

Dr. G. W. Williams School Council Meeting Minutes

Meeting #2 – Monday October 22, 2024

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

Attendees:

School Administration/staff: Melissa Schmidt, Erin Gray, Anthony Buono.

Parents: Johana Vigneswaran, Kathy Duncan, Sam Lee, Jack Long.

Student Council: Jayden Lu, regrets

	Item	Topic Lead
1	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting called to order by Johana at 7:05 p.m. with the Land Acknowledgement.• As it was Secret Path week, information from the Downie Wenjack Foundation was shared• https://downiewenjack.ca/our-work/secret-path-week/• It was noted that quorum had not been reached as such motions would not be made during this meeting and approval could not be granted for any business arising	Johana Vigneswaran/ Melissa Schmidt
2	Agenda and Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quorum not reached, and minutes from previous meeting had been received late• Decision to move forward with Agenda as is	Johana Vigneswaran
3	Student Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Wildcats day was the Friday prior to the meeting• The Students had been gearing up for some Halloween events, including the Haunted Hallway put on by the Arts Council• Sports<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Many sports are wrapping up their fall seasons○ The school has 4 students which would be competing at OFSAA (Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations) which are provincial championships for Cross Country.<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ https://www.ofsaa.on.ca/about/	Melissa Schmidt
4	Staff Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art Department had a field trip to the Distillery District in Toronto on Oct. 2	Anthony Buono

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan Cross (Radio Broadcaster, podcaster) was invited to speak to the school and came in Oct. 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://www.ajournalofmusicalthings.com/about_alan_cross/ • As noted above, Wildcats Day was Oct. 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There was a great turnout ○ There was some fundraising and community building • Oct. 24 was to be Parent – Interview night • Starting Oct. 22 on Tuesdays and Thursdays would be designated as “quiet library” days • Course catch up day would be November 5th • Take your Kids to Work Day is November 6th 	
5	Admin Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last safety drill was to be the week following the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All drill dates are posted on the community calendar on the landing page of the school’s website • The school will be offering afterschool numeracy and literacy classes to students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Numeracy begins the first week of November ○ Literacy started the week before this school council meeting • The Open House for Grade 8 students was scheduled for November 7th • Midterm marks are due from teachers on November 11 and report cards are scheduled to be sent November 18 – 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is a new family dashboard which means that parents will no longer need to use their student’s GAPPs account to login and access the report cards • Full Disclosure date is November 27th <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This is the date by which students in grade 11 or 12 may drop a course and it will not show on their transcript <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Otherwise it will show up as a “Withdrawn” course ▪ It does not apply to students in Grades 9 or 10 • There was a PA Day on October 21st <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There was work done on mental health (the School Mental Health Ontario Wayfinder app was highlighted https://smho-smso.ca/wayfinder/) ○ There was also conversation around cell phones, bullying and vaping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Cellphone ban seems to be going well based on teacher feedback ▪ Teachers were able to share various best practices with each other ▪ Smart Watches may still be on, but must be on silent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers will most likely be asking students to remove these watches during tests 	Melissa Schmidt/Erin Gray
5	Chair’s Report and New Business	Johana

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We worked last year to update the constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chair will be sending out a google form for Council to review and approve the updated document There was discussion that MP Tony van Bynen who represents Newmarket/Aurora was looking for members to join his Youth Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en/tony-van-bynen(105270) Although the deadline was the day following the meeting, information was sent to the Principal and Chair of the School Council As the physical location of the school will change in September there is a plan to have a School Send off in a number of different formats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bob McRoberts (former School Trustee, former department head at Williams, former Williams student) is planned to come to the School Council meeting on November 18, 2024 Mr. McRoberts has also been working with Student Council to add some information into this year's yearbook on the history of Dr. G. W. Williams There is consideration around having an open house possibly at the last planned School Council meeting, to bring in people from the community Library and Technology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 1 to 1 model has been adopted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students have/use their own laptop Model going well so far There is a push to ensure that databases used are reputable (ie. For citations) CoPilot AI is being explored There are creative technologies being used such as Cricut, Button Maker and a space for Podcasts MLLnet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Was brought up and discussed in more detail during the PA day conversations It is a tech which addresses Multi Language Learners Helps teachers look at what is more realistic expectations of MLL's Teachers can go in and update what level the learner is working School Council forum meeting on Nov. 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be at Richmond Hill High 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Upcoming dates and meeting topic ideas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> November 18, February 18, April 22, May 20 Let Melissa/Johana know if you have specific requests for speakers/things to be discussed at upcoming meetings 	Vigneswaran
	Meeting Adjournment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm 	Johana Vigneswaran

Next Meeting: **Monday November 18, 2024**, at 7:00pm in the Library

All Parents/Guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend.