



## Windham Ridge School Council

*Tuesday April 4, 2017 | 6:30-8:30pm*

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### In Attendance

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#### **Council Attendance**

Julie Romanovich

Vivian Aitas

Catherine Salole

Maria Pulsoni

Tara Dimopoulous

Rachel Hamou

Nereo Bonomo

Jennifer Yan

Suzanne McWhinnie

Leila Mireskandari

Salim (student  
representative)

Angela Lambros

#### **Guest Attendance**

Euming Yu

Jillian Dobson

Sheneeza Kanji

Delia Rusu

#### **Regrets**

Teresa Cowan

Narendra Chandrasekhar

Ester Boivin

Kelly Giesen

Parissa Giahinejad

Joanne Conte Casola

Gina Celsie

Anna Margitta

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### Welcome & Introductions ~ V. Aitas and J. Romanovich

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Motion to approve agenda by S. McWhinnie. Seconded by M. Pulsoni. All in favour. Motion carried

Motion to approval of February 15, 2017 by T. Dimopoulos. Seconded by A. Lambros. All in favour. Motion carried.

Welcome to new parents joining the Council meeting for the first time.

### End of year Grade 8 Trip to Ottawa

- Students and chaperones are excited to leave tomorrow!
- Intermediate teams have already surveyed grade 7 parents to solicit feedback on next year's trip with the goal of solidifying plans before the end of this current year.

### School Climate Survey for Students, Staff and Parents

- Survey to be completed in class by the end of April. No parent refused the survey for their children.
- The survey will be made available for parents in multiples languages.

### Staffing and Enrollment

- Currently, we have reached our grade 1 capacity of 92 spots (ie. 4 classes of 23). We continue to accept registrations, however, they may be overflowed.
- Currently, there is no teacher surplus.
- We received positive news that we will be given additional Special Education staffing.
- Next step will be to place students.
- One parent present shared positive feedback from her child's current teacher who was impressed with the level of math and science they received from Windham Ridge. N. Bonomo explained that this is directly related to the complement of grade 7 and 8 teachers who are able to teach in their specializations.

### Recent Changes in Eating Times

- Students are going outside first and then eating. Generally, this change has been well received by students and teachers. From a health and safety perspective, teachers are seamlessly and efficiently able to get the kids outside and then the kids aren't as rushed to eat.

### Math Night

- April 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30.
- The goal is to provide an opportunity for parents and children to work collaboratively on math games that they can use at home. D. Rusu and P. Giahinejad will be facilitating a growth mindset workshop for parents.

### Grade 1-3 Concert

- Concert being planned for May 11 at 6:30

### Northern Karate

- 8-week lunchtime karate program begins on April 25<sup>th</sup>
- This is a pilot program for 50 kids to help us to decide whether to expand for next year.
- Not only do the kids learn Karate, but they also learn about self-regulation and anger management.

### Before-school Running Program

- Program will be offered to grades 3-8 3 mornings a week from 7:55-8:20.
- At the end of the 8-week program, the participants will have run the equivalent of a full marathon.

- The cost is \$27 per participant.

**Action: parent volunteers needed for program**

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## Treasurer's Report

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A. Margitta was absent, a report was not given.

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## Teachers' Report

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No formal report was given as E. Boivin and T. Cowan sent their regrets as they were preparing for the grade 8 trip.

R. Hamou shared that many extra-curricular activities continue to happen. Professional development for teachers includes activities around maker spaces and math.

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## Gardening Program – Kids Growing City ~ L. Mireskandari

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A presentation was given on a 10-week gardening program that began for grade 4 students today. For 1 hour per week for 10 weeks, students will build, plant, maintain and harvest a garden from scratch. The first few lessons focus on seeds and germination. The garden will be located by the playground. Some plants will be harvested before the end of the school year, others will be harvested in the fall. The program is tied to the curriculum as well as concepts around wellness, community building, modern learning and experiential learning. Additionally, there is a training component for teachers which sustains the program and ensures its continuity.

Currently, the program is covered through the school budget, we may look to the school council budget to support next year's program.

**Action: parent volunteers will be required to help water the garden throughout the summer.**

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## Committee reports

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### Constitution~ V. Aitas and J. Romanovich

- V. Aitas and J. Romanovich prepared a draft constitution based on the board's template and feedback from the Constitution Committee.
- The draft was reviewed, discussed and edited by council members present. However, as the meeting didn't meet quorum, a vote to amend the constitution could not occur.

**Action: V. Aitas and J. Romanovich will make the agreed upon revisions and send to council for electronic voting.**

### Fundraising ~ M. Pulsoni

- Greek food lunches have begun. We have had a positive turnout of 170 orders resulting in a profit of ~ \$3100
- Winter pizza orders are similar in numbers ordered in the fall resulting in ~ \$13,000 profit.
- Fall fundraising:
  - We have signed up for the “Fresh from the Farm” fundraiser
  - A Harvest Dance will be the main fundraiser for the year.
- Grade 8 fundraiser: cookie dough and bulbs ordering.

### Mental Health and Wellbeing ~ D. Rusu

- Reminder for the May 18<sup>th</sup> events with Sara Westbrook who will be speaking to parents (during evening) and students (during day) about resilience, confidence and wellbeing.
- A meeting with Oak Ridges Public School is happening on May 1<sup>st</sup> to plan for future joint events in order to leverage our grant monies.
- Inner Power Workshops for grade 4's
  - Workshop uses stories, situations and connections to students' life on issues such as self-respect and peer pressure. Classroom work is complemented with homework assignments.
  - Workshops have been well-received.

### Volunteer ~ T. Dimopoulos

**Action: Solicit volunteers for BBQ and Math Night**

### School Grants and French Ambassador ~ S. McWhinnie

- School Grant
  - Applied to a music grant to help purchase instruments and Canadian Heritage for Canadian flags.
  - There is still time to apply for a Lego robotics grant if there is interest.
- Francophone Club
  - 4 finalists going to Glendon, there are only 4 meetings left.
  - Francophone Fair in Oakridges Community Centre this upcoming weekend.

### Student Programs

- G. Celsie was not present to give an update.

### Yearbook ~ J. Ramonovich

- Information and update will be provided at the next meeting.

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## New Business

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### End of Year BBQ ~ M. Pulsoni

- Set for May 25nd.
- We need lots of volunteers.

**Action: Replace tents. Sandy to invite Grade 1 families.**

### Teacher's Appreciation Luncheon

- June 9<sup>th</sup> 10:40-1:30

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## Next Meeting

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May 4, 2017 6:30-8:30