

**Wakefield Elementary School
Governing Board Meeting Minutes**

Feb 11, 2015

5:30pm

Present:

Julie Greig - School Principal
Sylvie Pouloitte – Teacher Rep
Miriam Serré- Teacher Rep
Dayna Vadneau – Secretary

Colleen Gifford – Daycare Rep
Erin Connell – Chair
Elizabeth Logue – PPO Rep
Sharon Morrison – Staff Rep

Lisa Semenoff – Parent Committee Rep
Lise Gagne – Teacher Rep
Martin Fournel - Parent

Absent:

Carrie Hogan- Community Rep

Guests:

Pierre Dionne, School Commissionner
Franziska Heinze, parent

***** Wakefield Elementary School: Reaching for the Stars *****

#	Item	Discussion	Action
Proceedings			
1	Adoption of Agenda	<i>Motion to approve agenda as circulated: Lisa. Seconded: Sylvie. All in favour. Carried.</i>	
1	Approval of Minutes	<i>Motion to approve minutes: Colleen. Seconded: Sharron. All in favour. Carried.</i>	
2	Approval of electronic votes	<p><i>Motion to approve electronic votes: Colleen. Seconded: Miriam. All in favour. Carried.</i></p> <p>1) To approve the chili cook-off and dance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - February 20 - Up to \$200 may be required in advance for costs - Tickets: \$7 for kids and \$12 for adults (dinner & dance); \$3 per person for dance only <p>2) To approve the cookbook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launch in March - Up to \$500 may be required in advance for printing and binding costs - First print-run: 200 copies - Sell for \$10 each 	
Voice of the public			
2	Voice of the public	Franziska Heinze presented to the board her thoughts and concerns about turning on the WIFI in the school, mainly around the potential health effects for children. She pointed to some countries, like Germany, that are opting for wired solutions, and she would be pleased to see WES follow this trend. She also inquired on the process by which the Governing Board	

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		<p>would be discussing and voting on the activation of WiFi.</p> <p>Julie responded that the discussion tonight was in follow-up to discussions that commenced a year ago. At that time, a presentation was made to the Governing Board on WiFi by the Western Quebec School Board and the Governing Board voted in favour of installing the infrastructure but deferred the decision to activate it to a later date. She noted that Erin had prepared a short presentation on WiFi to help provide context to tonight's discussion, which may or may not lead to a vote.</p> <p>Erin added that the presentation drew on findings from Health Canada, the Royal Society of Canada and the World Health Organization and included a video on WiFi safety produced by Health Canada.</p>	
New Business			
3.1		<p>For approval: Activate WIFI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a long and thoughtful discussion about the activation of WiFi. • Teachers noted that WiFi would be beneficial from a pedagogical perspective. Many apps can only be accessed in a wireless environment. The sharing and transfer of documents is cumbersome in a wired environment. There are also better learning tools available through WiFi, especially for children with difficulty learning or special needs. • Some noted potential health concerns; others noted that the scientific research to-date shows no impacts on human health. • Many noted that WiFi is everywhere. • Julie noted from the survey sent out last summer that a lot of parents were concerned about non-educational device use in the classroom and children using personal devices. We need to make a clear distinction between WiFi and our policy on personal devices. • Julie also pointed to two options: activate WiFi in entire school or limit WiFi to computer lab, library and administrative areas. • In terms of engaging parents on the issue, members discussed the merits of an in-person forum and a survey. Members agreed a short survey would be best. • Vote deferred. 	<p>Julie will send out a survey to parents to get their feedback on whether we should activate WIFI.</p> <p>Erin will send GB members a link to the video and other sources.</p>
3.2		<p>For approval: Criteria for School Principal</p> <p>One of the Governing Board duties is to approve the Criteria for the School Principal. No revisions suggested to current version.</p> <p>Motion to Approve the Criteria for Principal: Sharron. Seconded: Miriam. All in favor. Carried.</p> <p>For discussion:</p> <p>1) Playground committee has a meeting Feb 16th. Michael Hotte will discuss the lay of the land past the soccer field. We did not get the National Bank grant we were hoping for, but there are other sources. Elizabeth has informed us that her family golf tournament at Mt Cascades will fundraise for the Wakefield school playground as one of their charitable organisations.</p>	

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		2) Julie made a presentation on the objectives and process for developing a new vision/mission statement for the school. She will be soliciting feedback from teachers, staff, students and parents on the purpose of WES, characteristics of a WES graduated and values. She has already held a session with students. A survey will go out to parents. A small sub-committee will go through the results to start developing mission and vision statements.	Julie will send out a survey to parents.
Standing Reports			
4.1	Principal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The radon gas detectors have been installed. Evaluation will be in 3 months. 3 Culture in School grants have all been approved. We also applied for the spiritual animation grant which would tie nicely into wellness week. We are waiting for info. Julie looked into why the lights have been staying on all night. This is an error. Will be corrected shortly. Julie thanks everyone for staff appreciation week. Lockdown drills are nearly over. Martin Fournel will be along side the children during some of the drill explaining all of the steps and procedure. Daycare fees are being raised to \$8 a day. This is the ministry's decision. 	
4.2	Treasurer/ Financial & Fundraising Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is not an actual treasurer position for the Governing Board. Finance: \$2600 so far for coupon booklets. Pizza Friday has raised \$2400. Commemorative books from last year came in on budget. Based on current activities, plus a projection for Pizza Fridays and the \$10,000 carry-over from last year, approx \$23,438 has been raised for the playground. 	
4.3	Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Literacy week was the end of Jan. "DEAR TIME," Drop everything and read, was a great success. Students developed a student council starting off with a favourite book character dress up day. Teachers thank everyone for staff appreciation week. Destination Imagination Grade 6 students won 3rd place Upcoming: NAC production, bus safety week, 100 day, Lockdown drill, French book fair, Skating field trip for the school and report cards come out before March break. 	
4.4	Daycare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$8 Daycare fees will commence April 1st. Ski club is going very well. 40 children have signed up. The 2 pd days were a great success. The Grade 5-6 classes will be performing another musical, "Aladdin" for June. Pre-registration for K-5 went well, 24 new children for next year. 	
4.5	Support Staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support staff and parent volunteers are efficiently doing lice head checks. Janitorial and support staff are working with the kids on recycling with 	

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		different types of activities	
4.5	Parent Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The postcards are slated to go to print in February. • Cross boundary transfer information is now on the WQSB website. • Bus Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parents at some schools have bus concerns. ○ Some bus drivers are playing radio stations that include lewd content ○ Some bus drivers are appointing children as bus monitors ○ Bus concerns are always dealt with through the principal. DG M. Lamoureux will be following up these issues. The WQSB has a reputation for dealing with bus issues promptly and effectively. • What Other GBS are Doing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ongoing Olweus committee that includes parents ○ Special meeting at the beginning of the year just for parent members of the GB • What Other Schools are Doing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Winter Carnival Day ○ holiday craft sale with student made crafts ○ moving towards French Immersion ○ 'Me to We' club ○ Spring Fair 	
4.6	PPO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPO is looking for someone to lead on the cook book fundraiser and to do another push for recipes. • PPO is hoping to have a run-a-thon to coincide with Wellness Week • Library update- volunteers have begun setting up the library. After March break volunteers will begin “stamping” all books that was part of last year’s fundraiser. A decision will be made shortly on the stamps design. 	
4.7	Chair	Nothing to report	
4.8	Community	Carrie is currently working on a bi-annual newsletter.	
4.9	School Commissioner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pierre was a judge for the first time at WQSB Destination Imagination. He had a great experience. • The annual report came out for WQSB. Media coverage by the Low Down, but otherwise not a lot of coverage. • The official opening of Wakefield school helped a little with media coverage and may also help with funding for St Michael’s school in Low. 	
Adjournment			
5.0	Adjournment	Motion to adjourn 7:26 <i>Moved: Sylvie. Seconded: Lisa. All in favour. Carried</i>	