

Weston Memorial School Council Meeting
June 15, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Co-Chairs: Julie Bisson (JB), Jamie Cameron
 Treasurer : Adriana Avramova (AA)
 Minute-taker: Valerie Groves (VG)

Location: over zoom
 Time: 6:00-7:00pm

Present: Susanne Fata (SF), Christina Sciortino, Sandra DiVincenzo (SD), Paula Casamassima, Kimberly Mihaychuk-Nonis, Julie Bisson (JB), Jamie Cameron (JC), Maria Russell (MR), Isabel Clark (IC), Misha Tamas (MT), Valerie Groves, iphone

Agenda Item	Decision/ Action Taken	Actions/ Responsibilities
<i>Welcome and Land Acknowledgement (JB)</i>		
<i>Review and approval of last meeting minutes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding item from last meeting: parent survey. MR – we want to present the school’s goals from the School Improvement Plan (SIP) to parents and get feedback. We still need to get the indigenous goal. We will also ask what events parents have attended and what they would like to see / what supports are needed. JB – might be best to wait until September? MT – agree with September in order to get more feedback. • MR motions to approve last meeting minutes. MT seconds. 	<p>- Council to complete and send out parent survey in fall 2023 including indigenous goal</p> <p><small>School Improvement Plan Update – Indigenous Goal</small></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to begin to understand the histories, cultures, and contemporary realities of indigenous peoples in Canada through on-going intentional education and truth before reconciliation practices; by using age-appropriate, authentic indigenous resources.
<i>Chair Report (JB)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation Grant – It can be difficult to align with required topics and it is always helpful to have kids involved to boost 	

	<p>attendance. A lot of work went into the Food Sovereignty workshops this year and they were well advertised. MR – It was great to collaborate with other schools. JB – big thank you to Maria for her work on innovation grants, bylaws and all the other work she has put into council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fun Fair – The event went well, thank you notes have been sent out. The fair was a big success and there has been a lot of positive feedback. SD – from a staff perspective it was fun and nostalgic to see former students and community members. Also great to see administration from CR Marchant in attendance. The inflatables were great. JB – Vendor for inflatables was great. The opportunity for community connection was also wonderful, WM is helping a bit with Pelmo Fun Fair tonight. Thank you to Ms Fata for letting council take over school space for the event. Small lessons learned from the event but no disappointments. Parents enjoyed interaction with staff. MR – The fair was great. Was on a high afterwards because it went so well. Wrist bands may not have been worth it because lines were so long. The prizes were great.• Graduation – The ceremony and lunch are being planned by staff. Council will help fund cake and drinks. We have one parent volunteer for the day of but need one more to help on the day of the ceremony. IC – I have decorations to drop off. When should that happen? SF	
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	<p>– They can be dropped off the morning of the ceremony. MR – potential volunteers need information about the timeframe that day. SF – The ceremony will be at 1:30pm. Volunteers are needed prior to set up banner, balloons, ribbon wall and to organize refreshments. JB – we will make sure the volunteers are there.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year End – The Fun Fair raised over \$12,000 which leaves the council in a comfortable financial place going into next year. \$3,000 was made on the presale, and we received ~\$4,000 in donations. Major donors were Groves Piano Group and Rakuten, and there were many others. Expenses totaled just over \$7,000. <p>Expenses and donations were pretty much on par with previous years, but the raffle did not make as much as expected. MR – We got a lot of donations. JC – What have we made on the raffle in the past? JB – We expect the raffle to make \$3,000-\$4,000. This year it made \$2,200, but it could have been better advertised.</p> <p>JC – The weather was great.</p> <p>JB – Looking ahead to next year, we hope to continue the momentum with the larger council and more hands helping. Thankful to the team from this year. MR you have been a voice of reason for so many years and you will be missed. MR – It will be sad to walk away as well.</p>	
<i>Principal's Report (SF)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school's indigenous goal has been put in the chat for the survey. We will 	

	<p>be looking at the SIP in the fall and determining if the goals need to be altered.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school and staff have been very busy trying to conclude everything for the year. • We are working on the Professional Learning Plan. • Preliminary data from report cards indicates that the gender gap for achievement has been reduced, with males now outperforming females in math and making up ground in literacy. • EQAO has been completed by grade 3's. • This has been the first year since the pandemic without pauses for remote learning, allowing us to layer back in more experiences for students including: <p>Whole School Terry Fox Run In-person Assemblies, including Holiday Sing-a-Long and Black History Month FDK, Primary, Junior Concerts Drum Ensembles, including presentation at other school Grade 5 Strings Program Scholastic Book Fair Drama Club and STEM Club Music & Writing Partnerships with King Seniors Residence, CBC Broadcast Cross Country Team & Track and Field Team In-person Curriculum Night, Meet the Teacher XMovement Days x2 PALS (Playground Activity Leaders), supported by TPH Dental Screening for JK, SK and Gr 2 students Earth Rangers Several Spirit Weeks Winter and Spring Food Drives for WAES Telus, Cyber Safety for Grades 3, 4, 5 Welcome to Kindergarten</p>	
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	<p>Play Day (FDK, Gr 1-5) Graduation Ceremony, Lunch & Picnic Grade 5 visits to CR Marchant (Winter presentation, with grade 4s)</p> <p>And School Council initiatives: Welcome Back BBQ Halloween Dance-a-thon Scientists In School, or Art Sessions Pizza Lunches Family Skate Night and Movie Night June Fun Fair Fundraisers (Budding Artists) Food Sovereignty Sessions</p> <p>In particular, the interactions with the King Senior’s Residence were wonderful for both the students and seniors. This will remain a valuable connection going forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play Day is coming on June 27. The school is working with Zeal for the graduation lunch on June 26. We need a rain plan for this day. • The municipal election will be held the last week of school. There is also a holy day to work around. • There has been a good transition post-pandemic to a more positive school experience. • This has been my most challenging year in the school, but I am feeling fantastic. Kids are loving school and parents are interested in what’s going on. Go Weston! • JB – It has been a busy year. Grateful for the hard work that goes on in the school by administration and staff. 	
<p><i>Roundtable Discussion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is communication happening behind the scenes when issues are brought up by parents to the council. 	

	<p>Not all issues are discussed at meetings or actionable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Everyone is looking forward to the upcoming break. We have good momentum, have had a successful year, and have regained sense of community.• SD – On behalf of staff, thank you to council and all parent volunteers. There is a great partnership between the school and parents.• MR – Thank you to everyone, especially Julie for being our fearless leader – you underestimate your influence at the school. Everyone has done their part.• JB – Not fearless! We have always had helpers which is great. <p>Meeting ends at 7PM</p>	
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