WO Mitchell School Society

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 20th, 8:00 pm following the WOM School Council Meeting
Location: WO Mitchell School Learning Commons and online

Call to Order
Irene called the meeting to order at 8:24 PM

Quorum and Attendance
Quorum was met
Quorum for a regular general meeting: 4 members, 3 of whom must be voting members and 2 of whom must be elected Officers of the Society
Quorum for the annual general meeting: 4 members, 3 of whom must be voting members

17 parents/guardians and 2 staff members were in attendance

Principal/Staff:
In Person: Mike S, Danielle O
Online: N/A
Parents/Guardians:
In Person: Carmen F, Irene G, Angel N, Elysa A, Samantha Y, Nikole
Online: Adelle F, Katie K, Lindsey B, Allison J, Jayme M, Lisa W, Melanie B, Kendra S, Ana B, Micaela C, Paula, Marcela

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
Carmen approved the minutes from September; Angel seconded and all were in favour. The minutes were thereby approved.

Approval of Agenda
Carmen motioned to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting; Angel seconded and all were in favour. The agenda was thereby approved.

Open Positions:
Treasurer - Lindsay would be happy to mentor this year. This is a great opportunity to have a mentor as this is not always an option. Nickole will be taking on this role.

Fundraising:
Casino:
We still need 7 volunteers for the Thursday evening shifts, we are close to losing this fundraiser if we don't have enough volunteers. Mike to possibly send an email out. Nightshift is needed the most. Alternates are not included as part of our volunteer count.

Fall Fundarisers
Purdy's - Nov 15th cut off for orders. Pickup is the 26th Parent teacher conference.
Sunscript Gift Cards - Cut off is the 15th and will be at the school for the 26th.

Playground update:
Adelle:
There were a lot of questions around the deposit to hold the quoted amount into next year. Met with the parks foundation and received great advice about BDI and what it looks like to freeze the cost by making a deposit. There is typically a 3-5% increase from Blue IMP on pricing every year. Costs could raise around $20,000 next year if we don't put down a deposit. If we do put a 50% deposit down, the price will hold until the end of 2027. If we put a deposit down, we are on the hook to get it built this summer. We need to get installation done by this time next year. If we put a deposit down, we are also finalizing the build. We have chatted with BDI and Blue Imp about putting that deposit down in a payment plan, and they have agreed to let us put 30% down by the end of the year, and the remaining 20% of the deposit (50%) by the end of February. We would be looking at putting $78,000 down now and about $52,000 down by the end of February. Sometimes grants want a matching fund, so hoping to keep some money in our accounts to show for matching purposes.

There was a large discussion this evening around this in regards to risks and contingencies that would be put in place. We don't want to leave the school in a bad spot if we agree to this design and deposit and then are unable to come up with funds in the end. On the flipside, if the deposit isn't put down and we don't commit to a build next year, we would lose the $100, 000 grant as that has to be used within 18 months of receiving the grant. The playground committee is working endlessly on grants and fundraisers. As it stands right now, there is about $140,000 left to raise. There is potentially $100, 00 in grants coming up. We have many more fundraising events planned, as well as hoping to use a large amount of the Casino fundraiser. The committee is very confident we can come up with the remainder

by the time the full amount is due. Some of the questions that came from the discussion are as follows:

The school is ultimately on the hook, and nobody wants this to be the case. What is the redesign window? We are waiting to hear back from the construction company on this

Can we go back to the developers and see what a redesign looks like at this stage? Meaning see what it looks like with a $325,000 design vs a $405, 000 design.

How long of a disruption on the manufacturing is there on a redesign, if we went ahead with the original design and had to make changes late in the game due to a shortfall of funds?

Adelle is going to reach out and have these questions answered. Once we have these answers we will have another interim meeting to cast a vote on whether or not to put the 50% deposit down on the playground to lock in pricing for 2027.

Can we vote to have our casino funds used as our backup plan?

Carmen motioned to reserve $50,000 of 2026 casino funds towards the new playground, Angel seconded the motion. 13 Yays.
Motion has been passed.

Irene motioned to move $225,000 of society funds (in between the society general funds account and the casino account) to the Parks Foundation account. Carmen seconded. 13 Yays.

When it comes to making the payment for the playground all the money will be in the parks foundation. Will that money be transferred to the school so the funds for payment are coming from CBE? Adelle will look into this.

Some of the casino funds will need to be transferred from the GIC account. Lindsay will get this set up.

<u>Important Info:</u>
We need an update by October 30th of the questions needed to ask.

Online meeting to be held November 5th @ 7:00 pm to vote on if we put down a deposit on the playground.

Date of next meeting
Nov 17th, 2026 following the Council Meeting - In Person and online

Adjournment
Irene adjourned the meeting at 9:29 pm

Objectives of the Society:
To enhance the education and learning environment for our children in W.O. Mitchell School.
To engage in and promote charitable enterprises to allow the Society to reach its objectives.
To identify and prioritize the fundraising needs in consultation with the school and the School Council. The School Council's recommendation for priorities will be the first consideration in these efforts.