

Willingdon Home & School Association
Meeting Agenda Minutes
March 16th, 2021 at 7:00pm (Zoom)

Participants: Karen Negrete, Margo Stewart, Kristy Cuevas, Amelie Belanger,
Andrea Archibald, Ania Muller, Anna Calvert, Kimberly Tulloch Wynn, Julie
Trudel, Marie-Noelle Rivard, Lara Belinsky, Veronica Santaguida, Alison
Wearing, Nadine Ishak

1. Welcome
2. Approval of Agenda – Julie, second by Margo
3. Approval of Minutes from January 19th, 2021 – Amelie, second by Anna with the following correction to include:
Point 4. “Preparing report cards. Available on Mosaic as of Jan. 20th. No marks, just comments due to union negotiations”

Thank you to Veronica to connect with her friend Natasha Melikoff from BLOEM Atelier for her generous donation of beautiful flowers today for all the teachers!

4. Vice-Principal's Report – Lara
 - Teachers were very surprised today upon receiving the lovely flowers. It was a beautiful and very appreciated gesture.
 - Gr. 5 and 6 took part in the storytelling and art oratoire competition. Congratulations to all the participants! Our representative is going to a regional level and will be presenting on April 13th virtually.
 - Staff meeting took place yesterday and we encouraged to look into virtual cultural activities which now cost less since no transportation is involved.
 - Spiritual Indigenous dancer will be presenting virtually for all grades end of March/beginning April.
 - New procedural masks are now in place for all grades as of Thursday this week (March 11). All children should wear them at all times inside the school. Each student gets two masks per day.
 - Art therapy classes ended a couple weeks ago, but we remain hopeful it can continue for some students with the help from H&S.
 - Ms Maya is recovering well and sending her regards.
 - Tutoring is starting on March 22 for children deemed to need it. 75 kids will benefit from it.

- Ometz, a charitable organization is offering a free workshop for parents, students and teachers on coping with stress and anxiety on March 24th 8pm per zoom.

5. Teacher's report - Mme Marie

- Thank you for the Teacher Appreciation Week! We were treated to some nice little surprises accompanied by words of gratitude, much appreciated by all!
- Thank you for organizing the tropical day! This special day brought sunshine to the school and gave us energy for our parent interviews. When planning such an event, please also ideally notify your liaison teacher. Unfortunately, due to a lack of communication and surely too much work, the teachers learned of the existence of this day via Facebook.
- The virtual teacher-parent interviews went well. Thank you for your cooperation in respecting teachers' commute back home due to the curfew. Thanks to the parents for being present online!
- Thank you very much for the lovely bouquets of flowers received today to celebrate spring! It was a nice surprise.
- As of March 8, students must wear the mask at all times inside the school. We made some adjustments at the beginning of the week to facilitate this new instruction. The students cooperate fully. Since Wednesday March 10, they have been receiving two blue masks at the start of the afternoon. One is used as an immediate replacement mask and the second is placed in a Ziploc bag. This 2nd mask is worn the next morning on the way to school. Thank you for everyone's support and collaboration! Dear parents please keep making sure the Ziploc bag comes back to class.
- Little survey to all teachers
In November, the Home and School committee suggested that a parent-representative per homeroom to communicate with the other parents from the same homeroom to collect money. The amount of money collected had served to purchase group gift certificates. The gift certificates were given to the teachers for the Holidays. The Home and School committee would like to know if you wish them to continue to be involved in the group gift certificate organization.
The answers were:
Yes = 75%
No, thank you = 0%
Indifferent = 25%.

- News from different grades:

K-Kindergarten:

The themes that will be addressed in kindergarten for the month of March are:

- nutrition (food)
- the 5 senses
- the body (including private parts)

1st year:

We are tackling the topic of nutrition for the month of March. We are continuing our project on baby photos. We learn the sounds c hard-k-q-qu, c soft, ç and will begin to work on the complex sounds in order to prepare well for the 2nd grade. In mathematics, we do mental arithmetic, we measure, we find equivalent expressions, and we see the concept of odd and even numbers.

2nd year:

The month of March is nutrition month for the grade two classes.

3rd year:

The themes for March in 3rd grades are as follows:

- Nutrition
- St Patrick
- Arrival of spring

5th year:

- March: Narratives (Christina Prentas) March: Poetry (Stephanie Babalis)
- April: Poetry (Christina Prentas) April: Narratives (Stephanie Babalis)
- Also a few activities pertaining to Nutrition (March is a special month dedicated to Nutrition)

6. Communications report - Amelie & Andrea

Instagram

- 95 followers, (10.5% increase) a big jump for us considering it's all organic. Continuing to put stories and photos might help attract more people to it.
- Our content and interaction are up 124%. If H&S members can share our instagram post they find relevant in their stories, it could help reaching more Willingdon Families. "Save" is the new like. If you can save our posts, it will increase our visibility on Instagram.
- Our impressions are down 21% but also due to March break and minimal posting during that week.

Facebook

- Statistics are showing down due to spring break, we posted minimally at that point. Overall, our posts are being seen by an average of 200people. Most popular post has been Tropical day with real images of the event. We should continue to include as many pictures as we can of the event and things we do.
- Andrea has created events to help with reminders as well as to increase our visibility to other Willingdon Families that might not follow us already.

We appreciate all the content for the weekly newsletter coming in by Friday afternoon.

Mailchimp

Newsletters are hovering around the 50% open rate:


6:52

Completed

newsletter-14 (03/16/2021)

44% 2.8%
Opens Clicks

Sent: 22 hours ago




6:53

Completed

newsletter-10

44.8% 1.6%
Opens Clicks


Sent: February 9



newsletter-13

51.6% 11.1%
Opens Clicks


Sent: March 7



newsletter-9 (copy 01)

52.1% 0.6%
Opens Clicks


Sent: February 2



newsletter-12

53% 9.7%
Opens Clicks


Sent: February 22



newsletter-9

46.8% 5.7%
Opens Clicks


Sent: February 2



newsletter-11

48.5% 2.6%
Opens Clicks


Sent: February 17



newsletter-8

50.4% 6.3%
Opens Clicks

Sent: January 25



Home
Audience
+
Campaigns
Reports


6:55

Completed

Newsletter no. 7: January 11, 2021

53.5% 2.1%
Opens Clicks


Sent: January 11



Happy Holidays!

63.9% 0%
Opens Clicks


Sent: December 16, 2020



FroYo Reminder

40.6% 2.9%
Opens Clicks


Sent: December 14, 2020



Newsletter no. 6: December 10, 2020

42.2% 4.5%
Opens Clicks

Sent: December 11, 2020



Home
Audience
+
Campaigns
Reports

7. Treasurer's report – Anna

- Current balance: \$32,208.28
- Uncashed cheques: \$3,078.07
- Family Support Fund balance: \$9,562.86
- TSAW balance: \$413.60
- Grad balance (incl. Froyo profits): \$3,720.20 (Froyo profit estimate \$1,985)
- Costs in budget, not yet spent: Remaining Froyo days (paid till March) \$2,100 and potential end of year event \$5,000.
- Remaining balance: \$8,333.55

8. Family Emergency Fund Report – Kristy

- **Feedback from our Families:**
 - “We really appreciate the assistance from our community. This has been unprecedented for us!”
 - “Your support had been invaluable to my family.”
 - “Delivery is VERY helpful (we don't have a car, and SR campus is an hour walk). School snacks very helpful to be able to give kids fun things. Most of all, the non-judgmental communication, quick replies, and sense of caring community (including opportunities to give back when things are easier) make us feel cared for and like a “cause”. We never feel “othered” if that makes sense. Thank you.”
 - “This has been an overwhelmingly helpful program. It's a huge relief to know that we can get this type of support and maintain privacy. It's a challenging time for many and this program is important as are the organizers. Can't possibly thank you enough.”
- **Thoughtful Thursdays:**
 - The program is running well. Volunteers have covered pick up and shuttle through April.
 - School Supplies and Hygiene items have been included in the various posts throughout Feb/March
 - New section: Toys/Books – filled up this section with ONE collection! Thank you Willingdon!
 - Little note to be vigilant and check the expiry dates on food items.
- **Freebie Fridays** – after careful consideration of the feedback, we have decided to cancel Freebie Fridays. The food quantities are overwhelming and we do not have the facilities to divide it up.
- **Community Closet:** winter gear collection coming up. To be combined with Thoughtful Thursdays on March 25 and April 8 & 22. We need additional volunteers for the dates of collecting and small budget for dry-cleaning. Maybe the winter gear collection is too early in March/beginning of April? After discussing, the collection date is April 22.

- New campaign: **Tru Earth “No-Touch”**: 20% commission via cheque or direct deposit. It ships direct and for free. Proposed start is April 22, Earth Day.
- Last year food for the Families over summer holidays went to Food Depot. This year with Covid-19 it is different so the idea is to prepare bigger food baskets for the Families in June.

9. Grad Committee Report – Julie

- We are still fundraising. Chocolates for Valentine’s all sold out. Maybe we run it for Easter for a second time?
- Spirit Wear campaign is running till Sunday. It started slow, but it seems to pick up closer to deadline.
- We are having party planning meeting next week. This week a survey was sent to the students to ask what theme they would like it be. June 23rd is their last day of school. Ceremony to hand in diplomas is taking place outside per bubble.
- We are still looking for parents to take photos during the ceremony. No feedback after callouts through social media. Maybe Amelie could volunteer depending on her travel schedule?
- Grad committee meeting is being held in the next few weeks. Roles are assigned, legacy gifts are still part of the survey. Budget is not big – maybe add a part to new playground at junior campus?

10. TSAW updates – Ania & Kim

- We are in contact with the doner of the bags for all the teachers. It will likely take place early May.
- End of the year gifts to the teachers depend on what is allowed: farewell snack? Or we could consult with Lara on the customized agendas or notebooks for the teachers?

11. Other Business:

- a. Dominos Family Pizza Night - Margo
Tuesday 30th, H&S gets \$5 from each order.
- b. School photos – Margo
 - April 12 – senior campus outdoor individual session with a photographer Melanie Wand. She may be available for an outdoor session in May for junior campus.
 - How to organize a group shot outdoor for grade 6?

- K-5: photographer group from last year Life Touch has April 19 & 20 available for photos, but only inside. This is not the preferable option.
- c. Jersey donation & workout class (Carolyn MacNeil & Trainor family). At this moment, no school wide activity outside of class, so the idea is rejected.
- d. School Supplies:
- Confirmed: Editions Vaudreuil - Well setup, we go ahead and get the class lists with the deadline to be discussed.
- e. Art Therapy:
- We discussed the possibility of supporting it again from H&S funds. Is partial amount also helpful or only full amount of \$4.000? It will benefit ok 25kids – the same kids as last session, maybe 2-3 kids less, to be confirmed.
 - Is there a possibility of doing outside of school for parents in private lessons?
UPDATE: Meeting held on March 24th 2021
 - Attendance: Ania, Karen, Margo, Anna, Julie, Kristy, Veronica
 - Vote: H&S contributes \$2.000 and Family Support Fund \$2.000. Approve – Julie, Second – Ania

12. Votes & Budget approval:

- Flowers: \$350 to florist, Natasha Melikoff as donation for the 57 bouquets. Motion to approve: Andrea, Kim second.

13. Varia

- Mural for senior campus. Julie in contact with ASHOP, a MTL based group of mural artists, price is high ok\$30-50.000, but there is a possibility to apply for a grant with the city. Dr Kat applied for grants for junior school campus so she may be able to help.

14. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 20.44. Motion to approve: Kim, second Julie.

Next Home & School meeting will be held on April 20th 2021, 7pm on Zoom.