

Willington Home & School Association
Meeting Agenda
January 19, 2021 at 7:00pm (Zoom)

Participants: Karen Negrete, Margo Stewart, Kristy Cuevas, Amelie Belanger, Julie Trudel, Anna Calvert, Veronica Santaguida, Andrea Archibald, Ania Muller, Marie-Noelle Rivard, Dominique Bordeleau, Carmen Nicolas, Katherine Hibbert, Rita V, Kimberly Tulloch

1. Welcome – Karen
2. Approval of Agenda – Kim, Second Ania
3. Approval of Minutes from November 17th, 2020 - Approve Margo, Second Amelie
4. Principal/VP's Report – Carmen
 - 1st week was virtual. Overall it went well with a few glitches. Feedback from families was positive. 1 hour a week the kids are using the technology in school and learning how to use them.
 - 2nd week was in class. 17 families have not sent kids back out of 600. Focus has been on teaching the younger kids to wear masks as per new mandate. No cases currently, continuing to do everything possible to keep everyone safe.
 - Preparing report cards. Available on Mosaic as of Jan. 20th. No comments, just marks due to union negotiations.
 - Sibling registration is 25th - 29th. Regular registration is Feb. 1st - 5th.
5. Teacher's report (Mme Marie - 5 mins)
 - Happy New Year to everyone! May 2021 bring you health, the long-awaited vaccine, happiness and peace!
 - Thank you for the little thought: the tea bags on our first day of interview for the first communication to parents. Thank you also for your suggestion to parents to write messages of gratitude to us! It was greatly appreciated by the teachers.
 - Thank you very much for coordinating the common gift cards for teachers and especially for the thank you messages in the greeting cards!
 - The virtual teaching during the 1st week of January went very well with of course some small adjustments on both sides. The students collaborated very well online. Thank you for the support of parents to ensure the presence and participation of their child (ren)!
 - The teachers have just completed the report card for the first stage. All subject-specific skills and one transversal skill were assessed. Unfortunately, there will be no comments in the newsletter as it is a pressure tactic from our union as our collective agreement has not yet been signed. We thank you for your understanding and support.

- Little news from the levels:
- kindergarten: We are dealing with the following topics: clothing and winter. We count to 100 and have fun learning to write our numbers and letters! We can't wait to celebrate the 100th day of school in February !!
- Grade 1: In January, we tackle the theme of winter and the sounds r, f, v and j. In mathematics, we work with the hour (: 00 and: 30), diagrams, numbers 0 to 50, and missing terms.
- 3rd year: the month of January is devoted to winter sports and the study of verbs from the 1st group in the present tense.
- 4th year: Winter sports, group life in humans and animals (reflection in ECR and practice in plastic arts.) Parents visit us (virtually) in classes 104 and 25 to share a moment in French: read a story, tell us about their work, etc.
- 5th year: We are working on the tales / the 5 parts of a story in preparation for the public speaking whose presentations will take place at the end of January and the beginning of February.

6. Communications report. - Amelie & Andrea

- Karen - A big thank you from everyone for all of your time and contributions. They have been contributing on a significant way.
- Amelie – Took a break from posting because of the holiday.
- Instagram- 82 followers to date, 2 or 3 likes per post, which is low. Need more posts to foster growth. Question was asked: “Should we follow back the parents that follow us? It can help with increasing our followers.”
- Even a \$10 investment could boost our numbers. It helps you target who you want to see it. Look at numbers later and see if it makes sense to put some money behind it.
- H&S can help by liking Facebook and Instagram posts.
- E mail open rate is 46%. (not so bad considering 1 parent per couple is opening it)
- It was asked that important e mails are included in the school admin e mails. School admin is also sharing the H&S social media posts.

7. Treasurer’s report - Anna

- -Big thank you from the group for all the hard work with the funds. There has been a lot in the works.
- \$39,501.38 current balance
- \$6,320 uncashed cheques
- \$8,230 family emergency fund
- \$3,373 grad balance, \$4,141 Froyo, \$5,000 unattributed
- \$759 Recette en pot, deposited this week

- \$12,435 remaining balance
- Bank fees are very high. Is there a way to lower these? Either 1 time expenses or ongoing.
- No money has come in from Editions Vaudreuil. Still owes us about \$2,500. Hopefully we will receive it in the next week or 2.
- Question: The money from grad does that include the froyo numbers that were allocated for grad? The answer is no. Julie and Anna will connect. Some refunds were made so numbers are in flux. Sitting around \$1,900 ish. TBC

8. Membership Report - Karen

- Nothing to report at this time. We didn't do a membership campaign this year.

9. Family Emergency Fund Report (Kristy - 5-10 mins)

a. 2020 Recap

- Holiday Cheer baskets in collaboration with Carolyn's Toy Drive brightened the holidays for 12 families.
- Outpouring of donations left us with a balance of both food and funds to continue to support families through Jan-Feb.
- Currently 17 families are registered for the Family Support Fund and we anonymously support additional families working closely with Maya.
- Since September, we have raised +\$3500 including a whopping \$2300 in direct donations as part of the holiday drive.

b. 2021 GOALS

- Work on sponsorship for winter gear for 2021-22
- Canadian Tire/L'Equipper has a sponsorship program we can apply for
- Tackle issues surrounding food insecurity and healthy eating
- Develop sponsorships or fundraising with the goal of providing lunches 5 days a week for FSF families.
- Mobilize the Willingdon Community Pantry to directly respond to the ongoing food insecurity crisis
- Improve engagement with the community, work on connecting families
- Improve our knowledge and ability to connect families to additional services within the community, create an open database for these contacts.

c. Three-Pronged-Fork

- Thoughtful Thursdays! Direct community collection to support the pantry with dry/canned goods
- Partnership with Tablee des Chefs. Recovery and distribution of fresh goods.
- Partnership with PRIXMIUM. For regular access to fresh goods, delivered free.

d. Thoughtful Thursdays

- Jan 21st!!
- Outside collection, in the mornings 8:45-9:30 with shuttle to SR. One volunteer per month.
- Due to limited drop off, a strong social media campaign in combination with promo through the kids themselves will be critical
- Ideally starting end of January, once monthly through June.
- Launches tomorrow
- Monthly focus to direct giving and hopefully balance the pantry and respond to feedback
- FSF Direct donation link to be included, goal would be to increase our monthly budget so that families would receive support from the pantry and fresh produce
- Collection of non-perishable goods and toiletries
- Going to put a poster board outside during pick up so that parents get the message for thoughtful Thursdays. Poster boards are going out tomorrow. There will be a bin that will be outside to be used for the donations. Miya is the person to connect with for the family support.

e. Tablee des Chefs

- Food recovery reduces food waste and distributes food to families in need.
- This program will require volunteers to deliver donations to Senior for division and further distribution to families
- Recovery is sporadic and will not always coincide with immediate needs.
- Premiere Moisson perhaps weekly

f. Prixmium

- Primarily a supplier of restaurants, in light of COVID, pivot to baskets delivered to homes.
- Produce is excellent quality and delivery is free. Usually delivered next day.

g. Prixmium 2

- This will improve our ability to provide healthy fresh options along with the pantry items and between recoveries from Tablee des Chefs.
- \$25 per basket (fruit/veggie) plus pantry items we are doubling our current capacity on the same budget
- One fruit & one veggie basket

h. Engagement

- Continued participation in the HS newsletter
- Dedicated social media content, perhaps a channel devoted to low cost/free things to do around Mtl, low cost recipes etc.
- Compile database of helpful links (featured in our SM content) to be added to the FSF section of the blog.
- Launch a challenge to the community to create cooking videos with their favorite low-cost winter comfort food.
- Recipes/Videos will be uploaded to youtube and share as part of the dedicated social media content.
- Top 3 prizes? Boost excitement/engagement

i. Other

- We need to start planning next years fundraisers.
- Amelia to meet with Kristy in regards to the facebook post and newsletter as to what should be communicated.

10. Grad Committee Report – Julie

- a. Had a meeting Jan. 18th, everything is coming along.
- b. Finances - Total in grad account is \$7,400 plus Froyo. Spent \$2,200 on grad sweatshirts.
Still need to fund, yearbook, party, legacy gifts and gifts for the teachers. Currently developing a budget. They are close to where they want to be but would like to do a little more fundraising.
- c. Yearbook - Found a graphic designer. It should cost about \$2,000
- d. Going to have a celebration at the school June 23rd including an outdoor ceremony leading into an afternoon/evening party. Pizza will be served but in class bubbles. If the weather is bad, they would move into their classrooms.
- e. Considered doing a Valentines market but they don't think its feasible at this time. They are going to sell chocolate bars on Feb 12th at the sr. campus. There are \$2 and \$5 options, with a 50% profit. Maya will manage sales. Still waiting to decide on the supplier. Laura Secord or Worlds Finest.
- f. Considering a spirit wear sale end of Feb - March break with pick up end of march. Spirit wear can be ship to home they just have to pay the shipping.
- g. Exploring doing Plantables. It would be one or the other.

- h. Hoped to do a dance a thon to get the kids involved. Possibly on zoom.
Not sure how to make it a fundraiser.

TSAW updates Ania & Kim

- Feb 8th to 12th is appreciation week.
- Focus on healthy bodies (Monday), brains (Wednesday), and hearts (Friday).
Monday - Kleenex, pocket hand warmers.
- Wednesday – Book baskets
- Thursday - Chocolates
- Will be set up so it's a 1 time drop off and then ask that it be distributed internally.
- Friday everything will be prepared and to Carmen for Monday. Carmen has asked that we Move Fridays Chocolates to the Thursday. Friday she has something planned.

- Wanted to include the community but the challenge is equity. Some people get into it and some don't. So its not even across the teachers.
- Ania came up with the idea to ask the community to share words or pictures and it will go on 1 big poster that would go up in the school. Community gift to everyone. "Why I love my Willingdon"
- It was suggested to explore a Montreal artist that will collect all of your children's art and puts it into 1 picture, prints it and frames it. Then it becomes a piece of art on the wall. Julie to share the name.
- TSAW would like a little more money. \$689 is all they have spent to date. They are going to create a budget and make a request. In a previous meeting \$1,500 has been approved.

11. EDP Report - Tanya

- N/A

12. Other Business:

a. School photos

- Sent Carmen some questions, she took them to the covid task force. They would like a photographer that could move classroom to classroom otherwise it takes a long time because the space needs to be disinfected in between.
- Avoid group picture or find a way to do it outside or in a way that the kids are not close together.

- Could they split the grades over two days possibly with 2 different photographers? Might help with an earlier date because of a smaller group.
 - How would you get parent volunteers in? Usually there are almost 5 volunteers a day.
 - Margo has a contact that could be available in May. Carmen is worried that might be too late for grad. See if she can just do the grade 6's earlier. Yearbooks go for publishing in May. Margo will connect to the photographer and find out pricing.
 - With Green Apple (Life Touch) the lowest pricing is usually around \$20 for the smallest package. Others are coming in around that price plus a little more.
- a. Book fair/Scholastics: (Karen)
- i. Fall Book fair recap: \$3,870.78 in books sold (compared to \$4,767.99 in 2019) Rewards dollars are at \$5,100. Thinking of skipping the winter fundraiser.
 - ii. Teacher book fair (TSAW week in February) it's a go. Carmen will sort out the distribution.
 - iii. Do another online book fair in Feb? If teachers want to provide their own link we can help support them.
- b. Recette en Pot: - Tara
- i. Coordinator: Tara McRae
 - ii. Recap: 230 jars sold with 30% profit, \$2 527.70 Total sales
 - iii. Amount Raised: \$759.00 a lot less then normal but its because of the min 6 jar or need to pat a delivery fee. Already received a cheque
- c. Funscrip fundraiser : - Veronica
- Launched, Ongoing
 - 24 orders to date. \$381.73 in total donations.
 - There is potential to make more if we push it. Also see if there is a way to make the payment seem simpler. Seems overwhelming because there were too many options.
- d. School Supplies:
- i. Editions Vaudreuil or other supplier? Deadline for EV is April 30th.
 - Explored the option to do the school supplies ourselves. Its a way to make huge money but it is a crazy amount of work. Don't think it is an option right now. Especially with Covid it's a lot more complicated. Going to stick with EV.

- All of the feedback on EV has been very good. Parents are happy, teachers are happy. Its very convenient and we make 10%

13. Varia – Website proposal to revamp the home and school website.

Move to approve the proposal – Andrea, second Margo. No objections.

14. Adjournment - Move to adjourn meeting – Amelie, second Julie. 9:08pm

15. Next Home & School meeting will be March 16th 2020, 7pm Zoom