

Dr. G.W. Williams School Council
Minutes from the meeting of
Monday, October 16, 2017

Present:

School Administration/Staff: Mirza (Habeeb) Baig, Susan Sopha

Parents: Dina Paraskevopoulos, Lynn Pearson, Jill Harris, Chris Baker, Narendra Chandrasekhar, Judith Lalonde

Community Member Guest: none

Student Representative: Sanjanaa

Welcome:

Lynn welcomed everyone and meeting opened at 7:05 pm

Opening of Meeting:

Approval of October agenda- Motion: Judith Lalonde; Seconded Dina Paraskevopoulos

Approval of September minutes:-with one correction-strike out "wish for safe and relaxing summer" Motion: Chris Baker; Seconded: Judith Lalonde

Student Report:

Sanjanaa:

-student council had their first meeting last Tuesday

- Communication rep will be starting to consider student social media accounts for instagram, snapchat and Twitter
- **Haunted Hallway** will continue as in years past but some thoughts to moving it into the front foyer? for more interaction
- Costume contests will be held for individuals/groups and votes will be cast- winners may receive Tims or other gift cards
- posters will be put up by communication rep
- **Club Fair** will be held during lunch time with clubs putting up displays in the foyer-hope is that students will become more involved
- **Movember**-students will be asking for moustache and beard ideas and asking staff to volunteer to grow beard/moustache; photo booth where students can pay to take photos with related props
- **3 Spirit Days agreed on:**
 1. meme day where students can send meme cards to friends and money raised will go to student council
 2. comfy/cozy day-students can wear sweats and pyjamas, bring stuffed animals-council would like to have TV show playing in a common area, and perhaps a popcorn machine
 3. cosmic play-perhaps in the spring? Students dress as their favourite cosmic character

Students are looking at costs of things such as the photo booth-one parent may have a lead

May need a teacher to supervise photo booth? Or a student from a tech. class?

Question raised- could the clubs do a quick "fair" during grade eight visits?

EQAO Math Results and Pathways:

Susan and Habeeb gave presentations on results:

Any grade 9 student taking math takes EQAO test, with the exception of locally developed students. Results count for 5% of final grade

Academic stream: in 2016-2017- 94% of Williams' students were at or above the provincial level. Board average is 90%

Graph showed that for this cohort (who was in grade 6 when they wrote in 2014) 77% maintained their standing while 18% increased.

Applied Stream: in 2016-2017-37% of Williams' students were at or above the provincial level. Board average is 48%

Chart showed that 32% of these students had not made level 3 or 4 in grade 3 or grade 6

Discussion:

As a school, there is a great focus on "mindsets" which is way of considering new information-looking to move from a fixed mindset towards a growth mindset, with the idea that anyone can learn

Individual results have been mailed out

EQAO results will eventually be added to the school website

Pathways-for locally developed students- depend from school to school as to numbers of students, and how many sections can run

OSSLT Results:

Habeeb provided results as follows:

OSSLT is a requirement for graduation with a secondary school diploma

Students must write the test. If not successful, they may re-write it one time or take the Ontario Literacy Course. Students are expected to achieve at least 300 out of a possible 400 marks

For First-Time Eligible Students at Williams: in 2017, 87% success rate-as compared to 88% in 2016 and 84% in 2015

The Success rate for special education students is above the provincial average and very close to the board average

In 2016,70% of previously eligible writers passed

In 2017, 52% of previously eligible writers passed

There is practice for First-Time Eligible Writers- at Williams there is a blitz during a two-week cycle where students can practice elements of the test such as the short answer section or the opinion section

There is extra help available for students who have been identified by a teacher as requiring extra preparation -10 sessions which run after school over 5 weeks

This academic year, the test will be written on Tuesday, April 10 – the test is a paper and pencil test

The School will try to run the practice test on-line and consider how to target specific supports - proposed dates would be at the end of this semester, at the end of November or possibly very early in the new semester

There is one opportunity for unsuccessful students to re-write the test the following year or take the OLC course

When Williams' numbers are broken down, it shows that of the successful writers, 75% were meeting the requirement in grade 6 for reading and 74% were meeting the requirement in grade 6 for writing

School goal this year is 90% success

Support will be available for all academic streams

Administrator Profile:

Susan Sopha explained-each fall, council reviews the administrator profile (for principal and vice principal). No changes were made last year. The group reviewed the profile as created in January 2015.

There is time to review and discuss the profile.

Suggestions around increasing the wording related to building the reputation of the school. Administrator needs to be willing and able to promote the reputation of the school

Question-would it help to have potential new administrator come from this area? Some pros and cons

Some discussion around how to build the school's reputation- parents were advised that the website remains under construction and there are dedicated staff who are developing it

No firm changes made to profile

Anyone interested in further discussion in this regard can attend a board meeting or speak with a trustee

Discussion around building number of activities offered at the school-teachers need to volunteer for activities-cannot be directed by administrative staff to do so-some issues with students not being able to fully commit due to work or other obligations, challenges of students not attending practices, etc.

Agreed profile would be revisited.

Administration Report:

Interim progress reports went home last week

Request for parent-teacher interviews went home as well

Mid-term reports November 16

Nov1st-Take Kids to Work Day

-Grade 8 visit day-3 rotations planned

Prospective students are asked to make course selections by February as this impacts how many sections are offered

Tomorrow night- IB information night and grade 8 information night 500-600 anticipated

Girls' basketball-tomorrow

Diwali-October 18/19

Thursday night-parents' night

Friday-P.A. Day

Oct. 24th-College information night

Oct. 26th College and university information night

November 10th-Remembrance Day assembly

November 17th-Immunization clinics –public health would have mailed out alerts for missing vaccinations. Parents can opt out via paperwork through Public Health

November 20th-parent council

November 23rd-semi-formal

November 24th – PA Day

Chair's Report and Mailbag:

Question-do parent council minutes get posted to website? Answer-not in recent years

Website has improved-faculty lists and contacts are now current

School will not participate in Santa Claus Parade-there was no teacher available to oversee

Council was advised that Karen Kelly, grade 9 rep elected in September has now taken a position with the York Region District School Board (not at this school) and asked if there was a concern for a conflict? Mr. Hilmer had been approached and asked it to be considered at council-discussion-agreement-no conflict. Lynn will advise grade 9 rep.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Next council meeting Monday, November 20th 7:00 pm