

Willows Parent Advisory Committee SD61

General Meeting Minutes	Jan 18, 2017
Commencement	7:00 pm
Adjournment	8:41 pm
Executive in Attendance	Bronwen Sharpe (Chair), Chelsea Wozniak (Secretary), Jenny Reed (Treasurer), Wendy Holob (Principal), 1 teacher, 26 parents.

Welcome Welcome to parents, staff and Wendy from the chair.

Approval of today's agenda by Katie Shaw, seconded by Chelsea Wozniak.

Approval of Oct 19, 2016 minutes by Bronwen Sharpe, seconded by Jean Pakvis.

Report from Treasurer: We have gathered \$10,890 in our fundraising drive.

PayPal \$8,600 cash and cheques \$2,290.

Healthy balance in our operational account, much of this is for new playground equipment.

May put a balance in savings.

Need to spend out of our gaming account. Discussed a conference style engagement where every kid in a certain grade could attend something in the school. Otherwise funds need to be spent on field trips.

Report of Movie night: Angela organized movie night but is absent from the meeting today, thank to Angela. Movie night was a success. Discussed options for better seating for parents, it was hot and the floor is hard. Otherwise, kids had fun and it was enjoyed by all.

CPF Report from Stephanie Novak: Upcoming french events: French story time in the Public Library. Feb 4, 1015-11 at Nellie Mcclung Branch. Feb 18, 1015-11 at Oak Bay Branch. French family movie event. Feb 12 at 1100 at Cinecenta. French movie with english subtitles. Discussion of how funding for french students is transferred from federal, to provincial, to district to the school level. The way this money is spent is not transparent and CPF is starting to ask about how this funding is used. Librarian, computers and music are all in English. Looking to increase the number of french books in the library, increase french cultural experiences.

CPF sponsored camping trip this summer for two 1 week blocks. Parents attend with children. Camping for a week with counsellors from quebec that do activities with the kids daily in french. Parents do not need to speak french.

Report from the Chair: Each PAC meeting day we have a PAC coffee morning in the staff room. Well behaved small children are welcome to attend. A coffee meeting was held this morning. Discussed playground.

Playground update: This process is moving along. Bottleneck at the school district facilities person who approves and installs equipment. Our playground can't interfere with rental of the

field by the district.

Telus Booster Bench: Yellow bench on the playground for a kid who is having a tough day. A kid on the bench is taking a time out, or is advertising that they need a friend. This bench is free to the school from Telus, they have offered us two benches due to the size of the school. It comes with educational material helping students understand how this bench is used.

Wendy has approved the installation of a Booster bench on the K-1 playground, and has also approved a bench to be installed on the 2-3 playground.

We have 68 grade 5 student volunteers who volunteer to be lunch monitors and monitors on the playground, a few at a time. No formal education is done. Students help younger kids on the playground. This Leadership program is organized by Christine Patterson and can overlap nicely with the booster bench.

Lice check report: Thank you to Lice check volunteers, parents and teachers appreciate you. 11 kids with head lice this last check with a few more uncertainties. We do a check, then a class with a positive has a recheck. Plan for recheck at the end of Jan. One class in grade 5 did not have a volunteer so was not checked. Parents of children with lice are notified by email, the rest of the class parents are notified lice was found in the class.

Valentine's Appreciation for Staff: Appreciation presents for staff. Kleenex boxes with ribbons and chocolate.

Kindergarten social: Jan 26 at the Penny Farthing from 7-9 pm with educational door prizes. All kindergarten parents have been invited.

Plan to have more grade specific socials at the Penny Farthing in the future.

Sexual Education at Willows School: Sexual education happens in Grade 5. Island Sexual Health comes out to do a presentation.

Some sex ed in kindergarten. All about touching, private parts, and what's appropriate in different scenarios such as the bathroom versus the beach and versus the classroom.

Positions for 2017/2018:

Vacant positions coming up: Class Rep Coordinator, Chair

Angst about entering kindergarten next year. Report from Wendy: Not sure if kids will get into their catchment school for kindergarten. Victoria is growing for the first time in Wendy's career. Victoria was caught off guard by the housing crisis this last year causing an influx of students from Vancouver.

Wendy sits on the committees that discuss this issue. All schools are asked to provide a number of rooms empty. (Ours has none). Then "at capacity" will be re-evaluated. Looking for space for more classes.

Committee are reviewing where do kids come from? Where do they live.

Do we need to redraw boundaries for catchment?

If we open a new K, we need 6 classrooms, so that there is space for K and 1 the next year, and K + 1 + 2 the next... etc.

How are we handling transfers? How do we handle the displaced?

Considering portables, opening other buildings... considering everything. Not sure what will be done.

Last year all kindergartens were full, all catchment, some catchment students could not be accommodated.

Another problem is recent ruling for the BCTF for class sizes. If we go back to smaller class sizes there are even more students displaced.

This year there will be camp outs outside the school this Sunday for english in catchment students. French kindergarten remains a lottery and is complete for this year, so that those that didn't get into French can register for English.

The next PAC meeting is Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 7 pm – 8:30 pm

School library

Special Guest Speaker Jennifer Gibson:

Talking to your kids about Sex

From Island Sexual Health