

Dr. G W. Williams School Council
Minutes from the meeting of
Monday, September 17, 2018

Present:

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

Parents-Lynn Pearson(chair), Chris Baker (vice-chair), Brad Whittick, Zahra Hamidi-Ashtiani, Lida Rezaeian, Lan Maio, Yevgenia Casale, Dina Paraskevopoulos, Lynsey McKechnie, Paul Prochazka, Diana Moniz, Toni Chahley, Jill Harris, Michael Wen, Lucy Wang, Narendra Chandrasekhar, Nanda Shamanna, Xueying Khan, Mehrab Khan, Denise Dodds, Lisa Phillips, Corry Patterson-Goncalves

Student Representative- Noah

Welcome

Lynn opened the meeting at 7 pm.

Motion to approve tonight's agenda: Chris B.; Seconded by Dina

Motion to approve May minutes: Jill, Seconded by Chris B.

Mr. Hilmer welcomed parents and introductions were completed

Student Report - Noah, Student Council President

- A number of clubs and teams have started or will start soon. Sports teams run by season. Sign ups are on the bulletin board outside the gym. Information about club sign-ups can be found on the bulletin board by the cafeteria and some information can be found on the school website.
- Fall sports teams must be declared to the Board by the first Friday of the school year and the school can be fined if declared teams do not go ahead as planned.
- Council is working on a spreadsheet to organize information about teams and clubs
- The school is home to approximately 40 new ESL students. The school offers an ESL cafe to link ESL students and the rest of the student population.
- Student Council elections will be held on Wednesday, September 26. President, vice-president, secretary and treasurer have been elected already. Elections on September 26 will be for representatives for each grade: 4 for Grade 9, and 2 each for Grades 10-12, as well as 2 Communication Reps and 2 International Student reps. Nominations are due this Thursday.
- Council will bring back the mental wellness committee to improve student mental well being.
- October 2 will be Camp Robin Hood day. This is a day set aside for all Grade 9 students. Peer Mentors will be in attendance to organize activities along with camp staff and teachers.
- October 17 is an I.B. presentation for prospective students and parents.
- November 14 is Take Your Kids to Work Day for Grade 9 students, and Grade 8s in the community will visit Williams.
- November 15 is the Semi-Formal. All students are welcome. We want to encourage Grade 9s to attend.

Administration Report - Christopher Hilmer

- Student and parent climate surveys are done every 2 years as required by the Board. They were completed last year by parents and students. Williams does an add-on survey. Data will be reviewed by the Well-Being Committee and the Equity Council to consider initiatives.
- Purpose of School Council was explained: Council acts as an advisory group to the principal and provide parent/community perspectives on school-related issues. Also, it is a forum for the school to share messages and information that Council members can share with the community.
- Last year, School Council applied for and received a Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant through the Ministry and hosted an evening focusing on building resilience in anxious teenagers. It was very well attended and well received. Council applied for the grant for this year but has not heard confirmation. Council has been encouraged to consider joining another school to share resources.
- Information was provided about roles on School Council and interested parties submitted their names for consideration. After discussion and voting, the following executive positions were confirmed:
Chair: Lynn Pearson-elected
Vice-chair: Chris Baker-acclaimed
Secretary: Lynsey McKechnie-acclaimed
Treasurer: Mehrab Khan -elected
Grade 9 Rep-Yevgenia Casale-acclaimed
- As Grade 9 Rep, Yegenia offered to have her email address passed on to parents who may contact the school for assistance with Grade 9 student issues.
- Executive members will be listed in the upcoming Parent Tell.
- School should receive results of last year's EQAO and OSSLT on September 19 and will be shared with Council at the October meeting. Grade 10 students are required to complete the OSSLT as part of their diploma requirements. All Grade 9 students in academic or applied math are required to write the EQAO test.
- September 24 is a P.A. Day
- Week of September 24 - Safety Week throughout the YRDSB. There will be a fire drill and lockdown. Fire drills are required 6 times per year and lockdowns are required 2 times per year. The school will have community speakers give presentations during lunchtime to provide visual demonstrations related to fire safety, and the dangers of drinking and driving.
- September 27 – M.A.D.D. assembly will be presented to students in Grades 11 and 12 during period 4.
- September 27 is the Terry Fox Run during period 2. Students can sign up on school cash online. Participants will walk/run in the neighbourhood and will be served a light pizza lunch when they are done.
- October 1 is photo retake day. Photos go to the yearbook, student I.D. and are available for purchase.
- October 2 is Camp Robin Hood Day for all Grade 9 students and registration is required through School Cash Online. There will be no classes for Grade 9 students on that day. Council was advised that there is no funding to subsidize field trips as they are not mandatory, but Council was also advised that if a family required assistance to pay for this particular event, the school would find ways to

provide assistance. Council wondered if there is a way to work on creating a discretionary fund to assist families with these types of expenses.

- October 4 is the Awards Evening for students who were in Grade 9, 10 or 11 last year. The top student (or a distinguished student) in each subject area will be awarded as will students who receive awards presented by the school. Invitations should go out by the end of this week.
- October 12 - Interim Progress Reports will be sent home. These indicate what level a student is working at and are an unofficial initial indication of how a student is progressing in each class. Mid-semester report cards will go out in November.
- October 17 - There will be an I.B. Information Evening for Grade 8 students and parents. There will also be a Grade 8 Information Evening for students not applying to the I.B. program to be held on November 8.
- October 24 - Parent/Teacher Interviews. Parents can sign up to make an appointment to meet individual teachers.
- October 25 - A post-secondary school fair will be held at St. Maximillian Kolbe High School. All are welcome. This is a fair that rotates yearly among the 4 Aurora high schools. It is an evening event and there will be representatives on hand from universities and colleges.

Chair's Report - Lynn Pearson

- Applications are due for floats/entries for the Aurora Santa Claus Parade to be held Saturday night November 24. The school participated 2 years ago and Lynn wondered if there would be interest in doing so again. The float (or entry) would require at least one staff representative and there has not been a volunteer so far. Parents can also volunteer, if they provide a clear Vulnerable Sector Screening. The deadline to apply is November 6. Mr. Hilmer agreed to ask staff again. Some consideration given to having the Spirit Squad participate.
- Questions were raised about the sports field and track. Mr. Hilmer advised that the track was dragged (weeds and growth removed from the track gravel) at the end of August and will be done again this week. Some consideration to putting down more gravel as well.
- Concerns were raised about traffic and safety issues during pick-up and drop-off times. These procedures have been clearly outlined in the Tell every week. Staff cannot assist with pick-up/drop-off due to potential liability issues and hiring a police officer would not be manageable financially. Lines are painted and clearly marked, and the loop is closed for a time after school to allow for special needs students to board buses safely. Mr. Hilmer is open to ongoing discussion around parking issues and two parents (Chris Baker and Corry Patterson-Goncalves) agreed to create a sub-committee to consider traffic calming ideas.
- Lynn raised the issue of cars stopping and standing in no-stopping areas, which creates safety issues and traffic issues. She will call to see if a by-law officer can assist with this issue.
- No mail bag items.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Next Council meeting date is Monday, October 15 at 7 pm.