require a large perimeter.
- Leslie said we will be looking for silent auction items. Janet has a donation letter that can be put on school letterhead. Cheryl has also found an old one in the dropbox. She will send it to Janet.

b. Fundraisers (Nicole Hoodicoff)

- We'll start advertising next week about the Purdys Chocolate fundraiser. It will open March 1 and close March 20. As soon as school resumes after spring break, the chocolate will be available for pickup.
- We'll be running the Growing Smiles flowers in April, to be delivered in May. We've also partnered with The Greenery to offer gift card sales. We can sell 100 gift cards and make \$500. Inquiries have been made with other nurseries about whether they would also like to participate in a gift card fundraiser.
- The Card Project got moved to later in the year, and students' artwork will be shipped out mid-March. Ordering will begin toward the end of April, with delivery in early June.

c. Dan Duncan ADHD presentation March 9 (Leslie Atwell)

- Dan Duncan is a local man who does amazing presentations about ADHD. He last did one at the school ~2018. He helps counsel people who have ADHD and also has ADHD himself. We are proposing a 1 hour presentation on March 9 at 6:30 pm., followed by a 30 minute question period.
- The cost to do the presentation is \$551.25. It would be cheaper on Zoom, but we thought it would be better to have an in-person presentation.
- Tanya Osborne asked if there would be childcare. Leslie confirmed we will arrange childcare for the evening.
- Sabrina asked if we could also stream it via Zoom. Leslie noted that COPAC is also aiming to have Dan Duncan do a presentation, and their event will be on Zoom later in the spring.
- The event will take place in the library. Janet suggested we remove the tables and set up rows of chairs to increase capacity in the gym.
- Motion to approve spending \$551.25 for Dan Duncan's speaker fee made by Leslie Atwell; Seconded by Sabrina Chapman.
- Motion approved as presented.

7. Volunteer Needs

a. Kiss & Ride (Cheryl Kuyvenhoven)

- There is an ongoing need for assistance on Fridays. You can volunteer weekly, biweekly or monthly. There are a number of Grade 6 parents involved with kiss & ride who will be leaving the school soon, so we do need more volunteers to step into roles to ensure the program continues to run smoothly in the fall.

b. Spring Fair planning (Corrine Wilson)

- Discussed during PAC activities.

1. Special presentation (Adam Patterson)

- a. Dave Johnson introduced Adam Patterson, who first came to the school with a vision for the bare gravel area along Watson Road/school parking lot when his son was in kindergarten. It has been several years in the making. District operations has been in transition and we haven't been able to do much to get the project going. We wanted to bring Adam to a meeting to share about the vision for the site.

- b. Adam is a biologist who works with Ecora, which does landscape architecture. A drawing was shared with those in attendance that shows a Xeriscape garden that incorporates from Indigenous Art and the 4 food chiefs. The vision also includes an outdoor classroom. The school districts provided some feedback about setbacks, so some revisions were made. The design also features a fence around the project.
- c. Step one would be removing the pea gravel and importing some good soil. Pergolas and Peace Poles can come at a later date.
- d. Dave: The project requires an enhancement agreement with the school district. The plans would need to be presented to planning and facilities, then go to the school board for approval. Part of that process is how the project will be paid for and how it will be sustained. There is a grant we could apply for that requires the approval of the district—which requires a guarantee of funding. We would ask the PAC to consider supporting the project.
- e. Dave noted that he just received a memo from the new district director of operations that says we cannot use volunteer labour for the project, due to the CUPE agreement. This is a change from what the school was told previously.
- f. Janet says the school has some money set aside for the initial funding of the project. The school is receiving complaints from the neighbourhood about the current state of the site.
- g. Leslie asked about the maintenance needs. Adam said the project would be low maintenance and shouldn't require a lot. It would be maintaining and weeding. Janet believes students could be involved with the care of the site.
- h. Tanya asked how much initial funding is required. Adam said with the shade sails and concrete pavers removed, the total cost would be around \$60,000. If you strip out the furnishings and focus on cleaning the site, prepping it, planting it and fencing it, the cost would be \$40,000.
 - Leslie wondered if we could get the district to quote the work, as she was concerned the district costs may not align with what Ecora could do the work for.
 - Janet believes the project could be done in stages. Leslie wondered if things could be broken down to see what we could do year one, year two, etc.
- i. Discussion about how to get the project moving forward with the district. The Glenmore Road area improvements were supposed to be installed last summer, but this hasn't happened yet. Sabrina (from the playground committee) will contact the district to ask about a timeline for that project and see what can be done to move the project forward as the funding for the Glenmore side is already in trust, as parents helped fund it, and the Enhancement agreement signed off.
- j. Leslie says we should share information about the learning walk/outdoor classroom project with all Watson Road parents, survey them to see if they want to move forward with the project and then look at how to advocate for it (and help fund it).

8. Questions/Comments

- a. None

Adjourn: 7:26 p.m.