

Westpark Governing Board Meeting
Minutes
April 16th, 2024

Attendance: Phil Pinsky (chair), Deppy Papandreou, Diana Martire (principal), Alaina Charzan, M.A. Davoli, Kelly Gurevitch, Mark Kashetsky, Giulia Carosielli (secretary), Yolanda Galvez (online), Margaret Gogoris, Sylvie Lepage (online), Alia Odubayo, Mark Wetering, Stuart Becker (online), Megan Van der Sluys, Mary Lawrence, Ashley Smolar, Craig Berger (commissioner)

Regrets: Kenny Mandel, Tiffany Uman

228.0 Greetings and Land Acknowledgement

228.1 Verification of quorum: Quorum established

228.2 Appointment of a Secretary: Mme C. has volunteered.

228.3 Approval of the agenda: 1) M.A. 2) Ashley Approved unanimously

228.4 Approval of meeting notes March 19, 2024

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 19th, 2024 with the corrections made (syntax, spelling, name omissions) proposed by Kelly, seconded by Mary. Approved unanimously

228.5 Correspondence: None to report this month.

228.6 Public Question Period: no questions

228.7 Business Arising

228.7.1 School grounds renovation update: A few more finishing touches needed to complete last summer's school yard renovations. Railings have been added, and looking forward to seeing the school ground painted (weather permitting). Will soon be ready to add new picnic tables as well as basketball nets. New project proposal was brought forth which would include revamping the walkway.

228.7.2 K Orientation: Looking to implement the same format as in the past, but at a different time. The new kindergarten orientation will now take place after school (and not during the school day). Three (3) sessions will be offered (3-4, 4-5, 5-6) on Thursday, May, 30, 2024.

228.7.3 Addition of hard copy student agendas: Student agendas (paper) are already being used in grade 3. Looking to re-introduce the agenda in grades 4 and 5 as a means to help students get better organized (help them develop their own organizational skills). More onus on the student rather than the parent.

228.8 New Business:

228.8.1- 2024-25 School Organization Plan: Looking to the 2024-2025 school year with student registrations and staffing. Some classes are at full capacity.

Question: Can there be a split class? The Principal is allocated a certain number of teachers with regards to the number of students. Admin can distribute classes based on the whole school picture. Thus far, we are looking at 26 homerooms (classes). Class composition can also fluctuate based on new student registrations and student codes and teacher allocation. Staffing will be finalized at the end of May.

Question: What is happening with students who are "out of zone"? For now, the board/school is not taking any transfers. Priority/registration is given first to siblings, then to neighborhood children, and finally it will be opened up to out of zone transfers. There is no timeline as to when the board will open up the transfer requests.

Question: Will there be a K-4 program at Westpark? The school board's goal is to eventually have a K-4 program in all its schools. Right now, there is no mention of having one at Westpark.

228.8.2- 2024-25 Youth School Calendar: The new school calendar was presented to GB. It includes all the school level ped days, the term dates, report card distribution dates and parent teacher interviews.

228.8.3- New Renovation Project: New summer project is slated to begin on time. All the heating and ventilation systems will be updated. This means the school will not host a summer camp during the summer due to the renovations.

228.7.4 School survey results - UPDATE: Informed by the school board that the information gathered from the survey is not reliable (glitch in the system that has skewed the results). Though the data collected was not accurate, some info was still valuable and important.

228.8 Service Contracts: None to report

228.9 Fundraisers, School Activities & Field Trips

228.9.1 Kindness Day the last Wednesday of each month: A great way to keep kindness on the students' minds by wearing PINK on the last Wednesday of each month. Ms Sarah (animator) has been promoting kindness with her weekly visits and activities to each classroom.

228.9.2 Fabrik field trip: Grade 3 students, travel by bus to science museum. There is no cost to the trip as it was covered by a grant. Teachers supervising with parent volunteers.

228.9.3 Talent Show Thursday June 6th, 2024: Practice run will take place during the day with the school. Parents/family will be invited at night. No entrance fee for parents, but a suggestion was made to use the Talent Show as a way to help fundraise and support our local food bank community. Families will be encouraged to bring a canned good to the talent show.

228.9.4 End of Year Carnival "Fun in the Sun": Activities (pool day, bouncy castles/games, activity center, food station) will be planned for all students from K to 6. Event will be partially funded by H&S donations as well as grant money. Request made to charge students \$5 each to help cover the remainder of the cost. Taking place June 18 - June 20.

228.9.5 C.A.A Initiative: Project spearheaded by CAA which helps train students in grade 4 & 5 to be safety patrollers. Students are excited to take part and CAA and the police will be on site everyday to ensure students are prepared to take on this challenge in the drop-off zone (front of the school). Looking to start the week on April 29.

228.9.6 Grade 6 Graduation Trip: Leaving at 7:30 am, students are heading to Ottawa on a day filled with fun-packed activities. Students are to bring their lunch. Healthy snacks will be provided and supper will take place in Ottawa. The trip was covered with the money raised from this year's grad fundraisers. Cost is \$70/ student. Up to \$100 has been allocated/raised per student thanks to this year's fundraising efforts.

Motion to approve the above field trips & fundraisers: 1) Deppy 2) Alaina approved unanimously

228.9.7 Art Show update: School is excited for the art show which is taking place May 14, 15, 16 (invites coming soon). Though the fundraising aspect of the art show has already been approved by GB, teachers wanted to know if they can also send out an email to the community asking them for raffle prizes. *Yes, once a fundraiser has been approved, the community can be approached, though we might not get the results we want.* An email can be sent out so that conversations can start within the parent community. Also, some parents and teachers have suggested having a "jar of donations" for any extra monetary donations (which has proved successful with other school events in the past).

Motion to approve the donations jar: 1) Deppy 2) Mary approved unanimously

228.9.8 Earth Day Activities: School wide initiative to reduce the amount of garbage we have in the building in honour of Earth Day! The garbage cans are overflowing.

Proposal & Motion to go one week garbage-free. 1) Diana 2) Kelly approved unanimously

228.10 Reports

228.10.1 Principal

Tubing weather cooperated the first day following the spring break, with the shift in weather this previously canceled activity was enjoyed by those who attended, great conditions were reported.

Parent/teacher conferences this month took place (by teacher invitation), where a hybrid model was followed with few challenges. This format can be used again in the future.

Student re-registration has been completed with some decline in student enrolment which has resulted in one less homeroom as indicated in our initial school organization plan. The school board is full into staffing where schools are allocated posts, teachers acknowledge their placement on seniority lists, tenure staff have submitted LOAs and retirements, school admin placements for the new school year are considered, to discuss possibilities for the new school year.

Staff have met together a few times to collaborate on the new Westpark Education Plan and assess our ABAV plan, which is planned to be completed and presented to the school council and Governing Board in May.

228.10.2 Teacher representative (Presented by Deppy): Students are getting ready for the upcoming art show by creating lots of amazing art! Students are also excited to be in the Talent show. There is an upcoming field trip in Music for grades 4 & 5. Grade 4 students had fun baking bread like they did in Nouvelle France in the 1700s. Cabane a Sucre was phenomenal! Yummy maple syrup and line-dancing. An artist came by in Grade 5 who encouraged students to create their very own comic strips. Lots of intramural sports in grades 3, 4, 5, and 6 happening in the gym! The Tchoukball tournament was held at PCHS. The Ks had fun with the science dome. Grade 1s will be off to a Climb & Climb field.

228.10.3 Daycare: SEED staff appreciation week taking place in May. Daycare registrations will soon begin (Mid-May). Last year, Mosaic (online registration) was open for 1 month as opposed to 2 weeks. Ample time for parents to sign-up. Early registration also helps with securing staffing. Registration will also be open in August. The new K registrations will take place in person (on paper). Daycare was on the receiving end of an entrepreneur grant as well as a grant to help create movies (short film animation). Staff and students are excited to try out the new cameras that have been purchased.

228.10.4 Home & School: The English Book Fair is going really well. Already hitting the target of getting 50% back Scholastic credits for future use. The Socks fundraiser started last week and 95 pairs have been sold so far. Reminders will be sent to parents. H&S had their meeting last week. Kelly is helping to organize the books before she leaves in June. A new chair will be needed. Elections will take place on Tuesday, May 14, before the school year ends so Kelly can help the new chair. ANYONE who is passionate and interested to be chair can step forward and should attend the election meeting in May. There will be 3 positions up for grabs.

To help H&S start the year off on the right foot, Kelly is motioning to approve the following fundraisers for the 2024-2025 school year:

- **Chocolate Fundraiser:** Better to start in September, makes the most money. The Laura Secord chocolate bars will sell at \$5 each (\$100/box). This is a great fundraiser that helps to bring in a lot of money.
- **Pizza Lunch:** We do not anticipate a huge increase. Solid fundraiser.
- **TCBY:** is a GRAD fundraiser with all monies raised going towards helping defray the grad costs.
- **School Kits:** pre-assembled school supplies readily available for parents.
- **Jadon Westpark apparel:** Westpark uniform colours & logo
- **Fundscrip:** good to have, brings in some money
- **Loveable labels** (20% goes back to the school)
- **Shark t-shirts** in September
- **French Book Fair** (Fall)
- **English Book Fair** (Spring)

Motion to approve all the main school fundraisers listed above for the 2024-2025 school year.

1) Kelly 2) Mark approved unanimously

228.10.5 Parent Representative: no meeting, no report

228.10.6 Commissioner (Craig Berger): As we head towards the end of the year, look for staffing changes in Admin. A lot of mov't due to sick leaves. Next meeting will be May 6, 2024. Elections are slated to take place in November with Rosemary Murphy as the Returning Elections Officer.

228.10.7 Community Representative: no rep, no report

228.11 Public Question Period: Concern brought forward re the placement of the new garbage bin and enclosure that has caused a few problems with the adjacent neighbors (infestation of animals are wreaking havoc at night!) Will work on ways to help the situation, but school has limited options as to where the garbage bin & enclosure can be placed (city restrictions). The school is producing a lot of garbage that makes it difficult for the bin to close. Hoping Earth Day initiative can reduce and redirect the amount of garbage being thrown out.

228.12 Next Meeting Date Tuesday May 21st, 2024

228.13 Adjourn Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm