

The Dr. G.W. Williams School Council  
Minutes from the meeting of  
March 19, 2018

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**Present:**

School Administration (Staff) - Christopher Hilmer, Patrick McQuade  
Parents - Chris Baker (Vice-Chair), Naren Chandrasekhar, Judith Lalonde, Dina Paraskevopoulos, Lynn Pearson (Chair), Pei Wang  
Student Representative: N/A

**Regrets:** Jill Harris, Svitlana Shamova, Karen Kelly

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**Welcome**

Lynn Pearson opened the meeting at 7:05.

Motion to move ahead with informal agenda (Judith); seconded (Chris).

Motion to approve January meeting minutes (Dina); seconded (Judith).

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**Administration Report**

- Mr. Hilmer introduced our school's new Vice Principal—Mr. Patrick McQuade, who has now been at G.W. Williams for two weeks. Patrick has been involved in education for over 20 years; has a strong background in technology. So far, he has been assigned to:
  - Chair of the Digital Literacy & Innovation Committee at GW Williams
  - Chair of the school's Transitions Committee
  - Working to update the school's website
  - Students M-Z
- Interim Progress Reports will be sent out this Friday, March 23.
- Parent/Teacher Interviews will take place next Thursday, March 29. PLEASE NOTE: THE SCHOOL LATER CHANGED THIS DATE TO WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28.
- YRDSB Parent Symposium (April 4). Mr. Hilmer, Lynn, Dina, and Naren will attend.
- Grade 10 Literacy Test (OSSLT) will be held on April 10.
  - Ms. Borenstein (Literacy teacher) is holding practice sessions starting this Wednesday for those previously eligible; also, any student who may want to prepare for the literacy test is welcome to attend.
  - New this year: Any student may now request extra time to complete the exam (limited to designated groups in the past, e.g. students with an IEP)
  - Grades 9, 11, & 12 do not need to come to school as there will be no formal classes; if these students wish, they may come to study hall, which will be in the cafeteria. Great suggestion from Mr. Hilmer: Students can take advantage of a full day to contribute their time and earn community service hours needed towards graduation.

- Admin and Guidance will visit the Grade 12 classes to remind students of graduation requirements on April 12.
  - Only students who earned their diploma by school year-end will be allowed to go on the stage at Graduation (e.g. students who need to complete credits in summer are not qualified to participate).
  - Students will receive their Credit Counseling Summary.
  - Reminder that the Graduation Fee must be paid by May 1 (\$65); needed at that time so that the gown may be ordered for the student.
  
- End of Term 1 of 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester is April 17. Mid-semester report cards will be distributed in homerooms on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
  
- Building Resilience in Anxious Teens presentation on April 26 (see separate section below for additional information).
  
- Prom will be held on May 3. This new date also allows Grads to enjoy Prom and re-focus getting back to school work afterwards. The early dates also accommodates students who are celebrating Ramadan which begins a week later and lasts for one month.
  
- Graduation ceremony (Tuesday, June 26) will be at a new venue this year -- Ray Twinney Complex, 100 Eagle St W, Newmarket); previous venue is not available.
  - Guests do not require a ticket; seating is on first-come-first-served basis.
  - Students are asked to be mindful of number of guests attending.
  - Lynn inquired about holding the ceremony at the school; we do not have capacity for the parents in the school gym; Mr. Hilmer also noted that venues such as banquet halls are much more expensive, so the hockey arenas tend to be more appropriate from a capacity & cost view.

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### **Building Resilience in Anxious Teens Presentation (April 26)**

- Council recognized with appreciation for Emma Pearson for designing the poster for the event.
  
- Council would also like to recognize the appreciation of Snapd Aurora for providing complementary advertising of this event, as well as the online registration option.
  
- Additional advertisement of the event includes: write-up in the Williams Tell; posters available during Parent/Teacher Interview Night; email blast to parents; email invitation to other schools in area; as well, council members may put posters up in public areas where this is allowed and is appropriate. A hard copy of the poster was provided to each Council member (digital copies are available as well).

- Motion put forth (Chris B.) and Council voted in favour of using a portion of the annual funds allocated to School Council (\$500) to purchase refreshments for this evening and to pay for the printing of needed posters. Final budget will be determined once we have a better idea of the total number of people expected.
  - Judith will contact Tim Horton's for possible donation of coffee.
  - Dina will pick up the water bottles.
  - Pei will pick up cookies/treats (ideally nut-free).
  - All receipts for reimbursement to be provided to the Treasurer, Naren.
  
- Plan to regroup via email by April 20 to estimate totals and prepare for final details.

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### **PRO Grant for Next Year**

At next meeting, Council must decide:

- If application for a PRO Grant will be made for the following year.
- For which topic to apply for a grant.
- Who from Council will complete the PRO Grant form (Ministry of Education).

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### **Miscellaneous**

No mailbag items. Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Next and final meeting Tuesday, May 22, 2018.