

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School Council meeting

Date: November 25, 2021, 6:30pm - 8:30 pm

Format: Virtual via Google Meet

Attendances: Deborah Joyce, Wayne Spencer, Anne Hung, Diana Yau, Dorothy Tong, Dionne Wu, Lara Kheir, Angelica Antonakis and a few uncaptured participants

Land acknowledgement and welcome - Vice Principal Wayne Spencer

SWL Voice - Mme. Lara Kheir

- It was established last year online. One of the goals of SWL voice is to establish an inclusive space for students from grade 6 to grade 8 where they can talk about social justice issues, and learn how to take appropriate action. A platform where they can explore their passion without too much of their teachers' or parents' interference. The role for the teacher facilitator is to be the bridge and guide them ways to achieve their passion, and not to take control.
- This year, the students have already met a few times since October and have identified their passions. The meetings were carried out in a respectful way with COVID safety in mind. Google forms were created and sent to students seeking their input on what really interested them in the context of social justice issues. 4 subgroups formed: Climate change, Poverty and Food insecurity, 2SLGBTQ+, and Racism. Currently, there are 63 students in the SWL voice. They will be encouraged to select a subgroup where their passion lies,

Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy Books - Mme Antonakis

- SWL has purchased a collection of CRRP books, both in English and French.
- These CRRP books will give teachers and parents many opportunities to have brave conversations in the classroom, and at home regarding various social identities and the oppression experienced by some based on who they are.
- A team of 12 teachers from most grades is creating lesson plans which will serve as a toolkit for other books that teachers will use in the future. Eg. Teachers can use the CRRP books as the reading material to accomplish the reading strategy.

School Update - Vice Principal Wayne Spencer

- **Volleyball skills training**
 - Ongoing and happening during morning recess for intermediate grades (7 & 8) students
- **Picture Day**
 - Schedule on Dec 3, 2021 for both in person and remote learners
 - Remote students will be slotted according to their last name. The administrators will be outside welcoming them.
 - Photographers and students will be wearing masks right up to the moment their pictures are taken.
- **Virtual assembly**
 - SWL's Got Talent assembly is scheduled on Nov 26, 2021. Students will be sharing their talent with the school.
- **Reading Club grade 4**
- **Dance club grade 3**
- **Literacy club grade 3 and 4**
 - The above clubs are possible because of student initiatives and teachers supports
- **Grade 8**
 - Yearbook is undergoing
 - Graduation ceremony is scheduled to be on Jun 29, 2022 at PETHS Gym.
 - The board has not confirmed whether in-person ceremonies will be allowed, but the format will definitely be different from previous years. We anticipate that no food will be served, nor will a dance be possible. For this reason, SWL did not book an outside venue where a money deposit is needed
 - Traditionally, the grad committee is composed of staff only, but depending on how this year's grad works out, it may open for parents to join the committee too.
- **20 Chromebooks received from the Board**

- **Weekly challenges**
 - Questions will be posted and students have a few days to come up with the answer. Those with the correct answer will enter into a draw for a prize.
- **SWL currently has under 60 remote students from over 100 at the beginning of the school year**
 - All the COVID safety protocols from last year are still in place for this year such as physical distancing, split recess etc.
- **Anti-Oppression ... Our focus for the year**
 - One of the goals is to introduce the Director's Action Plan on Champion Equity and Inclusivity to students, and think of ways to dismantle oppressive practices.
 - A parent shared an incident from a grade 8 class. The students decorated their classroom door with a Christmas tree, but were later told to have it taken down because the office was afraid that it would marginalize those who do not celebrate Christmas. The students were asked to take down all the ornaments and the star from the tree, and only call the tree an evergreen tree. The parent expressed concern that this action does not align with inclusivity, and encouraged the school to celebrate all cultures, but the administrators response was because Christmas is a representation of dominant culture, and was the only celebration recognized visually on the door they didn't want to further emphasize it.
- **Fundraising Plan - Principal Deborah Joyce**
 - Previous amount in School Generated Funds: \$4689.72
 - Amount raised through Donate Now Button thus far: \$995.00
 - There is not a wish list from staff this year.
 - School board has given Chromebooks to SWL this year.
 - Proposed Expenditures items:
 - Float \$1000
 - Grad \$ 500
 - Indigenous education (in Jan 2022) \$1300
 - Outdoor classroom \$1000
 - To re-paint the outdoor yard games

- **PRO grant - Vice Principal Wayne Spencer and Dionne Wu**
 - Stand for Parents reaching out grants - to help parents make good schools great!
 - \$800 this year, \$500 last year
 - Deadline for application is on December 14
 - Projects must meet certain criterias in order for the grant to be approved
 - It must demonstrate a commitment to respecting the role of parents and families in students' educational experiences by working with parents and families or seeking parent input on how schools can improve in at least one of the following areas:
 - Addressing social inclusion and racism
 - Creating a safe and welcoming environment
 - Demonstrating respect for parents as valued partners within the education system regarding decisions about their child's education.
 - Enhancing communication with teachers
 - Informing parents about the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum and supporting resources
 - Mme Joyce has reached out to two SWL neighbouring schools and they are keen on doing this together. Even if the three schools have chosen different themes, parents from the three schools can still have an option to attend the one that suits them.
 - Mme Joyce will communicate further with the other schools on their topic and work with Dionne Wu and Diana Yau on the application
 - Interested topics include:
 - Music - introducing the students and parent with the cultural diversity of music, or provide some sort of virtual instruction etc
 - Cooking
- **De-streaming video from Board - postponed for next meeting**
- **School Council Forum - Dionne Wu**

- Attended the PRO grant information session, and learned that FUN is the key component for a successful event.
- **Help wanted - School Lunch Assistant - Principal Deborah Joyce**
- School is looking for a school lunch assistant. Those who are interested can contact the office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.