

Dr. G. W. Williams School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting #6 – Monday, May 15, 2023

In-person Meeting 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Attendees: Kathy Duncan, Johana Vigneswaran, Regan Scott, Qiong Gao (Amy), Wayne Williams, Kathy Derlis, Paul Derlis, Tricia Riccio

School Administration: Melissa Schmidt, Susie Mitchell, Hailey King

Student Council: Bruce Yu

	Item	Topic Lead
1.	Welcome and Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Kathy.	Kathy Duncan
2.	Land Acknowledgement <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. Schmidt led the land acknowledgementThere was discussion around the Dewey Decimal system and colonizationIndigenous histories were shelved under "fairy tales"Different library systems emerging<ul style="list-style-type: none">le how things are connected - Brian Deer classification system	Melissa Schmidt
3,	Agenda & Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">Agenda – Approved by Regan, seconded by TriciaMinutes of last meeting – Approved by Amy, seconded by Amy	Kathy Duncan
4.	Student Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">Student council elections coming may 18 for a couple of weeksWill transition over JuneStudent appreciation day June 2 - BBQ and activitiesBake sale May 19Instagram account to celebrate graduatesMotion to approve student report – Regan and seconded by Tricia.	Bruce Yu
5.	Staff Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">Arts night May 18<ul style="list-style-type: none">Talent showArt exhibitionsSpring wish<ul style="list-style-type: none">Blue jays tickets, Toronto youth wind orchestraCan buy wish ticketsSports	Hailey King

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Flag football ○ Track next week ○ Ultimate frisbee ○ Rugby ● Motion to approve Staff report - Anita and seconded by Amy. 	
6.	<p>Administration Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Survey - 83% participation ● Reminder: Mid term distribution was May 3-5 ● Update - Exam sched <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Exam review day June 28 ○ Need to reflect that our grad is planned for Mon June 26 in order to have enough turn around time ○ Will start June 16 for gr 12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grade 12's will be done June 21, rest finish June 26 ● Grad June 26, Ray Twinney A/c <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have 290 confirmed already, have about 325 grads though ● Spring music concert - pay at the door donation, May 24 and 25! ● Music Banquet - June 1 ● Student appreciation BBQ - June 2 ● Prom June 8 - info assembly next week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gowns coming next week? Still working to figure out how to distribute them ● Athletic Banquet June 13 ● Awards at grad - students nominate themselves and/or from other students ● Motion to approve Admin report - Amy and seconded by Kathy. 	<p>Melissa Schmidt</p> <p>Susie Mitchell</p>
7.	<p>School Improvement Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board, Director's improvement plan ● Our SIP support three key areas in these sections and flows from the Director's plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ System actions ○ School actions ○ Classroom and workplace monitoring ● The directors plan are broad goals, but if we are not doing the work in the schools it means nothing to the students in front of us <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We have started to draft some goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Over the last 7 years our school population has doubled ▪ Addition of IB has changed demographics in building ▪ Newcomers moving into area has also changed demographics in building ○ Equity goal ○ Mental Health and Well being goal ○ Effective instruction and Assessment goal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focus on one key area for each of above three to maximize efficiency ● Motion to approve SIP presentation - Regan, seconded by Amy 	<p>Melissa Schmidt</p>
8.	<p>Equity Team – Decolonizing Classrooms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Battiste (2013) on Decolonizing Education & Assessment ● Differences between colonized education vs. Indigenous education 	<p>Haley King</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ie. Teacher to student focused vs. focus on students and teacher interaction ● These are major changes to make, but we have been working on them through our SIP goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Through our community circles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Video from Mr. Buono and Mr. Deputat ▪ Restorative circles ▪ Working on getting used to using the circle itself <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students had to get used to facing each other in a circle, with no barriers and is quite different than a traditional classroom set up ● Far more inclined to share, paid attention to each other; more so than in traditional setting ▪ If there is a conflict or issue, you would use the circle, but we have not had any conflicts we have had to address ▪ Then branched out and ask the students to share ie. What they liked best or least about Williams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The students were a lot more inclined to share <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It was revolutionary ○ Usually get input from maybe 4 - 5 students ○ Now get input from everyone, they were talking to each other ○ The circle makes it fair/equal - there are no barriers there now ● The students liked it and continue to ask if there will be more work using circles ▪ There were some commonalities in the feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● They valued the friendships and the social aspect to being in school ● They felt the course selections as grade 12's were not as varied as they would have liked ▪ The experience was tremendously positive and I would like to continue it in my teaching - weekly/biweekly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Could be used just to check in ● If it is introduced to students in elementary school rather than gr. 12 would be great ▪ Reminds us of sitting around the campfire naturally ▪ Why don't we do it, it works!! ▪ Not just at Williams, other schools participated as well. ● All of this is linked to our indigenous education and equity strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How to use Ontario curriculum and YRDSB resources to respond ○ See slide deck for additional info ● Anti-black racism strategy is from the board and based on statistics re: over representation of black students in special education as well as suspension data ● Also info coming forward on anti-Asian racism, islamophobia, antisemitic racism ● Send info for exec summary to the anti-black racism strategy 	
7.	<p>New Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2023/2024 meeting dates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sept 18 	<p>Melissa Schmidt</p> <p>Kathy</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oct 16 ▪ Nov 20 ▪ Feb 20 Tues ▪ Apr 15 ▪ May 21 immediately after Victoria day (Tues) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motion moved by Tricia, seconded by Anita 	Duncan
8.	<p>Chair’s Report and Mailbag</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report. 	Kathy Duncan
9.	<p>Meeting Adjournment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm. • Bruce Yu motioned to adjourn the meeting. 	Kathy Duncan

Next Meeting: **Monday, September 18, 2023**, at 7:00pm in the Library

All Parents/Guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend.