

WILLIAMSON ROAD SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA MINUTES NOVEMBER 26TH 2009

ATTENDEES:

Claire Leo, Craig Budgell, Marlene Wolinsky, Dan Desmarais, Tim Pinos, Monica Reddon, ,
Kathleen Henschel, Walter Hucker, Sharon Norton Robertson, Fawn Fairfoul, Andrea Hesse,
Frances Anderson, Denis Richer, Michael Hogan, Laura Stoddard

AGENDA:

Welcome

Principal's Report

Major Fundraising Project

Current Events

Late Funding Request- Strings Program

Future Events Calendar

Candy Floss Machine

MINUTES

Principal's Report

Presenter: Marlene Wolinsky

Global Community

- Bilaal Rajan, the child activist and Author (Making Change) came and presented to the children. The question and answer period was great.
- Inspiring – social action
- Bilaal signed a copy his of book for every classroom.
- The presentation sparked follow-up discussions and initiatives in the classrooms.
- Bilaal's appearance at Willy will be written up as an article in the Beach Metro News.
- Encouraging students to take action – Room 5 letter

Community of Learners

- Focused on assessment/evaluation
- Report cards go home on Tuesday – interviews Thursday and Friday
- Visit from Superintendent, Kathy Cowan and literacy coach, Janet Guest on Tuesday, November 24th.
- Evidence of students engaged in meaningful, inquiry-based activities, discussions
- Into the second pathway – teachers are pleased with achievement results – gains being made
- Media literacy – Rm. 8 project (Best Part of Me) – film festival on Wednesday. Will share at next Council meeting – some editing still to do.
- Focus on timely intervention to support children that are not achieving provincial standards – SMART focus, ERI (FI)

School Spirit

- Class Mottos have been developed for every classroom – English and French
- Will be shared at our first recognition assembly – week of Dec. 7
- Respect, Responsibility, Empathy – focus now included in reading/writing buddies

Professional learning community

- Planning for next pathway is underway
- Collaborative practices
- School Improvement Planning underway
- Identifying SMART goals (specific, measureable, achievable, results-oriented, time-bound)
- Eco schools – achieved Bronze status and awarded our plaque

Community Partnerships

- Literacy evening being planned for January 19th. The evening will include guest author, Eric Walters, storytellers and classroom activities related to: social action, pathways, character education and Eco Schools.

Major Fundraising

Presenter: Tim Pinos

A goal was identified for our Direct Donation drive.

- Two initiatives were presented:
 1. A greening initiative for the back schoolyard. This would involve soft and hard landscaping of the yard. A report was submitted by Craig Budgell
 2. Substantial library investment. Julie Demers submitted a report on behalf of the library.

A vote was taken and the library project was chosen. The project will allow the school to update and expand the current collection.

Current Events

Presenter: Tim Pinos

Read-a-thon: The event is on track and scheduled for next week.

Kid's Holiday Craft & Gift Fair: Scheduled for Thursday, December 3rd.

Late Funding Request- Strings Program

Presenters: Wally Hucker and Michael Hogan

- Consideration of request to council for funds for the Grade 5 & 6 strings program. Mrs. Tatiana Bouts took over the strings program in October and has determined that the program needs some supplies. The program serves 32 Grade 5 & 6 students (16 each) and \$350 will cover their immediate needs.
- In addition, Mrs. Bouts has found in Willy's Archive Room quite a number of string instruments in need of repair. These instruments apparently belong to the TDSB but are assigned to our school. The cost of repairs is estimated to be about \$1,000.
- Marlene Wolinsky is fully supportive of this request by Ms. Bout and is agreement that the strings program is in need of additional supplies.
- Council agreed to the initial request for \$350 but requires a detailed and prioritized report from Mrs. Bout before granting additional funding.

Parent Engagement in School Activities

Presenter: Kathleen Henschel

Kathleen attended a seminar on the subject of Parent Engagement in school activities. Ideas such as a survey and Parent Classroom Representatives were discussed. Kathleen, Krista and Laura will form a committee to study these and additional ideas for our next meeting.

Future Events Calendar

Presenter: Fawn Fairfoul

- Fawn is putting together a calendar of events for 2010. May 28th will be our Blue Jays Evening.
- A planning committee for Junefest was put together (Tim Pinos, Claire Leo, Andrea Hesse).
- Welcome BBQ tentatively scheduled for September 20th.

Candy Floss Machine

The Candy Machine has been purchase as per last meeting's vote. The decision was a financial one, based on the fact that renting is almost as much as buying a machine and we might be able to rent the machine out to other schools.

Other Business

Our Green Future

Presenter: Dan Demaris

A Journey to Sustainability in Ward 16 is being lead by our Trustee Sheila Cary-Meagher. It began as an initiative spearheaded by parents at Kew Beach. Environmental stewardship is everyone's agenda and the project has evolved into a ward wide undertaking. The objective is to encourage Parent Councils in each school to host a Local Energy Committee. The Local Energy Committees will provide leadership and engage students, teachers, parents and the community at large to work toward developing a plan to create healthy, green, and sustainable communities for our children, grand children and great grandchildren. The City of Toronto and the Province of Ontario have a number of significant programs in place to support both energy conservation and green energy production. The idea is to work with them to create green schools and communities.

Next School Council Meeting: Wednesday January 20th at 6:30. Childcare will be provided.
Happy New Year!