

## Willowbrook Public School Council Meeting

**Date:** Thursday January 13, 2022

**Time:** 7:00 pm, Google Meet

**Attendees:** Cathie Glionna, David Krueger, Alex Pancharovski, June Lee, Maisie Cao, Mahkameh Kashani, Naomi Go, Sepideh Mahani, Amanda Ackerman, Amitis Fallah Amirshahi, Pooneh Fatehi

### Motions

- Approval of Oct 28, 2021 minutes
  - no concerns raised
  - David made motion to approve; all in favour, no abstentions
  - ❖ Motion passed

### Treasurer's Report

- 1 expense to note thus far: Forest of Reading program for \$375
- \$8166.10 in account; hold back \$5000.00
- applied for PRO grant; waiting to hear back → maximum grant is \$800

### Administrative Team Report

#### School Operations

- new year in a bit of an unknown state, with students moving online. Returning to face-to-face on Monday, January 17
  - masking requirements are now mandatory for kindergarten-G8; only just one or two kindergarten students who aren't regular mask wearers
- screening tool has been updated, as well as process for parents to log that their students have passed screening for K-6
  - for 7-8 students, onus is still on family to do screening, but for older students there is a different confirmation process (parents just need to verify students have passed screening)
  - this means more of a reliance on all families to complete the screening tool, → keep kids at home and isolate if needed to build trust in community
- change requests are being accepted; 17 students moving from in person to remote (3 students for remainder of school year; others will be moving for shorter periods)
  - threshold marker of 30% of a class before it is dismissed; still working through what that means and looks like
- staff for the most part did a super job at getting ready to go online
- Covid has also affected school operationally, in terms of covering positions, but have a good roster of occasional teachers that the school relies on (some scrambling in the am in Nov and Dec)
  - good safety practices have been in place since the spring
  - Monday will be review of safety measures and cohorting with students
  - staff did receive n95 masks, and cloth masks from the board, which can be distributed as well
- Alex met with staff, and major stress communicated from families is kids were feeling stressed, unsure
  - asked staff to make focus connections, community-building in classes and they've done a good job with this

- Alex started getting emails from families who have been in close contact with or who have tested positive starting on Dec 18
- staff and support staff's experience with parents and community thus far has been super supportive with changes, helping staff out along the way
- school sports won't continue: volleyball and basketball are considered high-contact sports, and will be on pause

### School Calendar

- Friday, January 14 is PA Day; gives staff opportunity to work on report cards; PD is also being offered
- Alex sent Stornoway council Willowbrook council contacts in light of possible Sara Westbrook event; Stornoway interested in possibly running a joint event
  - 63 families currently at Stornoway
  - Topics that would be covered align with the feedback Amanda received from parent poll on workshops (*see Community Online Events below*)
- Motivational and mental health speaker Hello Hope ([www.hellohope.ca](http://www.hellohope.ca)) booked for junior and intermediate students January 28
  - also has additional class for junior classes (Feb 3) and an afternoon session for (K-3) on Feb 3; will repeat sessions (2 sessions per grade group)
  - speaker has been featured on CP24 and worked in TDSB, Peel, and Durham
  - Alex: to check if Hello Hope has a parent workshop available
- G8 grad photos booked for Jan 31, but subject to change
- Feb 1 is Lunar New Year
  - Kindergarten dragon parade requests, but will have to confirm
- Report cards: distributed starting Feb 22, accessed through student's GAPPS account
  - rolled out centrally and alphabetically so Willowbrook most likely to receive reports at the end of the week
- Black History Month: [Saidat Show](#), an outside vendor providing teachers and classes with activities about Black excellence, reached out to Alex, with new resources
  - Alex asked her to include parent piece for distribution
  - will have culminating assembly taking place at end of Feb for Black History Month

### Willowbrook 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

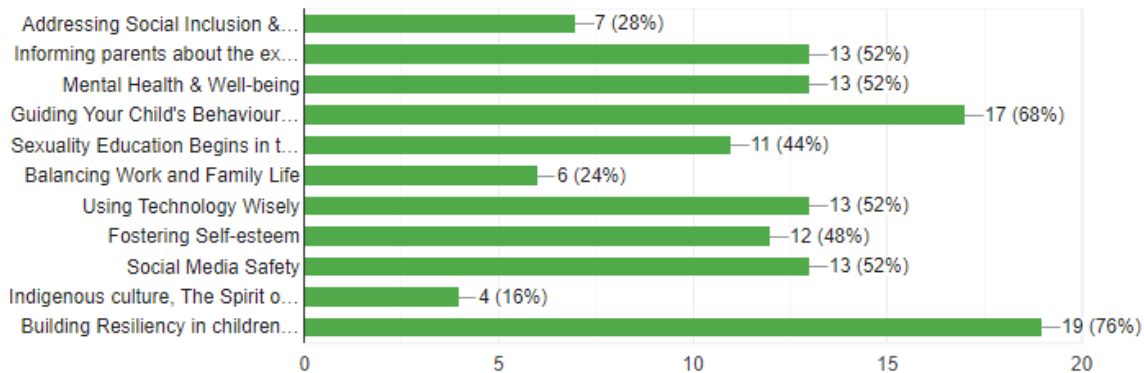
- 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary (Dec 17, 1981) took place before winter break; all classes and staff put together slideshow of activities on that day
  - have some grant funds to plan trees along the Junior area
  - tree planting planned for May, and hoping to have a bigger outdoor community celebration if restrictions are eased
  - participation from council for celebration would be great
- great community lineage in Willowbrook; kids of former students now attend

### **Community Online Events**

- Amanda and Naomi applied for PRO grant, hope to be successful in application
  - sent out a Google form parent poll for guidance on what parents wanted to see/attend
  - parents were looking for wellbeing and resiliency in poll results (see below for English results; Farsi and Chinese results were lower in numbered but followed same trends)

Check off any of the following workshops you would be interested in

25 responses



- Amanda followed up with [Sara Westbrook](#)
  - price is \$575 + tax for parent session; 2 school workshops is \$720 + HST
  - for family session, Sara's experience hasn't been great when it's parents + kids since parents' focus is pulled away
  - council suggested workshops in school for students; parent workshop in the evening (45 min for K-3; 1 hr for G4-8; 1 hr for parents in the evening)
  - want an interactive session; will give parents extra 20 mins for parents to surface questions/examples
  - focuses on building social and emotional wellbeing first as foundation to resiliency
  - council might want to look more in depth; if student portion is explored, timetables at Stornaway and WB are the same
    - **Amanda: reach out to Stornaway to gauge interest and ask Sara if there is a cap for participants (usually budget breakdown is 25% to Stornaway and 75% to WB)**
    - **Council members: email any questions about the workshop to Amanda by next Friday**
    - **Alex: to ask staff for workshop ideas/contacts**
- may want to wait for PRO grant funds to come through to explore more options
- Electric Moon closing down operations
  - **Alex: send June Carrie's email to see if she is available to do an event**
- Maisie sent David flyers for online events
  - cooking event, STEAM night, Fire and Ice night were last year's online events
- Council: decide on workshop first to give longer lead time to plan cooking/fun event
  - **David: to contact former vendors about program availability and pricing**

### Wrap Up and General Questions/Comments

- Question raised about the school's approach to French education
  - Alex will take offline since not a specific council issue
- Question raised about mask procurement
  - **Alex: to direct Pooneh to board procurement contact re: mask purchases**

**Next meeting:** March 3, 2022