

**MINUTES – Monday-February 27, 2017**

**John Wanless Junior Public School Parent Council Meeting - JWPS Library 7pm**

**Attendees:**

**Nicole Miles  
Madeleine Loewenberg  
Lesley Logan  
Peter Boross-Harmer  
Sara D’Angelo  
Sheila Merer**

**Jana Ball  
Liz Phipps  
Joy Futurman  
Caryn Levin  
Heather Halnan  
Jeffrey Roberts**

**Sara Kussner  
Sonia Almanova  
Jennifer Bidwell  
Ray Fischer  
Diang lu  
Elaine Rapos**

**Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. Notes below:**

<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Decisions/Changes/Action Items</i>
Joy Futurman – asked to report first on Curriculum Support	<p>-As many are aware there is a TIFF project with our 2 schools beginning early April stay tuned for more information</p> <p>-Social Media lunch session held recently was successful, Paul Davis has offered to come to one a social media meeting in future for free so to all who are interested please email Joy to participate</p> <p>-Joy (among others from the school) attended a session where Judith Montreuil spoke - she is the Chief of Social Work and Attendance for the TDSB Learning Centre 1. Judith will be coming to conduct a workshop with our parents on May 4th @ 7pm, to focus on mental health and wellness for our children. Part of her focus is also on ‘Thriving in today’s world – building open, healthy minds’. With a focus on mindfulness, etc., Judith was engaging and we are looking to our May date with her.</p>	
Lesley Logan – report on donation from condo developer and discuss fundraising direct donation	<p>-JWPS is in receipt of \$52,660 from a condo developer building on Avenue road (at Fairlawn/Brookdale)</p> <p>-Vicky Branco and Peter BH will assist with facilitating the process of getting the funds from the condo organization vis a vis the TDSB. There will be a Mar-20<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30pm meeting held to discuss the allocation of the funds as it is earmarked for a capital improvement to the school environment – usually outdoor space.</p> <p>Fundraising - we should have a discussion around direct donation vs.</p>	

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	<p>organic/traditional fundraising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-when we went out to families this year to ask for a direct donation, we committed there would less asking for periodic donations, less requests to spend at the school, etc.</li> <li>-some parents have expressed disappointment, suggested other events should be less expensive or free in consideration of that commitment</li> <li>-taking into consideration feelings raised by parents, there is also an ongoing, increasingly difficult challenge recruiting parents to volunteer to make events at the school happen in order to make fundraising happen, or to hold events for free or otherwise, and/or to fund-raise, hence impacting our overall ability to raise funds</li> <li>-this may be the new norm, we may need to reset our goals and budget for the school year as a result</li> </ul> <p>Open for discussion/ideas from the attendees of the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Other schools have had a wish list (pick an item that is needed at the school) for parents to donate toward to inspire donation, people are motivated when they understand what they are giving toward</li> <li>-also walk-a-thons have been held at other schools to raise funds</li> <li>-we discussed collapsing Fall Fair and Spring BBQ and holding one of those events as a major event (and hence bigger fundraising target)</li> <li>-we should inform parents in a more detailed way about where the money goes at kindergarten orientation so that families understand what can and cannot run at the school without the funds raised</li> <li>-we could establish classroom targets (x% of the parents in our class have donated, ask class parents to keep track and remind parents to press to meet or exceed targets)</li> <li>-only 30 wristbands were sold this year at the fall fair, could we ask that if families donate early in the year they get a wristband for the fall/spring fair for free as an incentive to get direct donations in</li> <li>-we need to publish and advertise the budget process, create a wish list and then people can pick what they want to contribute</li> <li>-with a size of 720 kids, estimating there are approx. 420 families, 70% of the</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Collapse the spring/fall BBQs into 1 event</i></b>  <b><i>Also, a fall ball will be discussed, along with another spring event for parents, with spring bbq as major event including kids</i></b></p>

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	funds received to date came from cheques, 35 individual donations received online	
Ray Fischer – Education Advocacy	<p>-Meeting was held in February with Vicky Branco (Superintendent) who demonstrated a solid interest in the academic interests and goals of our school. We took her through the staffing process, she took the information to a planning meeting scheduled on Friday prior to Family Day weekend in Feb, Ray attended and raised a number of issues:</p> <p>a) TDSB planning person took Ray through the forecasting and data process i.e. enrolment, etc.</p> <p>b) the forecasts feed into the staff allocation process</p> <p>c) at a board-wide level enrolment is estimated for the board, then TDSB team apply for funding to the ministry/trustees based on the projected enrolment numbers</p> <p>d) allocation of teachers is approved, FTEs are assigned to the schools</p> <p>e) Ray tried to engage with Greg Chan (Head of Planning department), who was not interested in engaging with parents about staffing levels at the school, had never before engaged for parent input on staffing allocation per school. Further, he wanted to end the conversation early, came across as dismissive, etc.</p> <p>-Summary: we are grateful that Vicky seems interested in helping and facilitated the introduction and meet with planning, however we will need to keep on this and apply pressure</p> <p>Q: why can't we get the right allocation at the right time?</p> <p>A: TDSB says they cannot predict the variance. Given this is driven at a system level e.g. 10,419 students to consider, Planner has a lot to consider when deciding where to allocate teachers, where to pull resources from, etc.</p> <p>-FBEC Finance Budgeting and Enrolment Committee: Ray presented his info to this group this past Thursday, both groups asked Ray to enlist the help of the principal, superintendent, planning/staffing</p> <p>-Peter disclosed to staff the number of teachers for next year</p> <p>-Mar-21 is the date of this year's (Greg Chan's) staff rollout meeting, Sarah and Peter will attend and push for our school, Peter submitted our number of</p>	

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	<p>723 projected enrolment</p> <p>Q: what about students at JW attending who live out of district?</p> <p>A: JWPS will be enforcing this in the spring given we are closed for enrolment</p> <p>Best we can do is anticipate the pressure points, and provide data against what we expect for the fall. Stay tuned.</p>	
Liz Phipps - Communication	<p>Communications – the new and improved JWPC website is live, there has been a huge improvement, clean up of all content was completed by a sub-committee and big thanks for Jeff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-reminder that emails need to be sent formatted and ready to go preferably in a .jpg format</li> <li>-open rates are highest Tues-Thursdays</li> <li>-Jeff is now working with the teachers</li> <li>-Peter can update the math corner on the website now, Leslie updated the calendar</li> <li>-the site is responsive and mobile friendly now as well</li> </ul> <p>Q: how many families are subscribed to the JW emails?</p> <p>A: 880 email addresses</p>	
Diang lu - Treasurer Report	<p>Spending and revenue is on target, given where we are in the year only 30% of our forecasted budget has been spent (although entire budget was allocated).</p>	
Committee Updates – reports sent	<p>Phys Ed Update – D. Deacon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-thanks to parents and teachers who made Hockey Day a fantastic success!</li> <li>-200 kids are registered for ski day reminder to meet at 6:45 a.m. on Mar-6</li> <li>-House shirts should be sent home Wed this week</li> </ul> <p>Music Update – Tina L.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-TDSB festival was held and kids sang beautifully, were very well behaved</li> <li>-PAF (Performing Arts Festival) will be held Wed-Mar-8, dress rehearsal Mar-7</li> <li>-Spring concerts will be held Primary on May16 and Junior on May17th</li> <li>-Both Junior and grade 6 choirs will be performing the national anthem at the Blue Jay game scheduled for June2nd, Jay will play the Yankees, due to popularity of both teams and increasing success of Blue Jays ticket prices have gone up the cost is expected to be \$55 per person this year. Reminder that</li> </ul>	

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	<p>parents are not obligated to send their child, nor their entire family if cost is a concern.</p> <p>-As a note: all concerts will be held at 6pm moving forward to coincide with daycare pickup</p>	
<p>Peter Boross-Harmer and Sara D'Angelo – Administrative Report (also please see full report below)</p>	<p>-we are in need of lunchroom supervisors we are unable to retain the level of staff we require this year, the pay rate is \$17.31 so if any parents know of someone wanting the work by all means come to the office to talk</p> <p>-Mental Health initiative – Sonia Almanova attended the most recent Ward 8 PIAC meeting which bridges parents and teachers to explore mental health issues. Parents may be aware the kids are engaging in a new activity in the school day: Drop everything and breathe – at random times throughout the school day, there is an announcement with a facilitated break, students take a 1 minute breath, and pause. The focus is on mindfulness and breathing to be better equipped to manage life.</p> <p>-Superintendent Vicky Branco toured our school, discussed what to focus on in the school, identified things that will lead to a common understanding among teachers and students on learning</p> <p>-She will be visiting the school and meeting monthly, focusing on academics, wellness, and equity</p> <p>-She will look for evidence of visible learning, is student voice on the walls, is success criteria clear, do the students understand how to achieve more? Is tech being embedded, are accommodations being made to reach all students, are there rich open ended tasks assigned especially w math?</p> <p>-is the pedagogy on the walls?</p> <p>-Parents can read more about this in the admin report appended to these minutes</p> <p>-On the topic of math, Trevor Brown will be coming to the staff meeting Mar-22<sup>nd</sup> for a 90 minute presentation, to assist with math needs teachers might have in their various areas, etc. In EQAO testing, 70% of our provincial scores met the standard, we have declined from 93% in the last 4-5 years – math is a concern and focus area for us as educators.</p> <p><u>What's math got to do with it?</u> a great book Peter recommends we purchase</p>	

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	for every teacher and share with parents who can also benefit from the read -re Spec Ed – moving fwd TDSB’s inclusion process means that all grade 1 students who are typically in a separate environment for extra help will stay in regular classrooms with their peers beginning in school year 2017-18. Again more info in Admin report.	
Other Business – Items not on agenda	-It was raised by a parent that perhaps the Class parent role could be clarified with those who have taken this on, it might be required as a parent expressed an objection recently to emailing out a notification regarding the bake sale for the grad committee fundraising -It was agreed class parents would be reminded the role is to facilitate communication and that no editorializing, filtering, modifying email notifications on school events should take place Q: from a parent, was it a candy or bake sale? A lot of candy came home from the bake sale, just wondering about that? A: families are asked to bake or buy baked goods to sell however some opt for candy and the kids love it, it is 1 of the 10 sugar days allowed by the TDSB in the year. \$2,700 was raised this year at the bake sale so a big success and help to the grad committee to afford a party and decorations, etc. for the JWPS graduates 2017.	<b><i>Lesley Logan – action item to follow up with Julie Purkis re class parent role in cases where there are emails held back, etc.</i></b>
Adjournment		<b><i>Motion to adjourn at 9:08 p.m. by Madeleine L., Elaine R. seconded, unanimously passed</i></b>

Next Meeting date: March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.

### **Admin Update for SAC Mtg to be held Monday Feb 27th, 2017**

#### **Staffing Update:**

Ms. Maharaj has returned on Feb 21<sup>st</sup> to assume her teaching responsibilities for 4C. As of Feb 21<sup>st</sup>, we have lost Ms. Paschali who has taken on a full-time role at JRR. Filling her position may take some time as this is a process that is initiated centrally at TDSB. We have also lost Ms. Willie (LRS) so we are searching for replacements as typically we are very short of supervisors at lunchtime. Our enrolment has remained steady with

no major fluctuation. In our last Friday communication we have asked our parents to let us know if they are planning to enrol their child(ren) at another school/program in the coming fall as this information will greatly assist us with planning for next year.

We have received our preliminary projections for next year and have submitted our response to planning. There were minor discrepancies which were pointed out to our planners. Our staffing rollout is expected to take place on March 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **System/School Update:**

- Our Learning Coach has spent time working with our Grade 1 team on the incorporation of useful apps in our primary classrooms. We have already seen the incorporation of these in teaching practice in several classes.
- After our last visit from our superintendent (she spent about 3 hours in our building), together with our staff we have established a set of non-negotiables which will be established in all of our classrooms for all of our students as part of our school Improvement process. Please note that the five may look very different for each Grade. They include:
  1. Co-created Success Criteria & Learning Goals involving ALL of our students which are easy to access.
  2. The use of technology in such a way that it is strongly linked to classroom investigations and the curriculum.
  3. Flexible student groupings which allow for collaborative learning opportunities.
  4. The use of rich, open-ended tasks in all of our classrooms to really engage the students in their thinking.
  5. Culturally relevant and responsive pedagogical practices in all of our classrooms with increased focus on incorporating our students' voices and the elimination of bias from our practices.
- We have started our planning for the March 22<sup>nd</sup> Math sessions with Trevor Brown for both staff and our parents in the evening. We are hoping to attract 200 participants for the evening session. We have invited our teachers to identify specific needs they would like addressed by Trevor during or lunchtime session and we will endeavour to get his assistance in ensuring that our students' attitudes toward mathematics becomes more positive and that we are able to challenge their thinking more effectively in the classrooms. Our plan is to also purchase Jo Boaler's: What's Math Got To Do With it? for every staff member to help retool their thinking/classroom practices.
- On February 24<sup>th</sup>, our team, along with a JW parent representative attended the second of three WARD 8 workshops at Flemington PS. The focus of this workshop was on Wellness and how we can enhance the physical and mental well-being of all of our students as well as supportive adults. Our in-house Health & Wellness Committee has been working diligently on the incorporation of helpful practices ( D.E.A.B) for example. Joy Futerman provided a more detailed update from this meeting as well as next steps including securing the TDSB's Chief of Social Work presenting to our parents.
- We met with TDSB planning & had a staffing officer linked in via teleconference to look at the perceived understaffing of John Wanless. Ray Fisher provided a very detailed account of this meeting as well as next steps.
- Along with staffing for next year, we will be looking at all aspects of program delivery including how we support all of our students including the neediest.

- **Special Education Update: The Integrated Equity Framework was approved by the Board of Trustees on 26 October 2016. Within the first year goals under "Inclusion and Special Education", reference is made to “remodel” the Home School Program (“HSP”). Over the next few years, TDSB will continue to move forward with greater inclusion in special education program and service delivery. Any changes to our special education delivery model will be implemented thoughtfully, based on extensive research, an understanding of best practices, professional learning and with a consistent focus on equity, student achievement and well-being.** As written in the current TDSB Special Education Plan, inclusion is not simply the physical placement of a student within a mainstream classroom. It is a multipronged approach shaped by student need as opposed to a student’s identification of exceptionality. It includes positive classroom climate with active removal of attitudinal barriers, as well as the use of Differentiated Instruction and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) that is geared to student needs and integrated supports. **For the 2017/2018 school year, no Grade 1 students will be placed in HSP. There will be no reduction in the Community Based Resource Model (CBRM) or CBRM EA at the system level because of this remodelling.** As in the past, there may be fluctuations at the individual schools due to changes in factors considered in the CBRM allocation process (net enrolment, students being supported in CBRM, LOI and students returning to their home school as a result of the Inclusion Strategy. In the 2018/19 school year, HSP will only support Junior and Intermediate students. Special Education and Teaching and Learning will provide on-going professional learning to support classroom teachers who are teaching students with special education needs in the regular classroom. This will include learning opportunities focusing on specific profiles of learners, different divisions (primary/junior/intermediate/secondary) as well as more general sessions on Universal Design for Learning and Differentiated Instruction. In some instances, additional resources will be made available to support the students with the special education needs in the regular classroom.

#### **Facilities Update:**

We have received official confirmation about Section 37 Funds (\$52K) being available for our kindergarten play area revitalization. We have a meeting scheduled for 2:30 pm on March 20<sup>th</sup> regarding next steps (of which there are many). Our Kindergarten Play Area Committee will be meeting shortly after this session to gain a better understanding of next steps and the planning process.

#### **Special Events Update:**

We have a number of events taking place in the next few weeks. Most of these have been discussed at length in our Friday Bulletins but a few should be highlighted:

Our Ski Trip is confirmed for March 6<sup>th</sup>. Our Performing Arts Festival will take place on March 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. Our French Public Speaking Contest will take place during the second week of March-exact details are still being finalized. We will have a special presentation put on by the Dufflebag Theatre for our primary students on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10AM. JW will also be hosting the TDSB North Chess Championships on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Chess



team selections will take place after our return from the break. We will aim to provide you with updates about the multitude of upcoming events as soon as we firm up dates/locations.

### **Caring & Safe School Committee Highlights**

- Health & Wellness Committee updates/ incorporation of what we have learned into our practices- Drop Everything & Breathe going well with primary classes, juniors need a little more reminding. Committee mtg coming up. Lunch & Learn for staff and parents to take place on Tuesday, the 28<sup>th</sup> of February.
- Planning for supervision for next year- areas of stress: We are considering the incorporation of TEAMS in our announcements to remind staff as to who is on supervision duty. This is the same system employed at other schools and no person is mentioned by name. We will connect with Childcare to have them examine their policy where their supervisors are not “permitted” to intervene while supervising at lunch outdoors with any situation involving non-childcare children. The consensus is that we all have to be keeping in mind the safety of all of our students and not ignore dangerous situations. We are also going to be looking at in association with our SAC and our School Staffing Committee at the possibility of shortening the lunch break for the coming year to assist us with supervision of children as well as to ensure that all of our students were dismissed at an earlier time.
- On-line safety update: Last parent workshop (Lunch & Learn) was only attended by two parents. We are still dealing with a number of issues where parents establish accounts for their underage children even though it is not legal to do so.
- Caretaking Update- With potential additional funding available, we are looking at possibly opening up the second floor (sealed-in) bathroom OR at the possibility of painting more lines/games for our primary students in our yard. Mr. Burton has already provided examples of what for re-opening second floor bathroom
- Entry System/Safety- Ofra has expressed her concern that TDSB/TPS policy is still not adequate enough in notifying schools in nearby neighbourhoods when an adverse event is taking place at another location. We will bring this point up with our SOE to see how this protocol could be revisited. She has also expressed her concerns regarding how we can make our building safer to keep out potential intruders. Suggestions raised included exercising extra vigilance on the part of both adults and children, the issuing of access cards to all parents, the hiring of security guards etc. She will reach out to other parents for viable suggestions.

### **Other News/Upcoming Dates:**

- Feb 28<sup>th</sup>- Health & Wellness Lunch & Learn
- March 1<sup>st</sup>- TDESSA North conference basketball Finals at JW
- March 1<sup>st</sup>- Hockey Team at North Conference Finals

- March 3<sup>rd</sup>- North Conference Basketball Finals at Lawrence Hts
- March 6<sup>th</sup>- SKI TRIP
- March 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>- Performing Arts Festival
- March 7<sup>th</sup>- WARD 8 Forum at NTCI
- March 13<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup> Spring Break
- March 31<sup>st</sup>- TDSB NORTH CHESS TEAM Qualifiers at JW all day