

Vancouver Waldorf School Parent Council

Mandate

April 7, 2015

Founded in 2004, the Vancouver Waldorf School (VWS) Parent Council works collaboratively with parents, faculty and administration in many areas of school life, offers a place of initiative and social renewal and supports the impulse of Community & Resource Development.

Vision

A valued parent body actively engaged in the VWS community.

Mission

The mission of the VWS Parent Council is to:

- Be a portal for parent participation in the school's activities and day-to-day operations.
- Put in action parents' strengths and interests in order to support creative activities designed to enrich the life of the school community.
- Foster Waldorf Education by inspiring and facilitating adult learning opportunities.
- Create a bridge of communication between the VWS faculty, staff and parent body.

Values

The VWS Parent Council adopts as its fundamental values a commitment to promote and work in synergy with the underlying principles of Waldorf Education. We have a commitment to generate, welcome and honour parents' participation in school life.

Structure

The Parent Council is composed of parent volunteers who are willing and able to commit to a minimum of a one-year term. Parent Council meetings occur as agreed upon by Members with regular communication as needed via telephone or email.

The Parent Council consists of a Core Group responsible for ensuring that all Parent Council activities are undertaken within the context of the Parent Council Vision, Mission, and Values.

The Parent Council works in collaboration with the Development Office and in alignment with the school's development plans, policies and procedures. The Parent Council copies agendas, minutes and attachments to the Development Office.

The Parent Council operates and makes decisions collaboratively. Decisions are reached through consensus whenever possible. When consensus is not reached, those opposing a proposal shall be granted an opportunity to voice their position, after which a second attempt at consensus shall take place. If consensus cannot be reached after two attempts, a proposal shall be decided by a show of hands of Members and is approved by a majority, defined as sixty percent of the Members personally present.

Membership

Membership is open to all current and alum parents and guardians of the VWS community. The Parent Council strives for Membership to include a representative from each of the Lower, Grade and High Schools. There is an expectation that the Core Group Members have been Waldorf parents for at least one year.

Parent Council Membership is based on a one-year term reviewed annually. Parent Council Members are responsible for searching, nominating, evaluating and training new Members.

Each year the Members will select individuals to form a Core Group. The role of a Core Group is to provide consistency in all policies and practices conducted by the Parent Council. The Core Group works closely with the Development Office and consists of a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.

When an individual expresses interest in joining the Parent Council they will be invited to participate in three meetings after which a decision by the existing group will be moved to confirm Membership.

Responsibilities

Members of the Parent Council are responsible for the following:

- **Annual Social Events & Ceremonies Support**

Includes the support of management and production of social events such as the Welcome/Rose Ceremony, the Michaelmas Social, the Shepherd's Play Reception, the May Fest Social, the Grade 12 Graduation Reception and Waldorf Wear Swap & Socials.

- **Communication**

Maintaining communications in regards to information and articles in the Newsletter, emails and direct communications at events and meetings.

- **Class Representatives Group**

Whenever possible, a Member of Parent Council will Chair this Group. The Class Representatives Group supports school life by providing a vital line of communication between the parents and teachers at the class level.

- **Financial Account(s) Management & Reporting**

- VWS Parent Support Group Gaming Account
- VWS Parent Council Account

- **Grant Applications**

- Direct Access Gaming Grant