

J.W. Walker School Council Annual Report 2016\2017

The mandate of the J.W. Walker School Council is to work in cooperation with the school administration, teaching staff, and the parent community to support and enhance student learning. In upholding this mandate, the School Council had a very productive year. Council members, parents, staff, and community members worked together resulting in exceptionally well planned and successful events and fundraisers.

2016/17 School Council Members:

Chair: Kerry Canfield

Vice Chair: Jessica Ogden

Secretary: Anna Cunningham

Treasurer: Helena Guertin

Principal: Kevin Knutsen

Vice Principal: Rhian MacIver

Teaching Rep: Nicole Hill

Non-Teaching Rep: Stephanie Black

Council Members: Lonna Oster (PIC Rep), Jill Kaun, Shelley Fairbrother, Dorion Chambers

Meeting Dates:

October 4, 2016, November 1, 2016, January 17, 2017, April 3, 2017, June 6, 2017.

J. W. Walker School Council met on a regular basis to exchange information and ideas with school administration and staff representatives. Email communication was used to share and seek input on correspondence such as Board Policies under review and to help in the planning of School Council led fundraising and events. Childcare at council meetings was provided again this year to ensure parents with young children could attend.

The J.W. Walker School Council raised funds to support their planned initiatives. The School Council agreed to purchase sleighs and outdoor equipment storage bins, 2 kindergarten soccer nets, 2 unicycles for JW Walker Circus Club use and JW Walker Wildcat pinnies. Funds were also used to purchase 2 bicycles and 2 helmets to be used as draw prizes for the school's Random Acts of Kindness Initiative. School council funds contributed to food purchased for parent interview night as well. Fundraising was done through a spaghetti dinner fundraiser, the sale of Christmas poinsettia certificates and a Christmas concert bake sale.

Three events were organized by J. W. Walker School Council: Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, Family Mental Health/Well Being Night, and the Annual Pancake Breakfast.

A Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser was held for the first time in conjunction with JW Walker Open House in the start of the school year. The goal was to attract more families to attend the open house. The event was very well attended and did indeed draw more families to visit their children's school. Due to the success of the event, parent council has committed to making it an annual event.

The Family Mental Health/Well Being Night was made possible by a grant received by the PIC committee. In previous years, this event has focused on the science and math. This year, the focus on

overall health and well-being allowed for an interactive display of community resources encompassing several aspects of personal and family well-being. Resources available for families included a complimentary book of various mental health/well-being topics and giveaways from community partners. A passport system was used with stamps being awarded for visiting the various information booths. This passport could then be entered in a draw for various prizes relating to this theme. The event was a combined effort from 3 schools (JW Walker, Robert Moore, and Fort Frances High School) to host one larger event that would showcase more community resources and create a greater sense of community. The event was well attended and feedback was very positive.

The Annual Pancake Breakfast was held during Educations Week welcoming students and their families to enjoy pancakes and sausages. Several volunteers contributed to making this event a success. Teachers, administration, support staff, Council members and students helped with the organization, set-up and take down resulting in a very successful and well-attended event.

The first meeting for 2017/2018 is scheduled for October 3, 2017. Looking ahead to the 2017/2018 school year, council has made tentative plans for purchasing additional outdoor equipment and continuing to support school/community linked events.