

Westmount Elementary
School Council
Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2008

Attendance:

Brandy Atkinson	Suzie Careless
Ann Cheek	Jenn Durocher
Wayne Funk	Dana Graff
Angie Hitch	Mona Kado
Corri Kennedy	Deanna Kooistra
Jana Kopp	Trisha Neilsen
Julia Pfeifer	Paula Smith
Dianna Visser	Susan Wenstrom
Joan Yule	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Julia called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

1.1 Introductions

Julia introduced the guest speaker, Joan Yule from Project Hope.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Remove item 2.1 Trustee Report from agenda as he is no longer the Trustee.

Ann would like to add "School Council Information" under "New Business".

Angie would like to add "Gym Equipment" under "New Business".

Christina Kleysen (Pederson) will not be attending the meeting.

Mona Kado moved the Agenda be approved as amended. Julie Pfeifer second the motion. All in Favor - Passed.

1.3 Approval of October Meeting Minutes

Susan Wenstrom moved that the October 1, 2008 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Deanna Kooistra second the motion. All in Favor – Passed.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

2.1 Trustee Report - Removed

2.2 Treasurer Report – Christina Kleysen (Pederson) - Unable to attend

2.3 President Report – Julia Pfeifer

Pat received the receipt for the basketball hoops. They were \$600 each with 10% or \$120 off and freight of \$140 plus \$61 GST for a total of \$1281. Wayne mentioned that the inserts did not match the pole however they would figure something out.

2.4 Brown Bag Lunches – Susan Dersch/Trisha Neilsen

Trisha informed everyone that the groceries were purchased and lunches were assembled. Dana mentioned that the Living Skills Program could look after putting the lunches together once the supplies are purchased on an on-going basis. He was surprised at how quickly it was completed. Thanks to everyone who put it all together.

- 2.5 Parent/Teacher Interviews Dinner – Mona Kado
November 19 and 20 is Parent/Teacher Interviews. Mona would require a list of volunteers to be able to have 2 main dishes, 2 deserts and a salad for 25 teaching staff for the dinners on both evenings. Angie will email Mona the phone list.

3. GUEST SPEAKER

3.1 Project Hope – Joan Yule

Project Hope is in 5 schools all of Strathmore and CBV in Gleichen. Project Hope started 14 years ago to allow families with special needs children the opportunity to grow creatively within the school and with the teacher and parents involved an IPP (Individualized Personal Plan) is developed and implemented for each person. Project Hope is a community organization supported by individual donations from small businesses, clubs such as the Lions, WFCSS and United Way. A Gala is held in the spring which has raised between \$27,000-32,000. March 14, 2009 will be the next years date for the Project Hope Gala. Donations for the Auction and Silent Auction items are always welcome.

Every 2 years there is a Casino which raises approximately \$40,000. Joan asked if there was anyone who would be interested in working at the Casino. Julia will check the volunteer list for individuals to send out an email to volunteer parents. Corri Kennedy will send out the email to the volunteer parents.

They also apply for Grants from the Government.

Project Hope is always looking for Board Members who would like to be on the Board of Directors.

There is a waiting list of mild to moderate special needs children who would like to benefit from Project Hope.

ESC children who receive early intervention is so important.

There were 55 students in 2008, 65 students in 2007 in the program between the ages of 3 – 18 years old. The therapy is between 40 minutes – 1 hour each.

In January there will be a Parent Information night with a therapist at Westmount School.

Joan is available Tuesday all day and Wednesday mornings at the school.

4. PRINCIPLE/TEACHER REPORT – Wayne Funk

October 23 – Power of 10 Math with Michelle who came to do a presentation. Kathy Herriot is in her second year using the Power of 10 will make a presentation at the December School Council.

October 27 – was photo retakes.

October 28 – an unannounced Fire Drill went like clock work.

An announced Lock Down will be next and an Evacuation Drill will be held with the students going to the Trinity Lutheran School and the church.

November 6 will be Wear a Hat and Chew Gum Day.

November 7 is a Remembrance Day General Assembly.

November 10 & 11 is no school.

November 17 is Report Card Day.

November 19 is the deadline for the Shoe Boxes.

November 19 Hoja will be performing at 2:00 p.m. for the students in the gym.

November 19 and 20 is Parent/Teacher Interviews in the evenings

November 20 will be the Shoe Box chain when the Emergency Services will take the boxes to Samaritans Purse.

December 3 is Class Photo Day.

December 4 is Retro Day.

December 4 is an Elementary School Interschool Event with the Grade 6 Wheatland hosting a Volleyball Tournament. There will be a Track and Field event in the spring. Westmount may consider hosting a Floor Hockey Tournament and get Brentwood and Carseland involved too. Wayne asked the School Council to consider providing a Westmount Jersey for the students to wear at these events. Wayne will look into the cost of Jerseys and a logo.

December 9 will be the Christmas Concert Dress Rehearsal in the gym.

December 10 is the Christmas Concert at 1:30 p.m. in the gym.

December 11 is the evening Christmas Concert is at 7:00 p.m. in the gym.

December 16 is Sports Day to help raise school spirit. Grade 3-6 Soccer Intramurals will work into the house teams.

House Teams have been established to promote team spirit with the Blue Huskies, Red Coyotes, and the Green Wolves.

December 18 will be the Grade 5-6 Christmas Market Place in the gym.

Enrollment at 420 is a comfortable number to be at. As of September 30 was when the EA was decided.

Wednesdays are Hot Lunch days; it was pizza today which has been operating for a couple of weeks now with the parents who work so hard to organize it.

4.1 New Kindergarten Pilot Project

On November 3 a meeting was held with the parents of children in Kindergarten. They were informed of a Pilot Project from February to June 2009. There is the physical structure in place to start this program sooner. Approximately 1/3 of the children were represented. It is a user pay of \$175/month/child, as the Alberta Government does not fund above the allotted amount.

Mrs. Hampson is available to teach Monday through Friday.

20 students would be required to change teachers ½ way through the year.

This option would broaden the choices offered to parents for Kindergarten.

Wayne will be making a presentation to the School Board at the next meeting.

4.2 Deanna Kooistra

October 20 was a Staff Potluck; everyone enjoyed a good chili lunch. Deanna thanked all the volunteers who came in to supervised lunch and recess for the teachers and making the arrangements to allow the teachers to get together.

4.3 Dana Graff

Cinderella, the drama production, cast list is on the wall in the entry way.

Dana is in the process of re-writing the script for the cast and there will be a read-through by the end of November. Rehearsals start in December and forms will go home with permission slips.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Basketball Hoops – Cost \$1281.

5.2 Babysitting List – has been established

- 5.3 Teacher Luncheon – Angie Hitch/Dianna Visser
Angie thanked everyone for stepping up and volunteering for the Teacher Luncheon. There is a rotation in staff room clean up and the luncheons may not be monthly but 3 – 4 more times. The teachers will be contacting the Volunteer Coordinator to arrange for lunch and recess supervision.
- 5.4 Any other old business – None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

50/50 For Christmas Concert

It was discussed that the money raised from the 50/50 be donated to Project Hope.

Julia will talk to Christina regarding the tickets. 1 for \$1, 3 for \$2 and 15 for \$5.

Angie moved that ½ money raised from the 50/50 be donated to Project Hope.

Ann seconded the motion. All in Favor – Passed

Paula and Susan will organize the 50/50. Angie will send the volunteer list to Paula and Susan.

Dana will inform Joan Yule the decision to donate to Project Hope.

6.1 Decorating for Christmas Concert

Decorating the gym is usually done on the Monday before the Christmas Concert. Staff will be having a meeting about the theme for the Christmas Concert and will bet back to the School Council when a decision is made. Corri will contact volunteers to decorate the gym.

6.2 Any new Business

- 6.2.1 Ann Cheek brought up information regarding School Council she found. She suggested setting up an attractive Bulletin Board in the entry way of the school about the School Council. She found out about the Alberta School Council Association and asked if we were a member; which Julia informed everyone that we already are a members. There is a Services Presentation Workshops we can access, which shows how to promote the school council and get more people out. If anyone is interested go to their web site at www.albertaschoolcouncil.ca

- 6.2.2 Paula asked if someone would come from FCSS as a community liaison. Julia would enquire. It was also suggested we have name tags.

- 6.2.3 Trisha attended a Literacy Conference on Monday. They were promoting literacy school wide. A program suggested was “Got a Minute; Read a Book” a sign would be on the wall with a basket of books below to choose from and exchange/return or just pick-up while waiting. Trisha and Deanna would organize the books and talk to Bonnie.

- 6.2.4 Angie had a request from Michelle Brassard that School Council purchase circus and yoga equipment for Physical Education program in the amount of \$329.28. Mona Kado moved that School Council will purchase up to \$350 for circus and yoga equipment for the Physical Education program. Brandy Atkinson seconded the motion. All in Favor - Passed

7. NEXT MEETING

December 3, 2008 at 6:30 in the Library

- 7.1 Julia adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.