

Willows Parent Advisory Committee BCSD61

Meeting Minutes April 21, 2021

Commencement 7:00 pm

Adjournment 8:22 pm

Executive in Attendance: Cindy Rodier (Chair), Karen Manders (Vice-chair/communications), Krissy Johns (Secretary), Bronwen Sharpe (Past Chair), Jenny Reed (Treasurer), Brenna O'Connor (Principal), Dianne Chrétien (Vice principal), 6 parents.

Welcome Words by PAC Chair, Cindy Rodier.

Approval of the April 21, 2021 agenda approved by Karen Manders, seconded by Bronwen Sharpe.

Update from Brenna O'Connor and Dianne Chrétien:

School classroom organization for the 2021/22 school year

Anticipating 588 students (327 English, 261 French Immersion) in 27 divisions

The following are the classroom grade breakdowns as of April 2021. (This is not the final organization)

English classes

K – 1 class
K/Gr. 1 – 2 classes
Gr. 1 – 2 classes
Gr 2. – 1 class
Gr.2/3 – 2 classes
Gr. 3/4 – 3 classes
Gr. 4/5 – 5 classes

French classes

K – 1 class
K/Gr. 1 – 2 classes
Gr. 1 – 1 class
Gr 2. – 2 classes
Gr.2/3 – 1 class
Gr. 3/4 – 2 classes
Gr. 4/5 – 3 classes

Class placement process

A letter will go home to families in late May.

Placement process begins in Late May and classes are reviewed in September.

School based team considers many factors.

Diverse classrooms are created purposefully. The younger kids in a split are not necessarily the strongest.

Families are asked not to make requests unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Staff focus on 6-year planning so students can be accommodated as they progress through the grades.

FSA – gives a snapshot of how the kids are doing. Willows students are doing well.

Students were asked to complete surveys regarding their experiences and perceptions of Willows. This gives educators a window into students' feelings. Students were asked to give both positive and needs improvement feedback.

Staff are working on student belonging in terms of student culture, as this was an area highlighted as needing improvement.

Students will work towards goals and assessments. Students can identify a goal in numeracy and literacy in each term and assess their progress collaboratively with their teacher. This has spread throughout the school. This will be developed next year at the school level.

Grade 5 grad celebrations

Grade 5 students will be going to Camp Thunderbird on June 3rd. Watch for a letter home for permission and to ask for parent volunteers. Kids will be bussed with their cohort. All students, staff, and volunteers will follow the COVID-19 guidelines in place at the time of this trip.

Bike parade will happen as a grade 5 school wide celebration.

Bike to school week will be for grades 4 and 5.

VCPAC letter

VCPAC brought forward issues that schools across the district have faced.

Contribution drive is heavily tied to the hot lunches program. Some contributions were made voluntarily.

No word yet if there will be hot lunch program next year. Further information will come from the ministry and the district with regards to the phase the schools are in come September.

<Brenna will connect with Michelle Bristow to sort out the hot lunches for next year.>

SD61 Budget

Currently 7m deficit – aligning that with the strategic plan. In previous years, surplus funds were used to pay for programs, but there is no surplus this year. Ministry has decreased some revenue.

The deficit is not due to international students or lack thereof. This is solely related to lack of surplus funds, and a decrease in funding from the Ministry of Education.

The school district is looking into a redistribution of funds to create equity amongst schools across the district.

About half of the grade 5 students participate in the strings program. This is a highly unusual program at the elementary level. Nothing similar at any other district in the province.

PAC Business:

Chair report, Cindy Rodier

There will be a guest speaker, Kerry Carvers from Moms Against Racism, on Wednesday, April 28 @7pm. Please register on the PAC website.

PAC Vacancies

- CFP (Member at large)
- Chair
- VCPAC Rep
- Secretary
- Kindergarten liaison

Please contact the Willows PAC if you or anyone you know is interested in joining the PAC for next year.

Lost property

Thanks to Lynn for organizing the lost and found. It is located outside the library. The lost and found will be wheeled around to all locations of the school so parents can access more easily.

Strings program advocacy

All the information is on the PAC website and Facebook pages

French immersion demand survey from BC Government

Survey link can be accessed at the bottom of the agenda and on the PAC website.

Krista Henry: Monterey PAC Chair

The Monterey PAC has the following vacancies:

- Vice Chair
- Chair
- Secretary
- Members at Large

Please contact the Monterey PAC if you have a Monterey student and are interested in joining the Monterey PAC.

Jenny Reed, Treasurer

Current funds (as of April 2021)

Operating \$55,388.51

Gaming \$12,040.00

Total \$67,428.51

This is the balance before we paid for the sound system. We have had two teachers use funding for field trips to Uplands Park. Two grade 3 classes will be going to Mount Doug to release the salmon.

Discussion:

Parent comments

Really sad to see the strings program lost due to budget cuts.

Frustration that cuts are coming at this time. There will be a heavy impact at middle school and going forward.

The next PAC meeting is on May 19th, 2021, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm Via Zoom