

The Dr. G. W. Williams School Council
Minutes from the meeting of
May 22, 2018

Present:

School Administration (Staff)- Christopher Hilmer, Susan Sopha, Patrick McQuade
Parents-Lynn Pearson (chair), Chris Baker (vice-chair), Dina Paraskevopoulos, Jill Harris, Judith Lalonde
Student Representative: Adrian R.

Regrets: Karen Kelly

Welcome

Lynn Pearson opened the meeting at 7:05 pm.
Motion to approve the agenda (Chris B.); seconded (Judith)
Motion to approve March minutes (Chris B.); seconded (Jill)

Student Report-Adrian

- This coming Friday will be pyjamas, pizza and movie day in the gym during period 2. Students may buy in for \$2 and purchase popcorn. Movie will be The Incredibles or Shrek. Pizza will be sold at the end of the day.
 - Student Appreciation BBQ is June 18. There will be a BBQ, cotton candy, games, tattoos, face painting.
 - Student council elections are upcoming
 - World Cup Day will be June 14 and students are invited to wear their favourite jersey
 - Last Friday was Graphic T-shirt Day
 - Crack at Spring event - classes created and decorated boxes and sought donations for the Aurora Food Pantry. This event went well. The winning class won donuts and there was a food donation for the Aurora Food Pantry.
 - Meme Day was to be held on April 6 but was cancelled due to concerns for the possibility of students wearing inappropriate clothing
 - Students are currently involved in track, soccer, baseball and flag football with playoffs upcoming
 - York Region Athletics qualifiers will be held tomorrow
 - May 24th will be the music banquet. Tickets are \$20
 - Tomorrow will be the "Walk for Water" at the track at lunch time. This is a fundraiser and participants can earn baked goods. The money raised will go to Me to We.
 - Carnival for the Cure will be held tomorrow and will also encompass a bone marrow swab drive for students aged 17 and older
 - University of Waterloo Chem 13 and Avogadro chemistry contests will be held in May.
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Review of parent council presentation: Building Resilience in Anxious Teens

It was agreed that the event was very successful and well received. The feedback received was that the presentation provided good ways to begin discussions with teens. The focus was appropriate and parents and caregivers were appreciative of the information. Close to 120 parents/caregivers attended. Not all were Williams parents, indicating that the wider community

was reached. There are links to resources on the parent page and a reminder about these links will be added to The Tell.

Mr.. Hilmer will complete the required feedback report and submit receipts to the grant provider.

PRO Grant for next year

- Group agreed that we would pursue a further grant for next year
- We need a topic and to complete the application completed by June 5
- Grant is given special consideration if it considers one of following projects:
 - Supporting the engagement of parents who are not yet active within the school community;
 - Supporting the engagement of parents from Indigenous communities;
 - Promoting increased access to and awareness of math strategies and resources for parents;
 - Promoting the values of postsecondary education by providing parents with information about pathways and possibilities.

Discussion centred around what to pursue and when to offer a presentation. Mr McQuade and Mr. Hilmer provided information about topics explored by other York Region schools, and there was some interest from the group in topics related to social media and well being. A decision was made to pursue a topic that is also relevant to this year's presentation. For example, the group will consider a topic around how social media can perhaps add to and/or reduce anxiety for adolescents.

Chris Baker agreed to take the lead on completing the application.

Administration Report-Chris Hilmer

- The trip to Iceland was very successful-focused on film and photography. Students and staff had many unique opportunities
- Trips are open to students studying certain subjects and always have a link to the curriculum. Trips take place almost yearly, depending on interest.
- A possible trip to France is in the works for next year. The Business department would like to consider a trip to Peru. Th Music department is considering a trip to Washington DC.
- In April, eligible students wrote the OSSLT. This year for the first time, any student was allowed extra time (in previous years, only students with an I.E.P were given this opportunity). A fair number of students took advantage of the extra time. Things went smoothly. This change in providing extra time meant that the school could not ensure teachers and/or classrooms would be free for all other classes so those not writing were not required to attend school that day. Overall school results will be available in September.
- May 24- staff are going to surprise Grade 10 students with a wellness morning. During periods 1 & 2, students will be rotate through four stations such as meditation, drumming, karate and nutrition. The day before the event, Grade 10 students will only be told to dress comfortably for the 24th.
- Mid-semester reports went out in April
- Prom was held May 3 and it was an enjoyable evening
- Spring concert was held on May 8
- Looking ahead, staff will be considering school goals pertaining to credit accumulation, bullying, inclusivity and discrimination so will be speaking with students about their experiences

- EQAO Math for Grade 9 will be held June 13 and 14/15, depending on Eid for students in applied or academic
- Williams placed 12th in Canada recently and 1st in York Region in a math contest conducted by Waterloo University
- Locker cleanout at the end of the year-students will leave their lock on their locker after exams and keep the same locker from year to year
- Grade 12 exams will be held early due to Graduation (June 26 at Ray Twinney Rec Complex). Grade 12 exams will start June 18. First day of exam week for other students is June 20th.
- Chris Baker and Lynn Pearson had both volunteered to be the parent council representative at graduation. Protocol indicates that the council chair or a designate should attend so Lynn will attend and represent the council.
- June 27-Exam Feedback morning
- June 28, 29-P.A. days
- Williams' new location should be ready to start the 2023 school year at the earliest. Staff are providing feedback and input now into the new building design. Students currently in grade 3 will be the first Grade 9 class in the new site, and they will be asked for their input as well

No items to discuss in mailbag

Tentative dates for parent council meetings for the 2018/2019 school year are as follows:
Mondays September 17, October 15, November 19, January 21, March 18 and Tuesday May 21.

Thank yous for a successful year were exchanged and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.