

Dr. G.W. Williams School Council
Minutes from the meeting of
Sept 21, 2015

Present: Gayle Palmer, Christopher Hilmer, Samantha Sample, Roy Sample, Judith Lalonde, Rosalyn Rees, Angela Leonard, Roger Rees, Dina Paraskevopoulos, Susan Tripp, Helga Curry, Susan Turriff, Sue Hartviksen, Leslie Wilson, Chris Baker, Nicole Nunes, Ummesalama Mandviwala, Haley Buck, Yula Nouragas

Regrets: Stefan Mladjenovic, Jo Greig

Welcome

Roy opens meeting at 7:05 pm.

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

Student Council Reports

Ummesalama, *exterior communications* and **Haley**, *interior communications*

- Friday is Homecoming Day; the first home game of the Wildcats football team will be played; tickets for the buy-in will be sold for \$2-\$4, depending on if the Student Activity Fee was paid; students buy the ticket to watch the game during 4th period; popcorn and cotton candy will be sold for \$1; lanyards will be sold for \$3. Money raised will go towards replacing the outdoor scoreboard.
 - Student Council meets monthly; there is a discussion about the students fundraising to support a wildcat in an animal shelter in another country.
 - Music Council is holding a Coffee House this week at lunch; snacks can be purchased while enjoying music provided by various students.
 - The semi-formal will be held on Thurs. Nov. 26th. Details to come.
 - The teams running currently or with try-outs happening are girls' field hockey, girls' basketball, boys' volleyball, football, cross country and golf.
 - Student Council communicates with students via Twitter, Facebook and Instagram; each grade has a group to access updates and upcoming events.
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New Business

Roy

- Elections for current School Council positions are necessary with this meeting.
- Council consists of the Administration who do not vote but are required to be present, a teacher rep (who is still to be determined), a non-teacher rep (usually is a custodian), parents, chair and vice-chair, secretary, treasurer, and grade 9 parent rep.
- All positions were acclaimed: Chair: Roy Sample, Vice-chair: Dina Paraskevopoulos; secretary: Gayle Palmer; Treasurer: Angela Leonard; gr. 9 parent rep: Nicole Nunes.
- Upcoming council dates: Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Jan. 18, March 21, May 16

Administration Report

Chris Hilmer

- There are just over 700 students; the atmosphere of the school benefits from the smaller size; staff are noticing a more personal and calmer mood, particularly in the library with the gr. 12s during spares.
- There are 53 teachers, only a few of them part-time; 10 EAs and CYWs, 5 full time and 1 part-time secretaries, 1 library technician, 1 support technician, and 13 caretakers.
- Helga Curry is in her 5th year at Williams; she looks after students with last names beginning with A-L.
- Yula Nouragas is in her 3rd year at Williams; she looks after M-Z.
- Admin focuses on student achievement.
- If a parent has a question or a concern, their first contact is with the teacher; if not resolved, the parent should contact the appropriate vice principal; if the issue escalates, then the principal becomes involved.
- Contact with any staff at Williams can begin with an email; all staff email addresses can be found on the school web site.
- A school social worker comes to Williams once a week; there is a school psychologist, speech pathologist and occupational therapist assigned to Williams, and they visit as required.
- Student discipline can include issues that happen outside of school property, such as cyber bullying or vandalism in the community.
- There is a school liaison police officer assigned to Williams who regularly visits; the officer does classroom visits and presentations, and is a visible presence to the students and the community, being very approachable and involved.
- Grade 9 trip to Camp Robin Hood is on Wed. Sept. 30th, rain or shine.
- If a student has a life threatening allergy, the office is informed and has a photo of the student; students are required to carry an Epi pen and all staff are trained on how to use one.
- Terry Fox run is Tues. Sept. 22nd; any student with a min. \$10 donation may participate in the walk around the neighbourhood during period 2; hamburgers will be provided by M&Ms.
- On Wed. Sept. 23rd, the Literacy test (OSSLT) results will be available.
- Safety Week is upcoming; throughout the school year, there are to be 6 fire drills, 2 lock down drills (an announcement is made and students are to be quiet and stay out of sight), and 1 hold and secure drill (no one can leave or enter the building); community resources will be available to the students, such as Addiction Services of York Region, the fire department; a crash vehicle will be on display outside during Safety Week.
- Next week there will be a food drive for the local food bank.
- A new program is going to be introduced at Williams, The Intergenerational Digital Storytelling Project; students will meet with seniors in their setting and video their stories; students will help the seniors with digital skills and also learn from the seniors; the senior film studies class, and the com tech classes will participate.
- On Friday Oct. 16th interim report cards will be distributed; Parent interviews will occur on Thurs. Oct. 22nd.
- The construction on school is complete; there is a new garden in front of the school, too
- A picnic table and benches and a new bike rack were recently purchased and installed
- The 40\$ Student Activity Fee pays for the added benches and picnic tables and bike rack, as per the students' request; with less than 50% of students purchasing this, admin would like to see more; the fee also covers guest speakers, student conferences, the spring carnival and student barbecue; students would like to see an outdoor basketball court and this idea is being explored and would also be covered by the fee; the fee contributes to the school building becoming a better place to be and develop.

Council members suggested the Williams needs a re-branding, make use of social media and local newspapers to photograph all the updates.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm Future Dates: **Oct. 19th, 2015** – Council will receive a tour of the new comm tech lab – This date also coincides with the Federal Election.

