

The Dr. G.W. Williams School Council
Minutes from the meeting of
September 18, 2017

Present:

School Administration/Staff—Mirza (Habeeb) Baig, Christopher Hilmer, Susan Sopha

Parents—Chris Baker, Narendra Chandrasekhar, Jill Harris, Karen Kelly, Judith Lalonde, Leila Mireskandari, Marina Moir, Dina Paraskevopoulos, Lynn Pearson, Bojana Perisic, Rosalyn Rees, Susan Turriff, Adrienne Watt

Community Member Guest—none

Student Representative—Sophia Paraskevopoulos (Student Council President), Lindsey Breedon (Student Council Vice-President)

Welcome

Mr. Hilmer welcomes all and conducts introductions at 7:00 p.m. Dina opens meeting.

Approval of May agenda - Motion: Judith Lalonde; Seconded Chris Baker

Approval of May's minutes - Motion: Chris Baker; Seconded: Judith Lalonde

Student Report

Sophia Paraskevopoulos, Lindsey Breedon

- **Student Council** is gearing up for second half of elections, to be held on Sept. 29; students are currently campaigning
 - **Various clubs** at Williams currently underway. Club fair for all students: beginning of October. Clubs include: Equity Council, Arts Council, DECA (new business club), Investment Club (new), Debate Club, Best Buddies (Ontario-wide/work with the delayed & autistic students), Aviation Club, Christian Club, Japanese Club, WAC (students don't have to play a sport to participate), Prom Committee, Humanitarian Committee (participates in Fill a Purse for a Sister)
 - **Music Council update:** New music teacher this year; Ms. Kervin has a new role with the YRSB. Council will work with Peer Mentors this year to participate in fundraisers for leukemia.
 - Senior students offer **math tutoring** daily in the math room (along with math teacher)
 - Athletic Council is seeking student submissions to redesign the **art for spirit clothing**
 - **Semi-formal** is in November. Grade 9 students are encouraged to participate; it is for entire student body.
 - **The Den/aka Student Success Centre:** Students are welcome to visit if stressed, need someone to talk to. Also, **Guidance** is a great source of help (can speak with Ms. Powers, a child & youth worker).
 - Boys Basketball needs a parent to coach
-

School Council Election

- **Elections** for current School Council positions are necessary with this meeting.
- **Council** consists of the Principal (or designate) who does not vote but is 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: Lynn Pearson, Vice-chair: Chris Baker; Secretary: Jill Harris; Treasurer: Narendra Chandrasekhar; GR 9 parent rep: Karen Kelly.
- **Next meeting:** Monday, October 16, 2017, in the Dr. G.W. Williams Library, 7:00pm

All parents / guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Administration Report

Chris Hilmer

- Time to update the **Administrator Profile**; principals are usually moved every 4-6 years (may/may not affect Mr. Hillmer/we don't know yet). Vice-Principals are usually moved every 2 to 4 years. School Council will need to provide feedback; sample Principal Profiles are available online on the Ministry of Education site. We will review at Oct. meeting; to be finalized at the Nov. meeting, as it is due by Dec 1.
- **Adult ESL**: one class currently held at Williams (9:00-2:30) Monday to Friday, a part of the Continuing Education program from YRDSB.

Habeeb Baig & Susan Sopha

- **OSSLT results** have arrived (Grade 10 EQAO Literacy examination results from last year); Council will receive a report in upcoming meeting
- **Interim Reports**: going home Oct. 13 for all students
- **Parent-Teacher Night**: Oct. 19
- **Grade 9 Take Your Kids to Work Day**: Nov. 1
- **Grade 8 students** from local schools visit Williams on Nov. 1
- **School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement**: YRDSB conducted a Climate Survey last year (parent version, & school version); also, Williams conducted an additional version to survey student satisfaction and needs/wants. The school will receive its results by the end of October.
- Welcome package: distributed to all students (10-pg handout); includes common policies & procedures that parents/guardians have to sign (due today). This is a YRDSB procedure that "fair notice" is given to all.
- **International Baccalaureate (IB) Information Night on Oct. 17**. This year, each IB-candidate school will hold separate information nights simultaneously (as opposed to one large event, as last year). This works well, as this is the same evening when Williams will hold the Grade 8 Open House for families.
- IB final authorization: Expect final verification visit in December; have full confidence Williams will receive the final approval in time for September 2018.

Council Items/Questions

Santa Clause Parade (Nov. 25)

- Lynn received the application for this year's parade and asked if Council was interested in helping to organize this event. It was a great experience last year; Ms. McKie was a big help in organizing; Mr. Hillmer and Ms Malatesta joined parents and students to make participation possible.
- Mr. Hillmer mentioned that because this is a weekend event, he is having difficulty finding a teacher to supervise the students. One teacher is required; ratio then will need to be 1 adult per 15 students in Grades 10-12 (1:13 for Grade 9 students)

GW Williams Website

- Needs updating/outdated since 2015/2016; this is challenge as only individuals who work for the Board are allowed to work on the site, and there is no one currently trained with this knowledge at Williams (was previously handled by the office supervisor who has retired). An office secretary and one teacher will receive training this year.

Student Population: 750 students

Mail Bag

Lynn Pearson

- Co-op newsletter
-

Adjournment

Chris Hilmer thanked Council members for their support and wished everyone a safe and relaxing summer. Lynn motioned to adjourn the meeting; Dina seconded it. Meeting terminated at 8:35 p.m.

Next meeting is on Monday, October 16, 2017

Follow-up for Council

Principal Profile is available online on the Ministry of Education site. We will review at Oct. meeting; to be finalized at the Nov. meeting