# Dr. G. W. Williams School Council Meeting Meeting #3 - Monday November 16th, 2020

Virtual Meeting 7:00 - 8:30pm

#### Present:

School Administration: Melissa Schmidt, Harmandeep Brar, Diane Conlon, Brad MacIntosh, Amanda

Borenstein, Katrina Morrison

Parents: Corry Patterson-Goncalves (Chair), Eunice Han (Student Rep), Chris Baker, Patricia Kurtes,

Leanne Weatherall, Kellie Hutchinson, Diana Moniz, Anita Lo,

Regrets: Margaret McKie, Kathy Duncan

	Item	Topic Lead
1	<ul> <li>Welcome and Introductions</li> <li>Corry opened the meeting at 7:02pm and welcomed those attending.</li> <li>Corry requested for all participants to add their full name to the chat for the minutes</li> <li>Motion to approve October's minutes: Patricia; seconded by Chris</li> <li>Motion to approve tonight's agenda: Patricia; seconded by Anita.</li> </ul>	Corry Patterson- Goncalves
2	Student Council Report  Eunice shared that Student Council meets regularly at 3:45pm  1st meeting – Meet and greet and organized Halloween Trivia for Friday  2nd meeting – Discussed Among Us idea and organizing. This popular game is somewhat of a murder/mystery that is played with a maximum of 10 players and you must try to finish building the castle before the imposter tries to kill anyone.  3rd meeting - Among Us tasks completed  Among Us competition to be held November 28,2020 @3:30pm to 4:15pm.  Instagram  Has a theme  Consistently posting (promoting events)  Next month WSC members are taking over the Instagram account for a day to get other GWW students to know the WSC members  DECA Regional  This weekend  Music Department  Open mics  Art Council  Open studios  Wellness Committee  Brainstorming ideas  Math Club  Competition done alone at home  Motion to approve Student Council Report: Chris and seconded by Leanne	Eunice Han
3	Administration Report  ■ Remembrance Day  □ Organized by our history department-Ms. McKinley, Mr. Deputat and Mr. Buono. Were glad to include students as MC and delivering the Land Acknowledgement that spoke to the role of Indigenous peoples in the war	Melissa Schmidt

effort. Voice of Williams MC was Michael Walters 17 minutes long. Recognized veterans, LGBTQ, reflect how we have benefited from the efforts over the year.

- Parking Lot and Bus Loop
  - Melissa stated she is very pleased with parking lot and bus loop. Running very smoothly now. Big thanks to all the staff who assisted. Mr. Brar mastered the east parking lot with no more turns into the lot. Almost all cars are now entering the west lot and flow is amazing.
- Extra-Curricular Activities
  - ESL Extra Help group starting up. Posted to Instagram and mentioned in the announcements
  - Williams Athletic Council
- Wildcat Shout Out
  - This is to recognize the contributions of our parents/students/staff who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Enter them into a draw for a gift at the end of the month. This initiative brings positivity and recognition to those who have made a positive change to the school community.
- Secondary Model Change Opportunity
  - Deadline was 8:00am this morning.
  - A few calls from parents who missed the deadline and wanting to make changes. Changes would not be made but names would be taken down for friendly reminders for other deadlines.
  - Parents are receiving confirmations of their selection this week from the board and will be able to respond to correct any 'errors' in their model selection for the coming semester.
- Class of 2020 Virtual Graduation
  - Graduation will be held at 7:00pm, November 24<sup>th</sup>
  - o Guidance department extremely busy. Preparations are all in-house.
  - o Staff busy and Mr. Manson has been integral in putting this together.
  - Head of Guidance and Guidance secretary have been putting the slides together.
  - Staff are making time to assist with their availability for the awards/diplomas/etc. pick up, happening next week.
  - o All caps/gowns were purchased by the school for the students.

Mid-Term Reports

- Harmandeep reported that mid-term reports would be emailed November 19<sup>th</sup> to the parents.
- Harmandeep shared that he hopes this way of delivery sticks even after COVID
   -19, as no reports could get lost or thrown in the trash cans.
- Rotation and Cohort Changes
  - Diane stated that cohort changes could be downloaded from the GWW website calendar.
  - Now in second half of rotation with Period 1 Face to Face.
- Emergency Procedures
  - Our 3<sup>rd</sup> fire drills of the semester will be held this Thursday and Friday morning. Next week we will have a Lockdown drill as well as a Hold and Secure drill (COVID precautions in place for both).
- Grade 8 Virtual Parents Night
  - To be held virtually September 18<sup>th</sup> via slide show presentation. Website to be updated.

Harmandeep Brar

Diane Conlon

4 Staff Report

Katrina

- Finding creative ways to support the students who are underperforming.
  - Continuing to do more for professional development than just for technology, ie. learning about ASD and student mental health.
- IEP meetings being organized virtually.
- Our receptionist moved to the Virtual School in October and has not been replaced. Our budget secretary has moved to the front office to assist with reception.
- Motion to approve the Admin and Staff reports: Chris and seconded by Anita.

## Morrison

#### **Department Highlights:**

Math Department

- Brad MacIntosh introduced himself as Head of the Math Department.
- Interested trying to work with for a handful of reasons. We have been for the last few years trying to push the collaborative problem-solving style of learning but does not fit very well with online.
- Tried break out rooms but the natural conversation that we were getting out of a good style of learning is a challenging time due to Covid.
- Many classes in Math dept have gone to linear learning style allowing a lot of teacher talk with opportunities for students to ask questions in larger group settings.
- Some classes are doing flipped classroom style, many started the same way. Try
  to get the students to watch videos to try do some of the learning at home as part
  of their homework and then spend the online classes helping with dealing with
  some of the things they have tried to learn instead of bombarding them during
  class and then sending them home to figure it out. Has met with some success.
  Some students have adapted better than others.
- Struggling with only seeing one screen at a time versus boards of information around the classroom. This was noticed over the past couple of weeks and very apparent a challenge. Trying to find simpler ways to assist, for example, via drawing tablet and Google slides seems to be working to scroll back and forth.
- Although a lot of challenges slowly getting comfortable with the new way. Have come a long way since the beginning.
- Google Meet has new things to access.
- Google classroom has been set up for math club. Wont' be facilitating any contest
  writing but sharing content how and when they can participate. U of T was offering
  opportunities to write with them.
- GWW is not participating in the Grade 9 EQAO this year. Ministry decided this
  irregular year to create an online pilot and gave Boards the option to participate,
  but our Board declined. OSSLT is still scheduled, however.

#### **English Department**

- Different year, different learning environment. Challenge to find the different ways of engaging with the students, the same we would in the classroom. Different tools that has been shared and the students sharing the teachers.
- Balance academic achievement and mental health along with other things, ie. technology, connectivity issues, balanced workload.
- Student feedback has been helpful of what has been successful and what hasn't.
- Implementing flexible due dates, larger emphasis on work assessments, check-ins with the students on an on-going basis, individually during the class. Fine engaging activities to get the students competing on the on-line environment.
- On-line chat has been very successful but still difficult for the students to participate. Still working on it continuing to get the students comfortable.

Brad MacIntosh

Amanda Borenstein

- Students are still struggling more than others. Some are not achieving as much as they would otherwise.
- Generally, students are achieving well when it comes to the assessment of learning.
- Corry asked if there are any programs set up to assist the students in preparing for the OSSLT literacy test?
- Amanda informed us that Ms. Zahra Murad, our Literacy teacher has been reaching out the kids via Google classroom, which is dedicated for the preparation of the OSSLT to practice their literary skills. Every student writing the OSSLT has been invited to participate in the Google classroom. Also reaching out directly to students that she sees may need assistance. Ms. Murad will still be implementing the same practice opportunities but just in a different way this year.
- OSSLT is happening April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Students scheduled to graduate this year that have not completed the literacy test will have it waived for this year only.
- New grade 11 course, split 3U3C Grade 11 course that explores indigenous culture. A great opportunity to celebrate indigenous literature and learn about indigenous experiences within Canada.
- Melissa added that the English dept. has worked so quickly and hard to share this
  with our students. Lots of professional development to share with our students.
  Truth and Reconciliation that adds to our country.
- NBE3U is the English 3U course. Students who take it get the 3U credit. Shown as an NBE on their transcript but it is recognized by all post-secondary institutions.
- Course is full.
- Corry asked if they received a good turnout for the course and yes it is full and the students are taking it for college and university.
- Kids are very engaged and loving it. Earning the grade 11 credit and learning a whole new culture. Looking for opportunities to expand and they are enjoying it.
- Other schools are offering only this course as their English course. Once exposed they recognize how valuable and informative this could be.

#### 5 | Finalize Principal Profile

Padlet Activity

Nothing to report

Administrator Profile

- Melissa sent out the Administrator Profile after the last meeting.
- Five strands of the Administrator Profile are:
  - 1. Setting Direction
  - 2. Building Relationships
  - 3. Developing the Organization
  - 4. Leading the Instructional Program
  - 5. Securing Accountability
- The Administrator Profile <u>padlet</u> was discussed, and the only comments/updates made were as follows:
  - For #4 adding "Being aware of SHSM and promoting the e-opportunity within the school and community, regarding the IB Program."
- After the profile is updated Melissa will send to the Superintendent.
- Melissa stated that the school budget was cut by 25% to fund the secondary virtual school. The technological resources that are required for the students along with the technology that they are implementing to run these virtual models. Although the school budget has been cut by 25% it is pretty much equivalent to the loss of 20% of our students to virtual and the loss of the office secretary position.

Melissa Schmidt

	<ul> <li>Some of the costs are due to the change of the electronic features like the midterm reporting which costs money to set up. Different expenses now in the school as they are not seeing the kids in the school.</li> <li>Motion that the Principal Profile be accepted: Chris motioned and seconded by Patricia.</li> </ul>	
6	<ul> <li>New Business</li> <li>No new business except department highlights.</li> <li>Since not a lot of direction from the Board except for Parent Council we are trying to fill in the time to learn a little more about our school. Hence, why we had department heads tonight.</li> <li>Melissa mentioned we have a wellness committee working diligently on leading a mentally healthy school and completing a healthy schools check list that looks at feedback from staff/students/parents.</li> <li>Wellness Team met today would like to come to the January meeting. Due to the disconnect, this is a great and welcomed thought. Will need to give them more time. Will be the bulk of the meeting outside of our usual subject matter. Committee approves to have the Wellness Committee at our next meeting and more time will be required at our next meeting as plenty to hear.</li> <li>Will be geared to overall well-being. Melissa will send the link to a template with the questions and will send out with our next minutes.</li> </ul>	Corry Patterson- Goncalves
7	<ul> <li>Chair's Report and Mailbag</li> <li>Letter received from Ontario Secondary School's Teacher's Federation, dated beginning of October.</li> <li>Letter mentions what they are striving for during this pandemic. Broken it down to Health &amp; Safety, Equity Funding and Collective Agreements. Their website is <a href="www.osstf.on.ca">www.osstf.on.ca</a> for more information.</li> <li>Leanne asked for confirmation about exams and Melissa confirmed there are no exams being written this year.</li> <li>Motion on Mailbag and New Business: Patricia and seconded by Chris.</li> </ul>	Corry Patterson- Goncalves
8	Meeting Adjournment Corry adjourned the meeting at 8.26pm.	Corry Patterson- Goncalves

Next Meeting: Monday, January18th, 2021 at 7:00 pm

All Parents/Guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### **Future Meeting Dates**

Tuesday, March 23rd, 2021 Monday, May 17th, 2021