

Dr. G.W. Williams School Council
Minutes from the meeting of
Feb. 22, 2016

Present: Gayle Palmer, Christopher Hilmer, Judith Lalonde, Rosalyn Rees, Roger Rees, Dina Paraskevopoulos, Susan Tripp, Susan Turriff, Jo Greig, Angela Leonard, Chris Baker, Susan Sopha
Regrets: Samantha Sample, Roy Sample, Nicole Nunes

Welcome

Dina is chair for this evening.

She opens meeting at 7:00 pm.

Williams' new VP, Susan Sopha, introduces herself to council.

Unanimous approval of the Feb. agenda and of the Nov. minutes.

Administration Report

Chris Hilmer

There are no student representatives present so Chris will cover these items as well.

- Prom will be on Thurs. June 2nd, with tickets in the \$85-100 range; the ticket price usually covers venue, police services, photographer, gift (frame for the formal picture), photo booth; a survey was conducted earlier among grade 12 students to discover what they are looking for in a Prom, how much they are willing to pay for extras, and what are their dinner expectations, etc.
- Chris is encouraging all parents to not provide alcohol for students at the pre-Prom parties as the staff are responsible for these students up until they leave the venue later in the evening. The Prom organized by the school is a school event, so participants must not be under the influence of alcohol while there just as they must not be under the influence of alcohol while at school.
- Graduation will be on Wed. June 29th at the Magna Centre in Newmarket; admin goes over procedures in April, providing students with their credit counselling summary; \$45 needs to be paid which covers expenses associated with running the graduation ceremony as well as the cap and gown; cap and gown are to be picked up after students' first exam and will be kept after; eligible community service hours must be complete and submitted by May 20, and by noon on June 24th private school credits are due.
- The Literacy Test (OSSLT) for grade 10s, and those who still need to write it from gr. 11 or 12, is on Thurs. March 31st; the test covers literacy skills that students should have mastered by the end of grade 9; preparations are ongoing; on March 29th there will be an assembly to inform students on what to expect; students will write the test, beginning at 8:20am, in their homerooms, or the library if there are special needs; the rest of the students will begin their school day at 12:20pm.
- Interim/Progress reports will be distributed on Thurs. March 10th; parent interviews will be on March 31st.
- Course selections were due last week; courses are chosen online through career cruising,

printed off and signed by a parent; the Board determines when course selection is due; the Board uses the data from all schools to identify staffing needs; April 1st the individual school staffing allocation is distributed; schools then determine which courses will run and how many sections will run; in May, schedules are established and if there are not enough sections for requests, alternatives are found for the students by the end of June.

- Grade 12s filled out a retirement form in homeroom at the beginning of the year if they are not returning to Williams.
- The week of Feb. 22nd - 26th is Distracted Driving week, including a smashed car display, York Region police and traffic police attending.
- Feb. is Black History month and there are posters on display, visuals on the TV in the foyer, and daily announcements.
- Wed. Feb. 24th is national Pink Day, Bully Prevention day.
- Nordic skiing club is going to OFSAA.
- The Town of Aurora has an outreach initiative; in Oct. a survey was conducted among the students of what opportunities the town offers to students and how the town can engage students in different activities. The Town will return to Williams this week to continue to promote youth activities offered in Aurora.
- Peer Mentors are making plans to run the Relay for Life at Williams for students.
- Grade 9 French students came back from a trip to Quebec, and Music students will be travelling to Austria and Italy in May.
- Next year is the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge and there is a school trip in April 2017 to help commemorate this.
- A PA day has been added for secondary students on Friday June 3rd.
- Santa Clause Parade confusion was addressed; Williams' participation was a last minute decision; the staff advisors had not been advised of it beforehand and were unable to contribute their time; due to lack of an adult school chaperone, the number of students who could participate was limited to club presidents who would be chaperoned by an adult related to a student council member; at the last minute, a teacher was able to attend but at this point it was too late to change anything; it is suggested that next year the planning process could begin in Sept. and more students could be involved, maybe even make a float; would be an excellent way to promote Williams.
- The promotional video to highlight Williams is complete and was shown to parents at the grade 8 info night; people were very impressed and provided good feedback; the video may be added to the school web site so more people can view it; the video will continually evolve to incorporate more students and more activities.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm Future Dates: **March 21, 2016**