

Westwood School Council Meeting

Thurs. Oct. 6th, 2022 @ 7pm in the library

Present: Mr. Azzopardi, Principal, Ms. Crozier, Teacher representative

Parents/Community members: Cheryl Foxon, Melanie Bainbridge, Jeffrey Deans, Shelly Frith, Erin Copeland, Wayne Thompson, Melissa Thompson, Setarah Masoumbeiki, Laura Regliszyn

7:00pm – Welcome & School Council Formation – Mr. Azzopardi:

New Committee Elected:

Co-Chairs: Erin Copeland & Setarah Masoumbeiki

Treasurer: Melissa Thompson

Secretary: Melanie Bainbridge

7:30pm – Principal Update – Mr. Azzopardi:

School rebalancing:

- this was carefully considered in reinforcing concepts to best address the needs of students
- Combined grades were chosen to address covid gaps
- Students and families involved in the change consulted with the teacher

Buses:

- transportation with First Student is an ongoing concern due to no assigned driver & being an “open route”
- Original scheduled pick up was 4:45pm, concern forwarded to company manager for review
- Transportation is not under HWDSB
- Shortage of drivers leaves 30-40 families waiting for courtesy transportation
- Mr. Azzopardi is in regular communication with the company for updates

Subscribing to Westwood online:

- looking to have more families sign up to receive the latest Westwood news
- Staff is also encouraged to sign up
- The website can easily translate the document into a number of different languages
- Recent reminder sent home re: subscribing but some parents mentioned not receiving this update in their child’s agenda. Mr. Azzopardi will encourage some teachers to have their students write reminders in their agendas

Pizza Day:

- Ms. Ruksenas’ class is leading this year’s pizza days
- Looking for a new company this year
- Cover letter going home to explain that funds collected will fund new ipads for the school
- Parent suggestion to contact many pizza companies and have that class vote on the winning pizza who will be used for the school year
- Parent asked if school cash online will be available for pizza, yes combined with cash

Nutrition Program:

- Always looking for new volunteers
- Motioned and approved by council (Setareh, Erin, all in favour) that \$25/police check will be reimbursed to someone interested in volunteering at Westwood, covered by Parent Engagement grant
- Vulnerable Sector check required to volunteer at school/on field trips
- If this is a financial barrier for someone interested in volunteering, families are encouraged to contact Mr. Azzopardi
- Recommendation to update our Council/Nutrition flyer to distribute to families

Accessibility Update:

- Westwood has not been an accessible school so there are changes coming
- Main entrance will see addition of asphalt ramp for accessibility to primary wing & gym as well as stairs added to 1st level with accessible chair lift to library
- Everyone will be able to access gym, stage and library
- Kindergarten area receiving fully accessible raceway through wood chips & sand area to create barrier free areas with completion date of Oct. 31st 2022, during school hours.

Reimagining Wellness:

- This year's key focus of learning
- Staff focus is building structure and community around students to support their collected identities which make up Westwood School

Halloween at Westwood:

- Information already sent home to families
- Mr. Azzopardi explained well intentional student safety rules around no masks
 - a)hard to recognize a child in a dangerous situation
 - b)hard to identify people of potential concern
- Teachers will lead class activities/parties and will communicate with their families
- Students who do not celebrate are invited to wear their favourite colour/outfit vs. a traditional costume
- No accessories or weapons of any kind are permitted
- Pre-packaged treat sharing in class, with teacher approval, is permitted

New walkie-talkie system:

- 10 new devices were purchased to support quicker more efficient communication between teachers on duty, office, LRT, EA's
- All staff on supervision have a device with them

Swim Team/Cross Country:

- Ms. Groves & Ms. Chan are leading Westwood's swim team
- Ms. Dunford & Ms. Kawamoto are leading Westwood's cross-country team

- Cross-country will take place Oct. 12th at Christie Conservation

Neighbour 2 Neighbour:

- Supporting reading development with Grade 3 students starting soon on stage of gym

8:00pm - Teacher Update – Ms. Crozier:

Clubs:

- “Care Club” - Ms. Lewis & Ms. Crozier’s new club recognizing random acts of kindness, inclusion and being a good friend starting in next 2 weeks
- “Friendship Corner” – Ms. Baric & Ms. Crozier’s club to support students in making meaningful connections with new friends, activities including games, Lego, sand, etc.
- Due to overwhelming demand, starting in November the groups will rotate students

IEP:

- Plans are going out to families Oct. 18th 2022

Picture Day:

- November 14th, 2022

Open House:

- October 20th, 2022 – 5-6:30pm
- Combined open house with Westview to build meaningful connections between schools
- Ms. Groves creating a story board leading the path from Westwood to Westview
- Council to organize first fundraiser for this evening

Westview reading buddies:

- Ms. Ruksenas’s 4/5 class paired with Grade 8 class for reading buddy program
- Working to link with grade 7 students to establish recognized faces during transition to middle school

8:30pm - New Business – Parent Representatives:

Treat Days:

- Council can lead the 10 allotted treat days for the school year which will be discussed throughout the year

Fundraising:

- Fundraising plan due by Oct. 31st, 2022
- Staff feedback says technology is needed with a goal to purchase an additional 24 ipads to support classrooms – approx. \$7K cost.
- Initial discussion around types of fundraisers for this school year inc. School Bizarre, winter social, bake sales, Krispy Kreme, etc. which will be revisited at next council meeting
- First event is Open House, council to serve pizza and beverages to families with proceeds to be outlined in Fundraising plan with Co-Chairs – Erin to lead this event

School Assemblies:

- Council asked Mr. Azzopardi whether school assemblies will resume for the school which was explained that it would depend on the purpose of the assembly
- Communication is open to staff to review opportunities

Next Meetings:

- Thurs. Nov. 3rd, 2022 @ 6pm (*new time moving forward) at Westwood library or virtually
- Thurs. Dec. 1st, 2022 @ 6pm at Westwood library or virtually