

Laurentian Public School

777 Westmount Rd. E Kitchener, On N2E 1J2

519-5786160

Agenda for School Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 16, 2024.

Attendance: Sherri B, Sarah O, Lena, Angela

Time	Agenda Item	Presenter/Facilitator
6:30-6:35	<p>Welcome/Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sara asks all members to sign the attendance sheet being passed around with first name last initial. If you have not already been signed up for the mailing list please provide your email. If you are joining online please put your name in the chat.	Sara
6:35-7:00	<p>Goals of School Council</p> <p>School goals last year were Food insecurity for our students. Grants were applied for, council helped package baskets to go home with student during holidays after a food drive was completed.</p> <p>Student well-being was the other goal. Council used the PRO Grant given by the government to host a community support focused event. The event was called Find Your Joy and was a large success. The event brought community groups and support with school run groups like band, Jazz club...</p> <p>Should we continue with these two goals this year? Yes</p>	Sara

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How to action goals <p>Grant from last year from PC \$11, 080 Nutrition for learning giving less money Food baskets will need to be done through the year Wants to expand the food for both breaks Kids are eating a lot this year Donate a slice donation option Promote non-perishable donation for adding extra to the food program</p> <p>Grade 7 Suicide speakers is a possibility Cell phone policy is helping and being implemented Social Media is still a problem No direction was given to help with vaping in the bathroom from the Ministry of Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning future meetings and Events <p>Due to events that happened early last school year Council wanted to have a speaker from police to talk about cell phone legality in regards to parents and students. The students had spread incidents witnessed on school property on social media which had far reaching viewers.</p> <p>After months of arrangements Sara (chair) was able to get the Superintendent and police to agree to a presentation for our school parents. This event will be held in February.</p> <p>Decisions to be made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What date and time <p>February 26th 6:30 pm at least hour 6 for set up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Should we use council funds for food	
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	<p>No</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How should we advertise? <p>Yes, flyer goes home. School day blast. Ask teachers to share on google classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should we reach out to parents from feeder schools to attend as they will be buying the next group of student cell phones <p>Yes, only grade 6 families. Angela will contact the feeder school pricikpals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we make this a hybrid option? Police have been told it is <p>In person event only</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should we have a sign up sheet to know numbers ahead of time? <p>Should we hold another Find Your Joy Event or equivalent?</p> <p>Sara will apply for a pro grant \$1500 Using Find your Joy as the template for event January make decision for event</p>	
7:00-7:10	<p>Date and Time of meetings for the 2024/2025 school year The fourth Wednesday of the month. Nov, Jan, Feb, April, May, Start to 6:30 pm to 7:30 Plan date of February Event February 26th 6:30-7:30</p>	Sara
7:10-7:15	<p>Elections: Chair-Sara no co chair at this time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara is willing to be co-chair this year. A parent of a grade 7 student is ideal to be co-chair. When 	Sara

volunteer for co-chair it is important that the person looks at it as a two year commitment. Every year one person should be coming in as one person makes their way out

Secretary-all members taking turns

- The minutes do get posted on our schools website along with sent out to our mailing list. During the meeting we have a chrome book that the secretary can take notes in. After the meeting the Secretary can forward them onto the group.

Treasure-?

- Council does have funds, this volunteer will make sure to verify them and have the secretary document them during the meetings. Can Angela please find out the amount we have in our account for the next meeting? Also there is a school budget line for parent engagement every year that all schools get. Has this been allocated already or will council be able to use the \$500.00

WRAPSC Rep-Lena/Sarah

- WRAPSC is the Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils. The group meets the first Tuesday in Oct, Nov, Jan. Feb, April and May. WRAPSC works with school councils, Principals, Trustees, the Board and PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) to help bring Parent Engagement and communication to our parent population. Meetings are held to help councils with best practices

	<p>and give space for discussions of school councils concerns. The volunteer to represent WRAPSC will need to attend meetings and bring communication back to council. Meetings are Hybrid with in person or online option.</p>	
7:15-7:20	<p>WRAPSC Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The October meeting saw facilities present about playgrounds and the new way of approval process for new playgrounds. All playgrounds do need to be fundraised for due to the Ministry of Education Guidelines for funds. • Best Practices presented a year in the life of school council. This gave a month by month suggested slide show of how to have an effective council. • A open discussion in regards to a letter that was proposed to the group to be sent on behalf of WRAPSC about communication to parents when their student see's and incident at school. This could include violence, emergency drills, verbal hate speech... This letter has been drafted to be sent to Trustees. A vote will be held at the November meeting to send it or not. • PIC is looking for volunteers for their group of advisors to the board. You can reach out to them at pic@wrdsb.ca 	Sara
7:20-7:30	<p>Principal Updates Great start to the school year Football just finished</p>	

	<p>Running club, skateboard club, bike club. Announcements, and in google classrooms for sign ups band/leadership/athletic council also happening Leo Barbe presenting leobarbe.com Spirit day this friday PJ day Leadership hoping to send out communication to parents to school day PD day school learning and planning, Next PD day November 1 Assessment learning Progress reports November 18 IEPs coming shortly due to a computer issue all schools are dealing with Yearbook committee has started</p>	
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I acknowledge that the land on which WRDSB sites are situated are the lands traditionally used by the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, and Neutral people. I also acknowledge the enduring presence and deep traditional knowledge, laws, and philosophies of the Indigenous people with whom we share this land today. We are all treaty people with a responsibility to honour all our relations. To ensure that our identity and social position no longer predict outcomes, together we will transform our systems, structures, physical environments and practices to address and embrace the lived experiences, abilities, needs and stories of students and staff to ensure success for all

Dear WRDSB Trustees,

I am writing on behalf of WRAPSC to advocate for the well-being of our students. We believe it is crucial for caregivers to receive communication from principals and teachers when an incident occurs in front of their child, whether it happens in the classroom or elsewhere on school property.

While we understand and respect the need for privacy for those directly involved in these incidents, it is important to recognize that the students who witness these events are also impacted. Many of these students are witnessing moments of violence or emotional instability, which can lead to a normalization of such behavior. As a result, some students are becoming afraid to attend school and are reluctant to speak about what they have seen.

If caregivers were informed about what their child has witnessed, they would be more likely to engage in conversations with their child and provide the necessary support. This could include helping their child develop an action plan for coping with such situations in the future, thereby reducing fear and anxiety.

The communication sent home does not need to go into detail about the incident itself but could instead provide tips on how to talk to children about what they've experienced and how to support both students and staff in these situations. Effective communication can only contribute positively to the well-being of our students.

We urge you not to use privacy as an excuse to withhold such important communication. After all, caregivers regularly receive notifications about public health issues like lice without privacy concerns being cited and these situations affect student well-being as well.

We ask that the WRDSB develop a letter, much like the one used for lice, to inform caregivers any time their child has witnessed an incident.

Thank you for considering this important matter. We believe that by working together, we can create a safer and more supportive environment for our students.

At [School Name], the safety and well-being of our children, youth, and families is central to everything we do. We believe that a strong, healthy community is built by ensuring that children and youth are protected, supported, and championed.

Recently, an incident occurred at school that your child may have witnessed and wish to talk about. Our goal remains to provide the care, assistance, that children need and deserve.

We want to assure you that every single occurrence involving a child is thoroughly reviewed by administration, educators, and other key staff members. Our priority is always to ensure the children in our care are well supported, and that their emotional and physical well-being remains foremost in our minds.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please don't hesitate to reach out.