

# Dr. G. W. Williams School Council Meeting Minutes

## Meeting #4 – Tuesday, February 21, 2023

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

#### Attendees:

**School Administration:** Melissa Schmidt, Andrew Gazaneo, Hailey King, Sue Durbacz

**Parents:** Patricia Kurtes, Kathy Duncan, Johana Vigneswaran, Desheng Chen, Regan Scott, Qiong Gao (Amy), Wayne Williams

**Student Council:** Hailey Graham

	Item	Topic Lead
1.	<b>Land Acknowledgement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Ms. Schmidt led the land acknowledgement and what it means to us.</li><li>In the 2023-2024 school year, all YRDSB Grade 11 English will be focusing on indigenous texts. In our school this already started this year.</li></ul>	Melissa Schmidt
2.	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Kathy.</li><li>Agenda – Approved by Patricia and seconded by Regan.</li><li>Minutes of last meeting – Approved by Regan and seconded by Hailey King.</li></ul>	Kathy Duncan
3.	<b>Inclusion Activity</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Attendees joined in an activity to see what we would be interested and looking forward to in tonight's meeting and discussing for future meetings.</li></ul>	Melissa Schmidt
4.	<b>Student Report</b> <u>Grade Surveys</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Grade surveys gather information from admin and students to ensure everyone's voice is being heard.</li><li>Sending out the surveys any day now.</li></ul> <u>Upcoming fundraising (Quebec trip and DECA)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>One student qualified to attend Nationals in Florida for DECA, which is a business competition.</li><li>Finding ways to fundraise with pizza and popcorn to assist with sending this student to Florida.</li></ul> <u>New Clubs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Battery recycling club. Education-based on sustainability.</li><li>Music Department. Open Mic in February which was very well received.</li></ul>	Hailey Graham

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OBA (Ontario Band Association) had a festival in Scarborough and the school came home with 3 golds. Now invited to Nationals, however, not attending this year due to cost.</li> <li>• Student Leadership opportunities are now happening, i.e. string ensemble and brass quartet are student run.</li> <li>• Motion to approve student report – Patricia and seconded by Amy.</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b>Staff Report</b></p> <p>Sports currently running:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Junior and senior co-ed badminton</li> <li>• Rock climbing</li> </ul> <p><u>Black History Month</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How teachers are integrating black history month into their classes and how they know the impact of that.</li> <li>• Thursday and Friday this week having a movie viewing and then a discussion afterwards.</li> <li>• February PD was Violence Prevention</li> </ul> <p><u>Quebec City Tour</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 day tour from May 4 – 7, 2023</li> <li>• Virtual information session tomorrow at 6:30pm</li> <li>• Cost will include accommodations, breakfast and dinner. Mr. Buono is running this and fundraising will be taking place.</li> </ul>	Hailey King
6.	<p><b>Staff Report</b></p> <p><u>What is a 1:1 Program?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching and learning environment in which each participating student and teacher has access to a personal computing device on a direct and continuous basis for educational purposes.</li> <li>• Students do not share their technology with other students but take ownership over their own particular device.</li> <li>• PURPOSE: To improve student learning and engagement and to teach students how to be critical thinking CREATORS with technology rather than passive CONSUMERS of technology</li> </ul> <p><u>Why this Approach?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many students know how to use technology because they don't know a world without it.</li> <li>• They use it every day but this doesn't mean they are using the technology effectively.</li> <li>• We aim to equip our students with the skills they need to use their technology in a way that is meaningful and constructive.</li> <li>• Important to note that cell phones are not a primary device.</li> </ul> <p><u>Benefits of 1:1 Programs</u></p>	Hailey King

- One element is an international move towards individualizing learning, which can increase independence and self-initiated learning in students and extend their learning beyond the classroom.
- Students who have a device have been found to be more engaged, collaborative and take ownership of their learning.
- One to one programs can extend formal learning communities to include parents, siblings and other people in students' lives.
- Can lead to initiating global communication and collaboration and develop creative expression.

#### How it Would Work

- Most students would be required to provide their own primary device such as a laptop (preferred), Chromebook or tablet with keyboard attachment.
- Refurbished technology and incentive programs.
- Students who demonstrate further financial need sign an equipment loan contract and be lent one of the Chromebooks from the school.
- The library would house a small number of Chromebook to lend to students for the day if they forget their device.

#### The Williams Context

- We have the most Chromebooks that are checked out by the library compared to other schools.
- 6 Tech Tubs are housed in teacher rooms.
- 4 Tech Tubs are checked out to teachers every day through TA.
- We run out of library Chromebooks checkouts by 9:00 AM.
- More teachers are asking for Tech Tubs.
- 36 Chromebooks have been ordered for departments.

#### Next Steps

- Bring to School Council Meeting tonight.
- Bring to the larger staff and put together a 1:1 committee.
- Communicate to grade 8 students and parents.
- September 2023, start with grade 9s and 10s.
- Professional Development as a school around utilizing a 1:1 program.
- Reflect on the impact and consider bringing it to 11s and 12s, September 2024.
- Motion to approve Staff Report - Johana and seconded by Regan.

#### **Administration Report**

##### New staff

- Yaejin (Carrie) Lee, Elisabeth Macdonald, Daniela Jaramillo Matthew McClymont, Ryan Odes, Miriam Wong, Tanja Watters, Ram Sharma, new caretaker John.
- PA Day – Feb 3, focused on health and safety and violence prevention.
- Every Student Counts Survey – send out late April – May. Hear from students of all aspects of school life.
- Course selections due Feb 24
- Black History Month events (documentary, announcements, focus in courses)
- Classroom visits
  - School safety, being an upstander, drills, lockers and parking.

Andrew  
Gazaneo

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion to approve Admin report - Amy and seconded by Regan.</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>Guidance Department – Course Selections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The guidance team met with all grades in separate assemblies. The presentations were geared towards each grade in transitioning from their current grade to the next grade. All presentations for course selection are in student Google classroom if a reminder is needed.</li> <li>• To graduate high school students must complete 30 credits. 18 compulsory, 12 elective and must pass the literacy test.</li> <li>• 40 hours of community involvement</li> <li>• 2 hours of online courses must be completed, however can opt out.</li> <li>• 18 Compulsory courses: 4 English, 3 Mathematics, 2 Sciences, 1 Canadian Geography, 1 Canadian History, Grade 10 Careers, Grade 10 Civics, 1 Arts, 1 French, 1 Physical Ed</li> <li>• Students can opt-out of on-line courses in one of two ways. There is a paper form available in the Guidance office. They can select in on their My Pathway Planner. Students who do not opt-out must then complete 2 online courses to complete their graduation requirements. Opting out does not prevent you from taking online courses.</li> <li>• Students are actively choosing courses and are due this Friday morning.</li> <li>• Those not returning or graduating must still sign in and click on “Not returning next year?”</li> <li>• The graduation indicator keeps the student on track of what credits they have.</li> </ul>	Sue Durbacz
8.	<p><b>School Council Forum and Planning Forward</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 17 – Chat GPT and AI Learning/Discussion. 30 minutes with Ms. King.</li> <li>• May 15 – Equity team to discuss de-colonizing our classrooms. 30 minutes.</li> <li>• Motion to approve presentations by Johana.</li> </ul>	Kathy Duncan
9.	<p><b>New Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing to report.</li> </ul>	Kathy Duncan
10.	<p><b>Chair’s Report and Mailbag</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing to report.</li> <li>• Motion to approve Chair’s report - Regan and seconded by Johana.</li> </ul>	Kathy Duncan
11.	<p><b>Meeting Adjournment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.</li> <li>• Motion to adjourn the meeting is Regan and seconded by Amy.</li> </ul>	Kathy Duncan

Next Meeting: **Monday, April 17, 2023**, at 7:00pm in the Library

All Parents/Guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend.