



Windham Ridge School Council

Tuesday, February 8th, 2022 6:30-8:30 p.m. via Zoom

In Attendance		
Council Attendance	Guest Attendance	Regrets
Julie Cheung Vivian Aitas Tara Dimopoulos Parvaz Kirouac Rachel Hamou Rojeen Salemi Sherry Murray-Davis Cassandre Lennox Anita Arcimartello Nadine Raymond Jodie Montagnese Diana Shin Trisha Nurse Maria Pulsoni Vittoria Leone Laleh Azizi	Windham Ridge: Students - Elise & Kian Staff - Mme Gallucci	Sophie Elias

Welcome & Introductions ~ V. Aitas and J. Romanovich

Co-chairs opened the meeting.

Land Acknowledgment

The new Land Acknowledgement for this year was read to the Council. It is provided here for reference.

“We affirm that we are all treaty people and acknowledge that the York Region District School Board is located on the lands of two treaties. These treaties have been signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the First Nations of the Williams Treaties who are: the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve

Lake, Hiawatha, Scugog Island; and the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Rama, and Georgina Island who is our and inherent rights as sovereign nations. We will respect their relationship with these lands and recognize that our connection to this land is through the continued relationship with these First Nations, and we acknowledge our shared responsibility to respect and care for the land and waters for future generations.”

Approval of Agenda

Approval of agenda by Cassandra and seconded by Jodi.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Approval of November 3, 2021 minutes.

December 7, 2021 minutes to be approved at next meeting.

Administrators Report - R. Hamou, A. Arcimartello, V. Leone

FI registration Numbers

Approximate until receive final numbers

African and Caribbean Heritage Black History Month

- There is a display case, and collection of books in the library. Classroom programs/ read alouds, critical thinking students see themselves reflected and social identities in curriculum year round not just in February.
- There are many events to join put on by YRDSB
- Shared resources amongst staff

School initiatives

- There are different needs this year
- Put out surveys to students and teachers re: indoor equipment, board games, etc...Outdoor equipment ordered through school budget
- Instruments: last year purchased ukuleles, xylophones, important to have a variety of equipment and opportunities for students
- Chromebooks have arrived - Feb 8th

Programs:

- What are ways to support students and provide meaningful experiential programming while at Windham?
- Gather data
- Discussion with parents and students (feelings, perceptions and needs)
- It will enhance school and provide great opportunity

Youth Speak: March 3rd --all divisions

- inclusive schools
- Virtual assemblies with youth speakers to help students understand how to create community and be more inclusive. Life skills needed for secondary and workforce. The tools and strategies are helpful for all. Being an upstander is the way to be rather than a bystander.

- Yellow Brick House - exploring relationships and related to health curriculum.
- Travelling Stage - awaiting possible dates (drama and dance)
- This all part of fundraising plan
- BRAVE program - discussion/ not all grades not booked---why and how it can support students
 - Primary: assertive communication; scenarios; role play voice
 - There is a pre-education component from teachers beforehand and a workshop as a follow up
 - Presentation is an 1 hour in length
 - From Francophone school board ---can communicate in both languages (flexibility)
 - Junior: bullying, conflict and power--more complex topics
 - Because students have missed years of socialization opportunities, they need tools and strategies to articulate what's bothering them and how to move forward in best way for their well-being
 - Late March, April or May or September
 - Estimate \$135 per homeroom class/ 1hr session earmarked for september
 - Will earmark for September but table discussion till March
 - Before move on, Gr.6-7 have experience now, will do upstanders for the fall
 - Next year all the grades?
 - Let's vote to meet and bring forth at the next council meeting. Results --all in agreement.
 - Approx. \$2000 primary/ \$2000 junior
 - Agreement should be done..but when? School council & school funds will be used. Contact the admin if there are questions or concerns. Viv and Julie will meet with admin, schedule a date then send an email to School council
 - If we start now---reinforcement at the beginning of the new school year.

Kids Growing Garden Program

- On hold because of covid. Applied for grant but committed to continue partnership in building with the edible school garden.
- Late Feb-May
- Connections to environmental stewardship and Indigenous education
- For remote learners parents can pick up material and plant at home
- Lifetime license - Gr. 3 (plant and soil/ science). Relates to social studies unit and is cross curricular in terms of outcome
- Hands on versatile and adaptable program. If cannot do it outdoors then material can be used in a classroom

Student and Teachers' Report

Current Activities:

- Reach for the Top trivia programs
- Student leadership - student voice on current

- Debate club - students get to improve communication skills
- Intramurals
- GSA - goals/ assist in Allyship boards (BIPOC)
- Gender equity board
- Valentines day positive affirmations

Future:

- Display boards:
 - Meme board - smiles
 - Black Excellence
- Mental health resources
- Student recycling program
- Address concerns re: Body positivity awareness
- Addressing and recognizing personal pronouns
- Women in STEM
- Sharing of resources and help lines
- Culture days
- Senior students seeing needs of peers --- Donations for clothing, food drive, book drive (consider restrictions due to covid)

Treasurer's Report-

Nothing to report at this time.

Committee Reports - Julie & Vivian

Volunteer

- No updates

Fundraising

- No updates
- Questions posed:
 - What is allowed due to covid?
 - Possible cookie dough order (Terracotta) payment online/ pick up orders outside the school?
- No outside lunches yet
- Outside fundraising ---walk a thon/ spook a thon (pumpkin along path, activity stations/ raffles for prizes)
- Pizza nova pizza night (percentage of sales/ pizza voucher--no cash back, but vouchers ---for down the road)

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- No updates
- 360 kids was a great initiative
- Received letter from organization...displayed in display case in January
- Bell Let's Talk ---> Tips and strategies shared during morning announcements and in classes.

Yearbook

- No updates/ still waiting on items
- admin will take a look

Parent and Student Engagement Committee

- No updates
- Student Programs
 - Students need to learn how to advocate for themselves
 - They can decorate garbage bins on pathway by creek
 - Admin will connect with staff member for support with initiative

Grants

Nothing to report

New Business – V. Aitas and J. Romanovich

Pro-Grant Submission- brainstorm Speaker ideas:

- Waiting to hear back from organization \$800 - speaker topic: Anti-racism
- Connect with inclusive schools team
- Request for names of speakers (send names) to admin share those vetted by YRDSB

Traffic in front of school:

- The town responded from survey of area with new signage around school; Driveway (walking sign)/ no parking sign

Discussion points raised:

- How are we speaking with students regarding various protests experienced these past few years?
- How are we coping/ supporting students?
- Advocacy skills are important--students need to learn to stand up/ be proactive.
- Support language they hear at school and at home, discussions are important.
- Need to bridge the gap in intermediate grades (some students may know more than others and there are different awareness levels/ different perspectives)
- effort/ learning is happening
- humanity/ divisiveness based on ideologies
- We all carry different backpacks
- Continued the dialogue of common language

- ABC's of mental health