

Dr. G W. Williams School Council
Minutes from the meeting of
Monday, October 15, 2018

Present:

School Administration (Staff)-Christopher Hilmer, Patrick McQuade, Diane Conlon

Parents-Lynn Pearson(chair), Chris Baker (vice-chair), Yevgenia Casale, Lynsey McKechnie, Mehrab Khan, Toni Chahley, Jill Harris, Xueying Khan, Corry Patterson-Goncalves, Ken Turriff, Sara Kingsmill Helling. Michael Wen, Lucy Wang, Nanda Shamann.

Regrets: Dina Paraskevopoulos

Student Representative- Noah

Welcome

Lynn opened the meeting at 7 pm.

Welcome to new parents Ken & Sara.

Motion to approve tonight's agenda: Yevgenia; Seconded by Chris

Motion to approve May minutes: Mehrab; Seconded by Lynsey

Student Report - Noah, Student Council President

· Camp Robin Hood, despite rain great success. Great time for Grade 9 students, an opportunity for getting to know each other.

· Semi-formal due date: November 2 (student activity fee discount on school cash online.

· New Clubs: Public speaking club & ESL club; interesting for ESL and whole student body. Lots of fun get to know new people and hang out.

Questions

· Council asked about promotion for Grade 9 engagement - Banner and letter size posters, school cash online. Daily announcements encouraging Grade 9 and those new to the school, to go to semi-formal have great time and get to know school community.

· Semi-formal committee also have plans to go into Grade 9 classrooms in the future.

· Experience of going to semi-formal as Grade 9 including dinner, dancing, grade 9's knew each other. Had a good time

· Clothes; suggestion for wearing dressier clothes from closet. No new clothing purchases required. Not similar to Grade 12 prom, in past students have worn shirt tie, sometimes jacket/dress pants. Dresses, pant suits. Just ensure meeting expectations of school dress code.

Next meeting – student communication representative expected to attend.

Administration Report - Diane Conlon, Patrick McQuade & Christopher Hilmer

· EQAO results - Diane Conlon

Overview:

Level 3 is considered meeting provincial standards or higher, all students registered in Grade 9 students in Academic of Applied math class take EQAO. Two different tests. January for semester 1, June for semester 2. Contributes to 5% of overall grade.

Academic - 186 student each student represents 0.5%. Results consistent with board and significantly higher than provincial results.

Applied - 23 registered students, each student represents 4%. Results significantly lower compared to board and province

No data – this indicates student did not open package/write anything on test.

Very question – were the results poorer than the rest of board and province? Some expectations on par with board and province 62%-Dr GW Williams 64%-Board 62%-

Province for measurement & geometry. significantly above 76%Dr GW Williams 65%-
Board 62%-Province for linear relations

Drilling down:

Why were successful strands successful, for other strands what was approach and how to improve?

Questions are multiple choice, school received breakdown by questions, showing incorrect answers were consistent. Note: a few questions are standard and not released. Most released and we can look at the thinking. For open response questions with level 2 and level 3 responses, look at what additional thinking was missed to get to the next level, example using tools (access to calculator given).

Adapting class activities, incorporate feedback to improve student understanding. All questions based on grade 9 learning and strands in grade 9 curriculum. Cohort data tracked from grade 3 to 6 to 9. For last year's cohort grade 6 was not written. Useful information when available with interruption for last year.

Discussion

Assistance available outside of classrooms, within school, extra help from math teachers, IEP – SERT assistance for extra support. Afterschool courses can be offered for math with interest (15 threshold) – also offered for literacy. Grade 9 now – interim reports issued (teacher contacting home if extra support suggested). Sample assessments and scoring available on sample assessment.

Information available on EQAO website – parents have access (no login), educator and student areas as well.

Math homework help – Ontario math homework help. Ontario service Grades 7-10 just need OEN number (can be found on school paperwork) or ask math teacher. Mon-Thurs 5-9pm teachers are online. Conversations are saved, these can be used as a resource for students to look through for answers to their questions with responses. Experiences using math homework help - very interactive. Other resources Grades 11-12 peer groups, Khan academy, teacher support. Consider access basics online without login.

Suggestion encouragement in classroom to be seeing and trying math homework help prior to need, some students reluctant hoping familiarity with math homework help will give them confidence. Reduce intimidation, extra help offered in classroom, students can also benefit from being in the room during math help time. Others may ask your questions. Also can use email communication with teachers.

Looking at resources on parent pages. Teacher also offer online tools.

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/elearning/homework.html>

Contests – (experience in elementary school) University of Waterloo, Pascal contest – tied 1st York Region with Bayview. 12th overall in Canada. Euclid, math club looks at problems. Encouraged during class.

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/drgwilliams.ss/DeptPrograms/math/Pages/Opportunities.aspx>

Council reviewed a question – included 5 step process, question multiple choice.

Example used Pythagorean theorem, if not reading the question might use Pythagorean theorem and not find answer and guess from multiple choice answers. Academic performance is not necessarily reflective of knowledge

- OSSLT results - Patrick McQuade

Only one test for applied and academic (not split into two streams as per math EQAO).
Grade 10 mandatory pass for graduation or take literacy course option (1 credit).

Explanations:

OSSLT - Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test.

First time eligible – in grade 10 in their year to write.

Previously eligible – did not write in grade 10 maybe in grade 11 or 12, transfer from another province, exchange, held back or not passed 1st attempt

ELL – student is ESL for current or past 2 years

IEP - Individual Education Plans

FTE shows decline in numbers then increase percentage to 86% (2017) from high 90% (2014) 111 successful from high 118 successful. 17 students were unsuccessful last year.

1% ahead of board, 7% ahead of province in terms of %.

Learners without ELL 48 students (39%) includes no designations

ELL – 16 students (13%)

Special education - (36%) 45 students excluding gifted

ESL – 15 students (12%) non-English-speaking homes

Previously eligible

46 students wrote last year, 50% successful

30 students did not write OSSLT– 2 absent, 24 deferred, (literacy course alternate).

4% behind board 4% above province success

Literacy course – also receive credit and another route to access requirement for graduation.

ELL/spec 2 students ELL 16 students

Drilling down:

For every student see how questions are answered to increase student understanding leading to further success on future tests. Identify questions and supports and teaching strategies. ELL and special education embed literacy in all classes throughout curriculum

ELL is the student – ESL is the course.

Amanda Borenstein (English Head)– P/T assigned to support literacy and teacher's resources to support.

“Lit blitz” booklet, in classes practice literacy on OSSLT – opinion piece, prompt, choose and argue side in well-structured essay. Students identified for supports, teaching embedded in classes or individual student support.

News article from photo and headline – who, what, where, when, why & how, explore article.

Narrative and descriptive test – multiple choice

Grammatical testing – multiple choice

Graphical testing decoding visual text- – support students to decode and answer from images.

Marking is carefully monitored for consistency.

OSSLT – Wed. March 27th, 2019 for eligible students – Province wide testing and requirement for graduation. Important: to avoid appointments and other scheduling on this day.

Build up and attempt to reduce anxiety ahead during preparation.

Opinion piece covered through Grade 9 curriculum, "Lit Blitz" for all English classes in advance during lead up. Covering topics OSSLT related, activities are reviewed to identify students requiring additional support.

Afterschool literacy program – (min. 15 students) 10 sessions lead up to test – Feb/Mar – encourage use of resources.

OSSLT – responses are prescribed, trained to write properly with examples e.g. write 6 lines where space is provided. Following directions.

<http://www.eqao.com/en/assessments/OSSLT/students/Pages/students.aspx>

· Administrator Profile – Christopher Hilmer

School Council input need to submit by 1 December 2018. For review next meeting 19 November 2019.

Typical principal 4-6 years & vice principals 2-4 years. Mr Hilmer – currently 7 years through renovations and IB implementation. School council input regarding skill sets, competencies & attitudes via administrator profiles.

Version we are using 5 columns – Ontario leadership framework (skillsets have/ to develop)

See school council handbook for additional outlines, sample 1 rank priorities, sample 2 YES/NO or sample 3 bullet points.

Homework for school council parents - edu.gov.on.ca search school council handbook – see document start 3.11 for relevant pages.

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/SchoolCouncils/Documents/SCHandbook.pdf>

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/general/elemsec/council/council02.pdf>

Read through format handout and suggest changes to implement.

· **School Council Forum on 19 November 2018**

2 events offered per year (central region) Fall/Spring. Forum Mon Nov 19th 5:30-8:30pm (usually) typically dinner and speeches – breakout sessions with Trustees in attendance at Langstaff SS. Email to Mr Hilmer to attend. Outline of evening:

5:00 pm is Check-in; 5:30 is dinner. 6:00 – 7:00 is Greetings from Chair, Director, Superintendent of Equity as well as Plenary Session on the Trustee's Multi-Year Strategic Plan and Director's Annual Plan and LinkED York Presentation. 7:10-7:35 Workshop on Building Collaborative Relationships. 7:40-8:10 is Workshop on Empowering Ethical Leadership. 8:10-8:30 Meet the Trustee. We can send three parents – if you are interested, let Mr. Hilmer know so that you can be registered by November 15.

Lynn spoke about experience attending in previous years, Lynn found fall School Council Forum interesting, discussing effective school council and role and function of board. Covers elementary and high school e.g. Edsby – parent/school communication Spring – Sheridan Parkway – annual forum includes multi-year plans.

· Wednesday 12 October- Interim progress reports were sent home. These provide a snapshot of student progress, open dialogue.

· Wednesday 24 October – Parent-Teacher interviews sign-up forms included with interim reports. Useful when level indicated is lower than anticipated; have chance to open dialogue for assignments or help

· Thursday 25 October – Post-Secondary Fair Grade 11 & 12 Thurs Oct 25th - for all Aurora schools on rotation this year at St Max.

- Wednesday 17 October – IB info night (all IB schools).
 - 8 November - this year separate Grade 9 info night.
 - Friday 9 November Remembrance observed - Remembrance Day has a special significance in 2018. Sunday 11 November 2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18).
 - 14 November - take kids to work day, all grade 9 students attend parent, neighbour, relative workplace for experience – no grade 9's in school this day. Grade 8 come in
 - 16 November Mid-semester reports sent home.
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Follow up from last meeting:

- Fundraising - Yevgenia Casale

Fundscript – card program portion spent on gift cards comes back to school. Buy gift cards through school. School purchases gift cards for own purchases.

Suggest November commencement, 2 options parents sign up and receive cards mailed to homes (school receives reduced %) delivered to school and distributed. Concern over Board policies and distribution, suggestion Treasurer to manage the funds.

Possible avenues for advertisement through Williams Tell/announcements/posters for students' awareness, using not just for Christmas (other occasions, Mother's Day, Easter), ongoing throughout school year, multiple vendors (different % given back by vendor). Consensus to show clearly what raising funds for and include clearly in all advertisements. Way for parents to continue to make regular purchases and support school, Gas groceries.

Supporting school –Questions managing cards coming in and distribution (treasurer) or designate of school council availability. Days and times for card distribution to be determined, ongoing suggested monthly.

Food sales – Pizza vendors, popcorn days as examples. Lynn provided details for snack centre.com buy variety 32 bags \$18. Logistics to be explored, student sales or council members coming in to support.

Motion to pursue Mehreb 2nd Toni - motion carried – further information and action required before next meeting.

Highlight current initiatives:

Cost sharing – council members not universally aware, Dr G. W. Williams can match up to \$6250 (larger than 500 students from non-board funds) to potential total \$12,500 – for example could purchase 12 computers. Questions about additional computers or tech, these could be purchased but \$ not matched. Additional funds if successful can also go to additional tech or other needs for school.

Cost sharing – agreed to re-visit this meeting as ties into the need for raising additional funds and purchases. and contribute money and board matched for buying tech \$6,250 computers, iPad. Non-board sources essentially “fundraised”. For all kids. Deadline Dec. Donation requests – communication, presentation, aware of perception of choice with gratitude.

Gift card ongoing costs – carried over.

Student activity fee – promoted to as many students as possible – Student activity fee is still available – additional discounts less than 50% paid. Avoiding direct donations,

fundraising with purchases. For all students – further conversations advertise student activity fee & ongoing fundraising. Further ideas – by email.

- Traffic flow/by-law officers report - Lynn Pearson

Bylaw attended twice, some window knocking was observed to speak to drivers who are not obeying the Town by-law. Those dropping off students cannot stop on road. Advise Lynn if continue to see and email Lynn, the by-law officer can come again to observe and remind drivers.

Loop fire route – noted that there should be no parking in the loop and that the smaller outside loop is not for drop off but for vehicles to pass to exit.

Diagram added to notice in William's Tell - consensus diagrams are clear.

Chairs report – Lynn Pearson

No mail bag items

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Next Council meeting date is Monday 19 November 2018.