

BLUE WILLOW P.S
School Council Minutes – OCTOBER 17TH 2024

School Council Meeting Minutes	Location: BLUE WILLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL – Library
OCT 17 2024	Start Time: 6:10 p.m End Time: 8:10pm
	In Person and Virtual

In Attendance

parent/guardian/ family Members: (Voting Members)	parent/guardian/ family Members: (Non Voting Members)	Student Member(s)	Administration/Staff Members	Regrets	Other Attendees
1. Jag Nebula (Co-Chair) 2. Andrea Trifunovic (Co-Chair) 3. Elisha Bessette (Pisano) (Secretary) 4. Amy Chai (Treasurer) 5. Lisa Lai 6. Amanda Galati Hunte 7. Tammesha Cox (Online) 8. Weronika Drab 9. Elif Topyurek 10. Essi Strazimiri 11. Tavia Allen 12. Tiziana Guido	13. Mei Feng Li 14. Margarita Koja 15. Lori Son 16. Nargess Sulfani 17. Savenko Naiazia 18. Taua Auen 19. Parina Farzaneh (Online) 20. Aida (Online) 21. Afrooz (Online) 22. Nia (Online) 23. Vivek Online)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Corey Birnbaum (Principal) ● Ms. Deborah Abel (Vice Principal) ● Regrets Ms Setton is absent for the meeting. 		Name (if applicable)

	Agenda Items	Discussion and Action Items
1.	Call to Order & Welcome	The meeting was called to order at 6.10 pm by Jag Jag went over the norms, and welcomed everyone. General focus for the year – Student achievement; Health and well-being; Human rights and inclusive education
2.	Land Acknowledgement	Mrs. Abel shared a teachers' efforts in education from the staff meeting regarding connecting to identities & importance of our names to our heritage. Mrs. Abel delivered the Land Acknowledgement. 2 versions of the Land Acknowledgement are used at the school.
3.	Approval of Agenda	The agenda was approved as written and would be placed on the school website.

5.	ADMIN TEAM REPORT	<p>Mr. Birnbaum & Mrs. Abel</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>School happenings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● National Day for Truth and Reconciliation ● Monthly Health and Safety School Inspection ● Caring and Safe Schools Assembly ● New Turkish Families welcome orientation ● Curriculum Night ● Intermediate Boys and Girls Volleyball Tournament ● Junior and Intermediate Cross Country ● Grade 8 - Team building at Cold Creek : <i>Question asked re- overnights for grade 8 team building and trips. Answer was that the school is moving away from it.</i> ● IEPs go home ● Student Leadership group – <i>have decided to put on a Fall Dance – Religious accommodations and opportunities to be inclusive. Assistance was offered to help pull off their vision. Totally student generated. Question is what grades are able to attend; all in groups.</i> ● Kindergarten outdoor learning day ● Yearbook Committee: <i>is getting started – Suggestions/ School Take Away made to include more photos of the classroom.</i> ● Junior Robotics club (in planning phase) – <i>two teams entered in a competition. Logistics on team selection in grade 6 this year. Later years to grow from this; primary is in the works. Materials are needed first. Two spike prime kits have been ordered, and another on the way, then looking to build a primary program kit. Idea is to build sustainability. Timelines and schedule are not yet set. Exposure is a top priority. Brick sets have also been ordered for basic building.</i> <p>Question #1 was asked if spots in the primary group would be limited. Answer: Not expected to be, but perhaps a rotational basis to ensure everyone can get a chance to work with</p>
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it. Games club had a sign up sheet that was effective, and they are anticipating high volume participation.

Question #2– who pays for these kits? Answer: *Operational budget – registration fees, materials and resources. And school generated funds. If the demand is there, school council will be advised if more funding is needed.*

- Staff meeting - focus on MLL updates, special education, compliance training, administrative updates related to progress reports, STEAM inventory
- Public Performance Licence: Looking into a public performance license for movies and content for proceeding with a movie night. Which we are – covered by our operational budget.
- Fall Food Drive: **Question: if families at our school are in need something can we share the food with them or does it all go to the food bank? Answer was that yes they can with confidentiality.**
- Co-planning with Equity and Inclusive Education consultant: *working toward more inclusive lessons to help students see themselves in the lessons. Buddy system between classes and staff to further coach and develop.*
- Welcome University teaching candidates and High School Co-Op students: *Future Teachers are coming in to assist our teachers. They will plan, assess, teach and learn in collaboration with each teacher partner. Schedules are varied.*
- Discussion around screen time – purposeful and communicated, with transparency and age appropriate subject matter and curriculum connections. Finding a balance between resources and media available

Upcoming Events

- STEP data tracking
- Wed. Oct 30: Grade 7 Immunizations (York Region Public Health): *Teachers support this, but sometimes parents do come in if need be, consent is required.*
- Thurs. Oct 31: Fall Dance
 - The event includes non-dance related opportunities to ensure that we are supportive of students who have religious accommodations.
 - All classes k-8 participating
- Wed. Nov. 6: Take our Kids to Work (for students currently in grade 9). Grade 8's to High School Day
- Thurs. Nov. 7: Good News Assembly (certificates available in the office)
 - Grades K-3 Assembly beginning at 8:45am
 - Grades 4-8 Assembly beginning at 10:45am
 - *Feedback from staff – refocusing k-3 are leading assembly to that group only*
 - *And 4-8 to the 4-8s only*
 - *Bringing in the learning skills in addition to the BLUE initiatives*
- Thurs. Nov. 7: Intermediate Boys Volleyball Tournament (all day)
- Fri. Nov. 8: Progress reports will begin to be distributed electronically (continued until November 13)
- Fri. Nov. 8: Intermediate Girls Volleyball Regional Tournament
- Mid November: Book Fair: *Browsing schedule – preview and then bring the flyer home. To come in twice. The more books bought from the book fair, the bigger the credit from scholastic.*

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Question asked – who does the title selection and can things be streamlined to more substantial titles? The answer was yes the school sees it all first. ○ Nov 14 (evening) and Nov 15 (morning): Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences: <i>day of significance may affect the times for parent teacher interviews. Parents will be notified, and alternate times arranged.</i> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted black;"/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Independent Service Providers – shared that ISP approved vendors has not yet been released ● Classroom Communication – classroom communication comes in multiple formats – newsletters/posts/work sent home. If parents/guardians have questions, they should reach out to their child’s teachers ● Volunteer opportunities update – shared that a survey has gone out to families with school volunteer opportunities and we will be using that data to support school initiatives: <i>survey to go out before we meet again, for time available and types of duties, and what is required for VSS and privacy screenings. Question – the system in place that is generated, can it start sooner next year once established? YES, and it will evolve.</i> ● Question for VSS – do you need that for each year? Yes. But only for times you may be alone with the children. More flexibility as of recent this past year, a valid VSS from an alternative location such as a pre-school/day care in York Region would be accepted. ● School Council Email <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Passwords re-set ○ New login information arriving soon School council email – <i>coming soon – question why.... They needed to get through their elections.</i> ● Examples of the comprehensive math program (open ended questions) were provided
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		<p>highlighting primary/junior and intermediate examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fundraising priorities were reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student Achievement/Human Rights and Inclusive Education: ○ Literacy ○ Identity affirming levelled readers, dual language texts, high interest low vocab texts ○ Enhancing the learning commons ○ Long Term Project - Learning Commons ○ Numeracy ○ Building supply of math manipulatives in each classroom ○ STEAM and robotics opportunities ○ Engagement ○ Cost Sharing- Chromebook Focus ○ Enhanced A/V System ○ Foyer TV Display for announcements and school events <p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mental Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Early years - sensory materials to promote self-regulation; cooperative games ○ Recess equipment ○ Long Term Project: Kindergarten Play Area (Activities to promote gross motor development, opportunities to write, imaginative play, outdoor exploration) ○ Long Term Project: Student/Family Engagement Events <p>Human Rights and Inclusive Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Equity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Experiential learning opportunities for all students ○ Accessibility for all <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Field Trip Subsidy: In-class experience- \$250 per class; or Off-Site Trip- \$300 per class ○ Tournament Fees
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FUNDRAISING PRIORITIES

- Literacy:
 - Identify affirming levelled readers, dual language texts, high interest low vocab texts
 - Enhancing the learning commons
 - Long Term Project: Learning Commons
- Numeracy:
 - Building supply of math manipulatives in each classroom
 - STEAM and robotics opportunities
- Engagement:
 - Cost Sharing- Chromebook Focus
 - Enhanced A/V System
 - Foyer TV Display for announcements and school events

- Learning commons conversion (long term goal) modernize, more tech, more collaborative space.
- Field trip subsidy – is a wish list. School council can help.

Question #1 – how much do we want to raise for all of this (chromebooks, field trip subsidy, library remodel?) - \$25,000 goal. Funds will be allocated from school generated funds. Want to see where we align to divert funding to.

Question #2 – Recess Equip – what is it?

- Mesh bags with various athletic equipment, and the staff drive the focus for what goes in to the bags. Maybe one bag per two classes.
 - Long term plan with K is long term exploration outside.

Question #3 – what happens when the items are taken away – question will be raised so we can prevent that happening again in future

6.	Treasurer's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive math program was exemplified via slides to illustrate how the learning diversity would happen. <p>Question #1– are kids being prepared for the grade 9 curriculum demands? Yes, the grade 8 teachers have access to the grade 9 curriculums.</p> <p>Question #2 Does the school put out a summer math booklet? several parents in attendance provided suggestions to support summer learning. It was shared that interactive tools are important. The school does not provide a summer math booklet. Next steps for home are provided on the report card.</p> <p>Corey shared examples from Math Up and for all the grades. Question – is it ok to get a student rep here.</p> <p>.....</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TREASURER REPORT - AMY PRESENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Last year fell short of goal by \$3200 - Current revenue streams include: Fresh from farm, kernels, hot lunch so far. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FFF – Net \$520 - Kernels – Net to Date \$321 - Hot Lunch – Net to Date \$235 - Total Net to Date <u>\$1076</u> <p>No expenses to date; balance is \$1076</p>
7.	Sub Committees Reports & upcoming Votes	<p>Inquiry on behalf of amazon – we need to figure out what they can and cannot get approval for. Can it be DONATED to the school. Conflict of interest etc.</p> <p>* All information regarding fundraising orders volumes should go through 1 personnel on School Council, the Treasurer Amy. Amy will share net profit details to Anita.</p>

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HOT LUNCH REPORT - ESSI AND ANDREA

- Essi will be taking over the hot lunches, Andrea will support as needed moving forward
- New program is week by week commitment, flexible, and can change your order as needed. Changes must occur by noon on the Sunday before the next week to be effective.
- Cancellations will give you a credit on the account. If you have a balance at the end of the year you must contact them to get a refund. Not the school
- We need lunch help to assist with lunch mix ups and there is going to be a sign up sheet to help out as needed.
- Some parents want another vendor added; Punjabi nearby is being investigated. But volunteers are needed to support it. Manager meeting is happening next week to explore it, with the PPE and checklist for what is required for healthy options from the board. Request to add extras on the side. Will NOT go through Lunchbox at this time nor were they part of Lunchbox program. We will need support requests to go out. It was mentioned that no extra day was agreed to be added, HOWEVER, we want the information to be ready if there is a demand, and we find the support to manage it.
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- Donation letter went out to Chapters head office, for donations to give away books, they have a program and it is on a timeline, Essi is going to approach and learn more. Fortinos as well has been approached for donations. Essi has asked for more places to reach out for donations; reminder to speak to Corey first before approaching any businesses so that there is no overlap with the asks. Email is being sent to Corey to start a reach out list and ensure we don't ask again.

Community Engagement: B-WICKI – Elisha, Jag

Speaker Paul Davis could present to students in school - Late November for in school and then a follow up in march or April

	<p>Vote on: \$250 needed for Winter Fun Night Dec. 12th Gr. K-5 – vote is put on hold for later date if needed. A parent on Council who works at Amazon has access to quarterly financial donations that could be used for the Winter Fun Night. Vote on: Movie night Jan 30, 2025 Gr. 6-8 – Voted YES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fundraising – Amanda, Lisa</p> <p>Volunteers needed for the distribution of the bushels</p> <p>VOTING:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Proceed with Kernels fundraising: Oct 14-22- YES 2.) Big Box of Cards Nov 1-22nd YES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sample cards to be sent home with kids: The challenges of fundraising in this school is regarding increasing participation. We are trying to broaden the scope and variety of the offerings. It is suggested to use more paper advertising for the fundraising. Eg Box of Cards are sending home physical sample cards. <p style="text-align: center;">Pro Grant and ISP Committee – Jag</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No movement as of yet <p style="text-align: center;">Ventilation Committee – Eli</p> <p>When covid hit, 450 million allocated to HVAC and window replacement in 2021. Our school has mechanical ventilation – as assessed. Because of this, the only places that SHOULD have the filters, are the kindergarten classrooms, and the portables.</p> <p>16 hepa filters. Higher grade filters should be installed but we don't have access to confirm; the school needs to check. Caretaking replaces the filters. They MUST be changed, if filters are not replaced then they may not be working to full capability. We would like to know the status of the filter changes. The filters also need to be started 2 hours before the start of the school day.</p>
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		<p>So our HVAC system is newer, which means not every classroom will have the filters. Per Corey - Caretaking staff have a log sheet that is inspected and Corey will check in on the changes of the ventilation filters.</p> <p>AC – More York Region high schools are allocated with AC because they usually have summer programs. LeClub is not a loophole because it is their choice to operate here or not, as a 3rd party. It's a policy issue, not an effort issue.</p> <p>Question was asked how to fundraise for ac in the upper level, and the short answer is we cannot because we are not allowed to have them due to operating costs. Advocacy is paramount, and watching for policy changes to come about through the board. Getting others schools up to par has been the board focus.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fun Fair Committee – Weronika & Jag</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caterer is decided. Minimum is 300 orders. Ice cream truck, pay as you go activities, or tickets purchased beforehand. <p>Question: can we apply for a lottery license, for a 50/50 draw? Yes we could apply. Not sure if we will proceed with application TBC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer hours from high school students - Carnival games and face painting, photo booth, police and fire dept. - Prize table – like at an arcade – something they can select that are small. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Smile Makers for massive orders. o Tiered prizes
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8	Other Business (as required)	- All numbers must go to the treasurer for transparency. -
8.	Meeting Adjournment	
		Jag noted there was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Future Meeting Dates:

- November 21, 2024
- February 27, 2025
- May 22, 2025