

Dr. G. W. Williams School Council Meeting Minutes
Meeting #5 – Tuesday, March 23, 2020
Virtual Meeting 7:00 - 8:30pm

Attendees:

School Administration: Melissa Schmidt, Harmandeep Brar, Theresa Meikle, Katrina Morrison, Sabrina Oprea, Margaret McKie

Parents: Corry Patterson-Goncalves (Chair), Patricia Kurtes, Kathy Duncan, Diana Moniz, Amy Gao, Huiyan, Anita Zhang, Diana Moniz, Man Kan Chan

Student Council: Bruce Yu

	Item	Topic Lead
1	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendees introduced themselves. • Motion to approve tonight’s agenda: Patricia and seconded by Margaret. • Motion to approve January’s minutes: Patricia and seconded by Margaret. 	Corry Patterson-Goncalves
2	<p>Student Council Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All meetings are virtual. <p><i>General Events</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Annual Kisses for Kassy fundraiser resulted in \$445 in donations to be shared with the oncology unit at Southlake Hospital. ○ Planning to invite a speaker to talk about female empowerment - speaker will be Deborah Sloboda, fetal physiologist and professor at McMaster University. <p><i>Club Updates</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hot Potatoes is recruiting new members. ○ Music Council had success with Valentine’s Day serenades and is planning for an open mic in April. ○ Medlife is emailing local business for funds. ○ Best Buddies is looking into supporting students struggling with technology. ○ Art Council is starting an acrylic workshop and organizing a k-pop contest. ○ Williams’ Athletic Council had a good workout challenge, is looking forward to planning a yoga challenge and may be planning a Kahoot closer to April break. ○ Peer Mentors recently had a speaker and are having regular meetings. ○ DECA has finished executive team elections for the next year and is waiting for provincial results. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to receive the Student Council Report: Kathy and Margaret seconded. 	Bruce Yu
3	<p>Staff Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Meikle replacing Ms. Conlon on a leave, until at least Spring Break. • A few LTOs right now and in the process of hiring an Art teacher. • Preparing for the coming school year and projections for next year are due tomorrow. • Course selections are in and numbers are up. 1345 students expected for next year. Thus, new staff and additional programming for students. • The school community is keeping COVID at bay. Students and staff are responding very well to entering their information on the self-screening. • Mornings are going smoothly as everyone is using all entrances. • New bell and paging system arriving at the school (phones/paging/bells). • School Board paying about \$100K as new wiring required. Construction will 	Melissa Schmidt

<p>commence during the evenings from April 6th to 9th and completed over the Spring Break. New phones expected to be operational after the Break.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bell chimes have been shared to Student Council staff/students to make the final decision of the final sound wave sound. A lot of input shared. • Parking lot situation looking a lot better. Good weather is showing more students walking and riding their bikes to school. • Corry mentions that there is danger posed to students being dropped off at the back door as their drivers are driving right up to the building on the left, students are exiting their car on the passenger side, which is cause for concern as they are now opening their door to oncoming traffic. • Kathy is agreeing and emphasizing that they can move over to the empty parking spots and let their children out without any parking required. 	
<p><u>Credit Success/Feedback Days</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This semester the Board has changed its approach. At the end of each rotation we have a feedback day where the classes are shortened to just the morning and then the afternoon is dedicated to speaking with the students one on one or as a group, keeping it personalized and discussing what is going on in their respective classes. • Teachers and Student Success Team are finding it better having credit success discussions at the end of each rotation versus at the end of each course. • New feedback days are definitely much better support for the students. 	<p>Harmandeep Brar</p>
<p><u>Teacher Interview Night</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers will be sending out virtual Zoom links for all who have signed up. Same way as the September Teacher Interview Night. • Mid-term marks coming up. Due April 9th but electronically distributed on or about April 27th. 	
<p><u>Mental Health and Wellness day for Grade 9</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented during Face-to-Face session. • Sessions were virtual and the students were able to choose different sessions. • Had some speakers talking about mindfulness or practicing stress management techniques. There were student-led yoga classes, bullet journaling and podcasting. • Very positive feedback from staff and the students. • As a Committee looking at implementing another day or another grade or as a whole school. 	<p>Sabrina Oprea</p>
<p><u>Graduation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduation is different this year and enormous amount of planning to just get the pics done. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 235 students graduating, two different cohorts happening during the week of the pictures and 2 different periods happening all at the same time. ○ Schedule is still working. Gowns available for every student and every student will have a picture taken for grad. Life touch will waive the seating charge for those who cannot afford to pay for pictures. ○ Virtual ceremony is still outstanding. ○ Grad committee has started. Survey to students of what they want will be sent out at some point. ○ Neighborhood will be involved. ○ Video again this year as it was such a success last year. 	<p>Margaret McKie</p>

	<p><u>Other</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently learned there are no exams to align with Semester 1 assessment. • The students have been amazing in following the school rules giving the admin such comfort. • Computer technology has doubled and tripled and the office staff are finally enjoying it. • Attendance is busy. • Difference for all in the office is that they don't know the students, due to masks, hats, hoods... it doesn't not feel normal. • Motion on staff report: Kathy and seconded by Margaret. 	
4	<p>Mindfulness Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theresa introduced herself and mentioned she is in her sixth year of retirement but loves to work with schools and finds this year it is a much different experience due to the pandemic. • Mentions she sees/hears a lot of anxiety and stress of when the pandemic will be over and everyone can get on with their lives. She states that mindfulness can help with that every day. • Has been studying Mindfulness for a while. Has received certificates from the University of Toronto and the University of Oxford. • Mindfulness is based in Buddhist traditions. Our focus is in secular and how we use it in terms of modern psychology and positive psychology. • Shared the following presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shared the Five Finger Practice with Committee and the results were very calming. ○ When caught up with anxiety, or a panic situation, we shut off access to our brain, or the pre-frontal cortex where really good stuff is happening, and we are no longer focused positively. This technique however calms us down. ○ Mindfulness is being in the present moment, focusing our attention on the body, mind and our environment. ○ Mindfulness responds to people and events intentionally – with understanding, rather than reacting impulsively. • Mindfulness video shared from YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTsUEOUaWpY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mindfulness can help. ○ Plenty of resources on Mindfulness. ○ Sharing with the IB students a 12 sessions program called Mindfulness without Borders. 	Theresa Meikle
5	<p>Parent Engagement – Feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Collaborative Relationships presentation. • Director's action plan from the Board is now updated. • We are looking on how to build collaborative relationships with parents, students and staff. • Administrators giving feedback but now the school wants to ask the parents. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Asked about any barriers that may exist? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An example of a response from the committee was that the barrier was just being a parent of a teenager. ○ Does communication via email work for all parents/students? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An example of a response was some families are appreciating the 	Melissa Schmidt

	communication via email but may not work for all due to cost/lack of resources.	
6	<p>School Responsibilities for: <u>Responding to Issues of Racism and Hate</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board is at the beginning stages of the strategy. Can be found on the Board website. • Lessons are being taught in the classroom during period 1. • Learning goals are to identify what human rights are and how they apply to everyone. As well as what the phrase Freedom of Expression means and how to express themselves responsibly. • Declaration of Rights also shared. • Identifying online hate and resources are available. • How social media impacts these issues. <p><u>Anti-Black Racism Strategy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying different forms of online hate. 	Melissa Schmidt
7	<p>Chair's Report and Mailbag</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report. 	Corry Patterson-Goncalves
8	<p>Meeting Adjournment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corry adjourned the meeting at 8.30pm. • Motion to adjourn: Kathy and seconded by Patricia. 	Corry Patterson-Goncalves

Next Meeting: **Monday, May 17, 2021** at 7:00 pm

All Parents/Guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend.



Virtual School Council Meeting

Mar 23, 2021



Agenda

Opening of Meeting - Approval of Agenda / Minutes - Corry, Chair

Student Report - Student Council: Bruce Yu

Staff Report - Admin: Melissa, Theresa, Harmandeep
Staff: Sabrina, Margaret

Mindfulness - Theresa Meikle

Parent Engagement - Melissa

Responding to Issues of Racism & Hate / Anti-Black Racism Strategy

New Business - Corry, Chair

Meeting Adjournment - Corry, Chair



Opening of Meeting - Corry

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes



Student Report - Student Council

Bruce Yu, 2021-2022 Student Trustee Elect



Staff Report - Melissa, Principal

- ★ Staffing
- ★ COVID update
- ★ [New Bell & Paging System](#)



Staff Report - Harmandeep, Vice Principal



- ★ Credit Success
- ★ Feedback Days
- ★ Teacher Interview Night
- ★ Mark Reporting



Staff Report -
Sabrina, Assist Head of Special Education
Margaret McKie, SOAA



Mindfulness

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MCVcTP1laSwwURHR4DMHVQY8iCc6fZ6nAY1ew?usp=sharing>



Parent Engagement

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1IzwSZcOigqByq-7aCV17D-PunINrAR0DI9kCvAETk/edit?usp=sharing>



Responding to Issues of Racism & Hate



<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1hU2IzRM794lhGgpz06C2Jc-KtGazmFzlwkCQwObdEM/edit?usp=sharing>



Chair's Report & New Business - Corry, Chair



Adjournment - Corry, Chair

