

## School Council – Mary Wright PS

**Meeting Date:** Monday, October 7, 2024 (6 pm)

**Location:** MW Library

**Attendees:**

Marek Miskiewicz, Jason Furness, Karen Bice, Sarah Periard, Allan Self, Bryanna Coles, Darrant Banton, Jill Graham, Russell Kenney, Nicole McCullough, April Thornley, Nathan Wideman, Kirby Bennett (Online), Rebecca Kruk(Online), Carlie Thomas (Regrets), Courtney & Lucas Silveira (Regrets)

**Minutes recorded by:** Allan Self

### *Agenda*

#### 1.0 Welcome & Introductions

##### 1.1 Member introductions

Everyone in attendance went around and briefly shared personal introductions.

A question raised about possible childcare support to remove that hinderance for some being able to attend. No specific action step was taken but the possibility of utilizing the maker space area in the library was offered.

##### 1.2 Member Roles / Elections

Principal Miskiewicz shared that the school council is an advisory body for the Principal and school. Effective school councils are those that include members who represent the diverse views of their school community, advocate for the school community, and keep well informed about board policies on behalf of the school.

##### **Chair**

Sarah Periard and Allan Self have expressed a willingness to being in the role of co-chairs. All were in favour.

##### **Secretary**

Bryanne Coles expressed a willing to take on the secretary role, but noted she won't be able to be present for every single meeting. In weeks Bryanna can't attend, Allan Self is willing to fill in. All were in favour.

##### **Treasurer**

Kirby Bennett expressed a willingness to take on the role of treasurer. All were in favour.

### **Community representative**

April Thornley expressed a willingness to be the community representative. All were in favour.

### **Parent Representatives**

Everyone else (excluding school staff present) will be a parent representative.

**Note:** Moving forward emails will be sent out to the entire group without using BCC so that group members can communicate. Agendas, minutes and any questions can be directed to the co-chairs which utilize [sc-marywright@tvpic.ca](mailto:sc-marywright@tvpic.ca). Virtual links will be included in the agenda's if you are unable to make the meeting in person.

### **1.3 Establishing Meeting Dates & Times / Format**

The future council meetings will be: Nov 4, Dec 2, Feb 3, Apr 7, June 2. All meetings will happen at 6pm in the Mary Wright Library.

### **1.4 Establishing Mary Wright School Council bylaws**

Copies of the proposed new Mary Wright School Council bylaws were distributed to each member (and are attached to the minutes). These suggested revisions are based on a template provided by the TVDSB board and would bring Mary Wright's Council in alignment with the standard practices across our board. Members are asked to review the suggested bylaws between now and November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Any questions or suggestions can be directed to the co-chairs. The November meeting will allow for discussion and voting to adopt these bylaws.

## **2.0 Principal's Report**

### **2.1 School Improvement & Equity Planning**

School improvement always has two goals. Literacy and numeracy. Friday Oct 11 PD Day will be focused on the goal for literacy. Helping to ask the question:

- How do we know what each student is able to do?
- Where do they need to go?
- How will we get there?

*Literacy goals from last year* – students will coordinate word recognition skills and comprehensive strategies as they learn to read and read to learn.

*Numeracy goals from last year* - In problem solving, students will represent actions and questions involved and identify what is known and unknown.

VP Jason Furness will lead the Safe and Inclusive School Plan that ensures we understand the needs of our students (eg. bullying, harassment) and how we as a staff can address them. Staff have been using the model to address, deescalate, and educate as issues that arise. "Stop It" > "Name It" > "Explain It" > "Ask for Change".

2.2 This district (Strathroy-Caradoc) will be under an Attendance Area Review. TVDSB board is bringing forward a motion to explore attendance pressures (now and projected into the future). Some communication will be coming from the board to invite feedback. There is a virtual meeting happening Oct 8 at 6pm.

### 2.3 Priorities for the 2024-2025 School Year

#### 2.3.1 Parent involvement

There are many ways that parents can be involved around the Mary Wright community. These include a variety of levels of commitment and time. Examples include: Early Readers on Friday, support in class rooms, hot lunches, field trips, council, contacting the principal, holiday turkey dinner, to name a few.

#### 2.3.2 Brave Education

Brave Education is a third-party provider that packages training on conflict, conflict resolution, bullying, harassment, and emotional regulation. They came to the school last year to teach the kids and we received very positive feedback from school staff. There will be a training evening offered to parents on October 23. The goal of this time is to help parents be equipped with similar language and strategies to be used at home. Principal Miskiewicz will look into whether this will be accessible via Zoom or only in person.

#### Other Ideas Open to the floor

Questions were asked about pizza and hot lunch options. Kirby would like to have a side conversation with Ms. Bice to discuss possibilities/ideas for additional hot lunch ideas. An update will be brought to the November meeting.

Questions were asked about local business discount cards for fundraising. These happened in the past but the individuals who were involved are no longer on council, so it would need a fresh start. Kirby and Rebecca are going to look into possible options and report back.

#### Fundraising:

- Hot lunch (pizza) goes to help support learning and activities, especially to subsidize field trips and school-wide initiatives.
- The Grade 8 class is planning a multi-day trip this year and is doing a number of fundraising initiatives to help offset the costs.
- Principal Miskiewicz will provide a list of fundraising from last year and current fundraising plans for the upcoming year (24/25).
- Ms. Bice to bring in November asking for recommendations to be brought for fundraising from school.
- If there are any major ideas of needs that parents have please bring these to the co-chairs, Sarah/Allan by emailing [sc-marywright@tvpic.ca](mailto:sc-marywright@tvpic.ca).

An important reminder for this, or any fundraiser: Each fundraiser should be grounded with a purpose and priority. Start planning the fundraiser but also have a plan for what that money could be used for.

### 3.0 Other Business

Note: If anything in the future comes down to voting, each household/family unit gets a single vote, we do not vote as individuals.

Minutes Approved On: Nov 7/24 (Date) Chair's Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

*Next MW School Council meeting will be held on: Monday, November 4, 2024 (6pm)*

