

Dr. G. W. Williams School Council Meeting Minutes
Meeting #2 – Monday, October 18, 2021
Virtual Meeting 7:00 - 8:30pm

Attendees

School Administration: Melissa Schmidt, Harmandeep Brar, Katrina Morrison, Diane Conlon

Parents: Murli (Murlidharan) Sadanandam, Margaret McKie, (Amy) Qiong Gao, Kathy Duncan, Anita Lo, Alison Mohan, Angela Yeoman, Jodie Montagnese, Dawn Levine, Liudmila Domakhina, Toni Chahley

Student Council: Brian Park

	Item	Topic Lead
1	Welcome and Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees introduced themselves in the chat. Motion to approve tonight's agenda: Jodi and seconded by Margaret Motion to approve September minutes as amended by removing "Motion for Staff Report": Murli and seconded by Margaret 	Kathy Duncan
2	Land Acknowledgement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The land acknowledgement was pre-recorded. Department Heads at the Leadership team engaged in learning that afternoon about the indigenous views of Protectors vs. Protesters. The team compared attention the contributions that indigenous activists such as Autumn Peltier received as compared to say, Greta Tunberg. The team also looked as resources such as the "Water Walker" by Joanne Robertson. 	Melissa Schmidt; Harmandeep Brar
3	Student Council Report <u>General Events</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The second meeting of the Student Council was held. They will be working on revising the constitution and working on funding allocation. There are plans to host a Halloween costume event, possibly a competition outdoors. <u>Club Updates</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various clubs have started and there is tremendous interest and appetite for the clubs. 	Brian Park
3	Report from YRDSB Planning regarding Dr. G. W. Williams Secondary School rebuild project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The update on the project was being provided at request of the community. Staff had been updated that afternoon. the opening date has been moved down to possibly September 2025 due to delays arising from the effects of the pandemic and the additional approval process required under new Government. Also, the capacity of the school has been changed (from 21 to 23 per class) and this has necessitated slight design changes. Preparatory meetings and preliminary meetings with the Municipality with site planning have taken place. Well on its way. The interior design issues should be resolved by 2022. The architects will consult with heads of departments 	Dawn Adams, Senior Manager of Planning and Property

	<p>regarding design issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction is anticipated to take two years to complete with a view to opening in 2025. • A summary will be provided for the newsletter and once the site plans completed (following determination of the driveways) and released. • The process is to take this to the Trustees first and then to the school community. • Ms. Schmidt advised that no additional measures need to be taken to keep the school open. We have a brand-new PA system, and it is a mandatory requirement to ensure that the school is safe so that there will be normalcy with no requirement to move. 	
4	<p>Staff Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim reports will be sent out shortly at the end of October. • Special Ed data derived from the interim reports will be used to develop plans for additional supports. • IEPs have been finalized and will be going out. • There are several teams and clubs up and running. 50-60 students are signing up for each club and plans are in place to explore what can be offered in the winter. • Options for remote learners to try out for teams and there are opportunities for them to get involved in extracurricular activities. They can access the website and instagram account for contact information and a full list of available clubs. • Margaret advised that there was a full complement (6 permanent) of office staff. • The new telephone system has been a challenge, but staff are learning to use it. Registration verification is taking place. • Office staff are introducing themselves when answering the telephone and this has been a positive experience for staff and the school community. • Motion to accept staff report by Toni and Seconded Anita 	Katrina Morrison and Margaret McKie
5	<p>Administration Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Conlon advised that teacher interview night was on November 3rd which was the same day as "Take Your Kids To Work". A letter was going out on October 19 with information on how to set up EDSBY accounts. • Interim reports are going out electronically between October 21-26. • The Take your kids to work event is being offered on two platforms, the first is via a virtual job shadowing option and the second is for students to participate in livestream career pathways for the full day. The information was sent to the students' GAPPs accounts for selection and consent to participation, due October 29. Grade 9's are to participate in one of the two option at home. They are not to attend school on that day. • Mr. Brar provided information on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation activities at school. There was a YRDSB-wide presentation done with the Indigenous communities leading it and this was followed by specific reconciliation activities in the afternoon. The feedback from staff and students was all positive. • Information was provided about the Brain and Movement breaks initiative at school to encourage break time to be productive, actively work on mental health strategies and to improve team building. There is recognition that 150 minutes of learning is a long time. • There is a Google slide of ideas by staff and students on what types of activities that can be done in the classroom to make them worthwhile. It is to be used as a 	Melissa Schmidt Diane Conlon Harmandeep Brar

	<p>resource to get the students to participate in the initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was confirmed that there is an expectation that all classes will have movement breaks and there is understanding by staff that we need to adapt our in-class practices to centre on student needs, that this is what we need to focus on and improve on as the year progresses. • OSSLT – online literacy test will take place in the fall and the spring with the fall testing for Grades 11 and 12 students who are not graduating. This will take place between November 18 – and December 1st but no time has been specified for our school yet. • The test must be done on a Board issued computer. There are 331 Grade 11s and 40 Grade 12s all writing on the same day. The Board will supply the computers on the day. We are trying to prepare the grade 11s by offering after-school literacy courses, once on Mondays/Wednesdays and Tuesdays/Thursdays. • Principal's report – • Clubs and Activities are to be found on the school website under student tab – all the clubs are listed and running. It is very busy. Staff advisor and student contacts are on the website. This is a live document, so it is instantly updated as changes are made. • Announcements- are being posted on the website and retained for the week. • Budget process – Department Heads are gathering needs for their respective departments and submitting them by Wednesday. A Budget has not been disclosed by YRDSB. Across the system \$4 million was cut from all schools this year – COVID has been the cited as the major reason. The school continues to provide further access to technology. Permission had been obtained to look through school funds where funds have been accumulating (yearbooks etc) and permission was granted to the school to use the funds for Chromebooks such that 81 were ordered. We already have 63 that are used – loaded. We will have 115 for use in the school. • Dress Code- 2017 dress code is under review. This is being raised with kids and staff from an A/O perspective. How does the code meet our “safe and caring school” branding? • IB application process for the 2022 year is underway. The application process has been changed to include production of a portfolio as well- rounded students are being focused on with an equity lens to address a wide range of students needed. • The IB evaluation process is a five-year review process that includes a review of policies, study plans, collaboration with department, self-study reflection and also a 2–3-day visit from the governing board in April – June 2023. Much of this is taking place now virtually. • The music program is struggling with very old instruments that would require 5K-6K in repairs. A New baritone saxophone is very expensive and can run between 3K-8K. We have been borrowing instruments to make do. The Music Department is exploring funding sources and strategies. At this time donations to the program are being sought – school cashonline, flipgive, online concerts were suggested. • The Head of the Music Department will attend our November 15, 2021, meeting to discuss the Music Department's needs. • Motion to accept the administrative report by Margaret and seconded by Toni 	
6	<p>New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annual Report and school council forum were discussed as the timeline for submitting the Annual Report has been extended to October 29. The Annual Report was completed during the meeting. 	Kathy Duncan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions were held about the accessibility of William Tell and whether it could be translated into different languages by Google. Ms. Schmidt is to follow up with Tech staff about this issue. • The Annual Report focused on Equity issues. Ms. Schmidt advised that Brad would attend a meeting to speak about de-streaming with respect to Math. • The Student Council Constitution is being revisited such that the voice of the students can be amplified. • The Parent Forum was discussed, and participation encouraged. Parents advised that more training from YRDSB directly would be welcomed, and this should include Equity/Diversity training. • The question was raised if the Student Council would get access to similar training. The Equity team is meeting on Wednesday and there is embedded Equity learning in at all clubs at school. Girls can try out for any of the teams. One girl is on the senior soccer team. • Parents were reminded to save the date for November 17 for Parent Forum 6-8pm.. 	
8	Meeting Adjournment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to adjourn by Jodi at 8:37pm and seconded by Amy 	Kathy Duncan

Next Meeting: **Monday, November 15, 2021** at 7:00 pm

All Parents/Guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend.