

Dr. G.W. Williams School Council
Minutes from the meeting of
May 25, 2015

Present: Gayle Palmer, Christopher Hilmer, Samantha Sample, Roy Sample, Judith Lalonde, Rosalyn Rees, Angela Leonard, Lily Lam, Shelley Rose, Miles Robbins, Roger Rees, Dina Paraskevopoulos, Susan Tripp, Helga Curry, Kent Ravelle

Regrets: Stefan Mladjenovic, Brian Blaser, Yula Nouragas

Welcome

Shelley opens meeting at 7:05 pm.

Unanimous approval of the May agenda and of the March minutes.

Student Council Reports

Lily

- Friday May 29th is the School Carnival during lunch.
 - There was a successful blanket and towel drive, with donations to a local shelter.
 - The Art dept. just came back from a 5 day trip to New York.
 - Teams still running are girls' Flag Football, boys' Rugby, and Track and Field.
 - Athletic banquet at Madsen's Gardens is Tues. May 25th, 100 students are attending.
 - Prom is on Thurs. June 4th, almost 200 tickets have been sold
 - Graduation is on Tues. June 23rd.
 - \$3 Williams' lanyards are being sold in front hallway by Student Council
 - The Simply Say Hello campaign is still on: encourage students to be more open in the hallway and say hello to 20 new people each day and after they can enter their name into a draw.
 - Walk a Block campaign is on as well; students can also enter their name in a draw.
 - June 12th is when Yearbooks should be distributed.
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Department Presentation

Kent Ravelle, Athletic Director

- He showed a power point and explained the courses offered in Phys. Ed at Williams: gr. 9, 10 have separate male and female Healthy Active Living Education (HALE) classes; gr. 11 offers a co-ed HALE class, a female fitness class and a male strength and conditioning class; gr. 12 offers a co-ed HALE class, female fitness, male advanced strength and conditioning, and an Intro to Kinesiology course; this course is the only one with a prerequisite which is usually chemistry or biology.
- The Phys. Ed dept has a strong sense of community: Mr. Ravelle has been at Williams for 15 years, Ms. Mann for 23 years, and Mr. Bulmer for 20 years; their goal is to instill an appreciation of a healthy active lifestyle.
- Rule #1 is to have Fun; fitness tests are towards goals, not skill testing.
- Rule #2 is Variety; not everyone likes everything so they do a variety of games.
- The New Curriculum still has strands but Living Skills are embedded in every strand, such as critical thinking and creative thinking; grade 9 will have a lot of info since that is the only course students are required to

take.

- Williams is the only established school with 3 full size sports fields; the only school with a full size 400m track, wood sprung gym floors, and a new weight and conditioning room to open in the fall; this room will be open to students at lunch and after school.
 - There have been 22 male and female sports teams this year, 246 athletes; 30% of students participate in athletics.
 - 20 teaching staff coaches, and 7 community members have been involved.
 - Athletics is very strong at Williams; 18 individual athletes and 5 relay teams are going to OFSAA.
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Administration Report

Chris Hilmer

- May 19th, construction began on the new phase; Room 121 has been gutted and will become the new Tech Design room; Room 123 will become the new Com Tech lab; the weight room conversion will begin in late June and the entire project is due to be completed by Aug. 27th.
- Grade 7 Day happened; this is a transition day to become familiar with the new building; wish to pique the interest of grade 7s; they participated in a wellness conference; started with an assembly and a performance by the bands; peer mentors led 16 groups around the school in an Amazing Race style of activity; they had pizza and juice in the gym and then experienced a motivational concert by former student Glen Marais . The leadership students and peer mentors had a session with Glen after the Gr. 7 students left.
- Exams are coming up.
- School Cash Online, an online payment system will be effective by the fall; parents will need to sign up and register, using their child's student number; this system will allow specific emails to be sent to a specific group of students; also, parents are reminded to subscribe to receiving emails of a commercial nature.
- Tues. Sept. 1st is registration; the first day of classes is Sept. 8th.
- During registration, students will enter through the front of the school and if they have paid fees online, they will show a receipt and proceed to the caf to have their photo taken and to pick up their timetable before leaving through the back of the school; if they have not paid, they can either pay with cash or cheque, or enter the library to register for School Cash Online and then pay online; a suggestion was made and agreed upon, to include a letter with this information with the report card.
- The Student Climate Survey was administered; last time was in 2010 but is typically every 2 years; students filled that out over 35min.
- They also were asked to fill out a Williams' specific survey that took 5min; one of the questions asked if students wished lunch was shortened by 15min and then school would begin at 8:35am; 196 students said NO and 191 said YES; therefore there will not be any change.
- Students were asked if they were happy to be a student at Williams; 68 said Not Happy and 450 said Happy; admin is looking at reasons why students are not happy (one example, an older school) or are happy (one example, great teachers); so far, Williams has increased Wi-Fi access points with 76, and picnic tables will be installed in the summer.

Helga

- Creating Pathways to Success committee update: this is a committee that is mandated and incorporates parents, staff, community members and students.
- Helga would like to see more parents involved; she wondered if the times of the meetings are a deterrent (currently they are at 3:15pm) or if the topics of meetings are not of interest; council agreed that a few evening meetings a year would be more suitable for many parents, that grade specific topics would be helpful (such as help with course choice, college or university choices), that some parents may not have an idea what the purpose of this committee is and therefore, this needs to be better articulated.
- Helga will look at these ideas for the fall.

Chris mentioned that 2015/16 is a small grade 9 contingent of 110. The total student population will be 800.

First council meeting of 2015/16 will be on Mon. Sept. 21st.

Special thanks and good-bye to Shelley for her excellent lead as chair the past 5 years!

Future Dates: **Sept. 21st, 2015**