



Winona Elementary School Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesdays Sept 25, 2024

Location: Winona library & virtual participation via MS Teams

ATTENDANCE

In attendance in person: Nitu Jhuty, Trisha Sharma, Cheryl Eadie, Kelly Naylor, Sabrina Ertsenian, Charon Buck, Saira Waseem, Dawn Simpson, Ateeka Khan, Marla Accomando, Carla Hodges, Alisha Townsend, Mina Behnia, Sarah Kelly. Additional attendance online. Attendance in person 14 ppl total

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement.

MEETING STRUCTURE FOR COUNCIL

Ateeka brings up discussion of the form of meetings; old business; new vice-principal introduced herself, attendees introduced themselves.

Charon describes council expectations, outline of meeting structure.

Handout "What is School Council?"

Charon mentions that a boundary review in the school board is coming up.

COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR 2024-25

Discussion of who will be on the executive committee. 3 people have put their hats in the ring for co-chair. Agreement that **3 co-chairs** will work together equally this year:

Marla, Alicia, and Nitu

Sabrina was voted in as **Treasurer**

Dawn agrees to be Secretary, a.k.a. "**Documentation Specialist**" to replace the outdated title of Secretary. Open to a better word for the new title!

Bobbi Chahal messaged Sabrina and wants to take on role as **Social Media Coordinator** again this year. Agreement to have a vote next time due to her not being present at the meeting.

New VP asks about social media. Sabrina explained about our FB page and consent. Student photos are not shown in posts.

Discussion of need for Instagram – private account with vetting as not everyone has FB. No conclusions were made at this time.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

General:

- good start to the year
- we are down in enrollment, which is surprising. The whole family of schools is down in enrollment this year. We had 945 students in June, and today we have 910. There will be some impact with school re-organization; letters go out tomorrow. But it's not a massive impact this year.

Events/Activities:

- Terry Fox run is on Friday.
- Truth and Reconciliation will be on Mon 30th September; some events are planned.
- Softball is starting
- Singing club
- Crochet club – we are looking for donations of wool and needles
- Cross Country
- Volleyball
- Swim team
- Maker space club
- Small chess club
- Robotics
- Student leaders – there are three teams of 7s and 8s: athletics and events, health & wellness, and equity & inclusion. It's being run by two teachers, Finlayson & Shaw. There are lots of student leaders.

Other happenings in the school:

- How can parents stay informed? Go to the school website and read the school announcements sent by email every Sunday.
- Suggestion of maybe a pinned post on our social media to remind people to check the above for updates.
- PA Day last week – teachers worked on school climate, conditions for learning. Students need to feel safe in order to be receptive to learning
- Moving toward using some common language and common modelling:
- STOP stands for stop, tell, offer help, pair up. This is used for interrupting harmful behavior and is in line with existing models. There will be posters and other materials coming to advertise this in the school.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Nutrition Program - Nitu asks about the nutrition program. Charon says that 6% of students are coming to utilize the nutrition program because there's not enough food in the home. But that the nutrition program was very expensive. Options are needed for that 6% only, maybe pantry only? The apples were more eaten when the kids were really hungry. The granola bars from the pantry were more of a want. Charon says that the apple program was unsustainable due to the cost. Maybe we could just keep a bushel of apples in the office? Further discussion is needed.

Funds - We have \$500 available in our account for startup. It's already been allocated for child-minding. So we are starting off the year with no money. We are required to spend everything and not permitted to have a large carry-over from school year to school year.

Meet-the-Teacher Night - Will be Oct 8 from 5:00-6:0. Discussion of whether we can have a pizza truck. Decision for parents to be able to pre-order whole pizzas through School Cash Online in order to make dinnertime easier for families that night. There will be two pickup times for pizza.

Planning for Upcoming Activities/Events - Alisha would like to discuss events to be planned for the next few months. She wants to ensure plans are made properly in order not to tap out donors. Charone says she wants to do council meetings every other month instead of every month. Subcommittees will pick up the work to plan events in between formal council meetings. March will be March Break and Ramadan, so no meeting. May will be an open house, so no meeting. Year-end party will be June 19. Discussion to expand the event from where it was last year. Dunk tank? Pie in the face? This could be a good opportunity/incentive for teachers to attend.

MEETING DATES:

- **Thurs Nov 7**
- **Thurs Feb 6**
- **Thurs Apr 10**
- **Thurs May 22**

Charon says that the three co-chairs and her can meet in between at any time. Alicia says that council members/attendees can be emailed and polls taken as needed for when decisions need to be made.

Poinsettia Fundraiser - Sabrina says last year this was a big moneymaker for council. No money is needed from council to get it going.

Inclusivity - Activities need to be inclusive, especially those during school hours. Some children cannot participate in Halloween activities.

Box of Cards Fundraiser – We did this a few years ago and it was a huge undertaking. The rules of the card company have changed and now every student must take a box of cards home. This was not received well.

Fundraising – General Discussion – we don't want to exhaust parents. We should choose a few fundraisers and do them well. We also need to tell parents where fundraising money goes. It needs to be tangible – i.e. for sports equipment, books, or what have you. A newsletter outlined where the money went.

VP - asks who would we like to hear from about what is needed? i.e. teachers. Charon will do a survey of teachers to see what is needed to fundraise for. Marla asks if we could survey the students.

Charon is hoping to get items donated. Outdoor equipment gets beat on. It doesn't need to be high quality, we just need lots of it, she says.

Communication - Question from a new member - how is communication done among members? Discussion of email use and WhatsApp. A member from last year said that the WhatsApp group had its limitations, but we may use it differently moving forward. We can use it to vote when votes are needed.

Meeting adjourned 8:00 pm.