



# MINUTES

## Windham Ridge School Council

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*Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 | 6:30-8:30pm | Meeting called to order by Joanne Conte Casola*

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**Council Norms** ◇ Agenda set by members and circulated in advance ◇ Meetings begin and end on time ◇ Consensus decision making ◇ All speakers and opinions are respected ◇ Individual students, parents and staff are not discussed ◇ Be open minded and objective ◇ Refer parent or student issues to the teacher or principal ◇ Council does not manage day to day operation of school ◇ Council does not govern the school or become involved with determining professional practices

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### In Attendance

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#### **Council Attendance**

Amir Mirshahi  
Alain Baradar  
Joanne Conte Casola  
Julie Romanovich  
Solmaz Baradar  
Suzanne McWhinnie  
Gina Celsie  
Vahid Danaee  
Linda Muffit  
Cynthia Galpin  
Nereo Bonomo  
Andrew Browne  
Vivian Aitas  
Anna Margitta  
Dima Berchalli  
Daniel Cipollone (regrets)  
Simin Ghaderi (regrets)  
Bridget Hijazi (regrets)

#### **Guests**

Corrie McBain  
Angela Lambros  
Teresa Stefanutti  
Alla Koren

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## Approval of Minutes

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Motion to approve agenda by Anna Margitta. Motion seconded. All in favour. Agenda approved.

Motion to approve November minutes, as corrected. Motion seconded. All in favour. Minutes approved.

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There are 4 voting member positions open on council. This was communicated to the wider parent community and anyone interested was asked to contact council or administration. There was no interest communicated. One parent in attendance expressed interest in becoming a member on council leaving 3 positions open.

In order to facilitate communication, a representative will be assigned from each committee.

Communications Rep.: Dima Berchalli

Education Rep.: Amir Mirshahi

French Education Rep.: Suzanne McWhinnie

Fundraising Rep.: Vivian Aitas

Non Teacher Rep.: Linda Muffitt

School Grants Rep.: Andrew Browne

Student Programs Rep.: Solmaz Baradar

Teacher Rep.: Daniel Cipollone

Volunteer Rep.: Julie Romanovich

Yearbook: Julie Romanovich

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## Treasurer's Report

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- Treasurer's Report at a glance:

**Opening balance:** \$20,767.91.

**Net fundraising revenue from term 1:** \$16,037.36.

**Total disbursements:** (\$9,720.17)

Prologue (\$7,097.97)

Lego Robotics Competition (\$160)

Scientist in the classroom (\$1,721)

Lice Checks and Yearbook (\$741.20)

- In previous years, the Arts Package brought in approximately \$12,500/year to the school. This was not done this year. Open to suggestions on how to bring back this revenue.
- Board / School Computer Cost Sharing deadline coming up. Teachers were consulted and needs were outlined as follows: 10 Chrome Books (laptops), 4 Dell Notebooks and 4 LCD projectors for a cost to council of \$4,052.83.
- Other wish list items submitted by staff include: Sound and lighting equipment for the gym \$6,200. 4 Bee-bots for the Grade 1 classes \$500 and LCD hangers for classrooms for \$500 each, installed.
- There is a surplus that was carried over from the previous year for \$20,767.91.
- Decision was made to move on with the technology cost sharing. It was determined that that was the priority.
- Breakdown as follows: 4 LCD projectors for classrooms that currently need one. 4 Dell Latitude 3340 Notebooks 13" to replace older laptops. 2 Mobile Computer Kits – 5 Chromebooks per kit. This

would be at a cost of \$4,052.83 to council which is matched dollar for dollar by the board through a central fund.

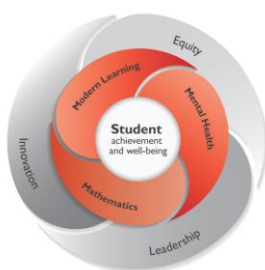
- Motion to approve technology expenditure by Anna. Motion seconded. All in favour. Delivery would be in the new year.
- Playball dates have not yet been booked. To be booked.

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## Administrators' Report

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- Principal Nereo Bonomo and Vice Principal Cindy Galpin engaged council in an exercise to gain a better understanding of Modern Learning.
- This was to further stress that council should keep YRDSB's 3 foci (Modern Learning, Math and Mental Health) in mind whenever planning for future initiatives.



- There was an inquiry made into whether there was any education and/or initiatives at the school with regards to Syrian refugees. There are a couple of charity initiatives currently at the school. Me to We Grade 8 initiative to help build a school in Kenya. The Grade 5s are working on a local charity. Nothing directly related to Syrian refugees.
- Request for parent volunteers to read with students in French.
- Request for parent volunteers for the Grade 7/8 class.

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## Committee Reports

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### **Student Programs**

- Robotics is the only program currently running. The delay in getting programs running stems from a variety of factors. There was initially the work to rule to deal with. Also, the Board now requires that a teacher be present at all council run programs. Time is required to source out a teacher and then parent volunteers in addition to purchasing materials. Last but not least, circulars need to go out to the students and parents and wait for those to be returned.
- Programs will begin after the holidays. Some of the programs that are to be considered are: Newsletter or Magazine Club, Story-telling Club, Lego Club, Product Development Project, Art Club and Soap Sculpting Club.
- No budget required.

### **Communication**

- The website continues to be updated regularly in addition to the e-mail account that is consistently monitored.

- A request was made to the Communications Committee to look into setting up, under the "Resource" section of the website, a Francophone Tips section. This will make the Francophone weekly tips available to parents to refer back to.

### **Education**

- PRO Grant date to be confirmed next meeting. Either May 13<sup>th</sup> or May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Will be on the lookout for free seminars and keep council updated.
- Suggestions were made to provide seminars on Cyber Security, Social Media awareness and perhaps a seminar on Modern Learning.

### **French Ambassador**

- Francophone weekly tips continue to be sent out in the Friday Weekly e-mails.
- Looking at setting up a "Public Speaking Club" for Grades 6-8. Require teacher for this. Will lead to participation in contest at York University's Glendon College.
- Also looking at connecting with Carnival teacher for Francophone enhancement.

### **Fundraising**

- QSP has come to an end. Sales came in at \$20,082. Direct Donations were \$1,630. Expenses for QSP \$319 which is expected to be reduced as some of those keychain prizes were returned and expecting a refund on them.
- Ice Cream party for class with highest percentage participation has not taken place yet and there was no promotion done in this regard. A magazine subscription to the library in place of the party. French Education Ambassador and Librarian to be consulted.
- Fundraising team will be meeting to discuss new fundraising initiatives and will report back to council. In consideration are new lunch initiatives such as Greek Souvlaki and a suggestion was made for sushi. Allergen consideration will be made and detailed vendor information will be provided.

### **Volunteer**

- 56 volunteer forms returned from interested parents however over half of them are interested in supporting class and participating in field trips. The form will be revamped and updated with school needs in mind. Staff will be engaged. New form will be provided in January.

### **Yearbook**

- This year's yearbook will be larger than previous years. Mme. Horton is the teacher rep. There was a huge turnout from Grades 7/8 to participate in the Yearbook Committee.
- Character traits to be incorporated into Yearbook
- Tagging Tuesdays have been set up where by Grade 7/8 students will be tagging students in pictures for yearbook.
- 3 cameras have been donated. Labelled and kept in the office and to be used to capture photos of events in school. USB keys have also been provided to teachers to share photos.

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## **Announcements**

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Due to time restrictions, Agenda items 6 and 7 to be brought forward to next agenda/meeting.

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## **Next Meeting**

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Tuesday January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 6:30-8:30pm