



MINUTES

Windham Ridge School Council

Wednesday February 3rd, 2016 | 6:00-7:30pm | Meeting called to order by Joanne Conte Casola

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 practice

In Attendance

Council Members

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

Guests

Sabrina Wintermeyer
Jasim Ameer

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve agenda by Alain. Motion seconded. All in favor. Agenda approved.

Motion to approve December minutes by Amir. Motion seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.

Committee Reports

Communications

- Designed the flyer for the Internet Safety Seminar which has now been sent out to parents in the Friday weekly and will continue to be advertised until the Friday prior to the seminar.

Education

- Internet Safety seminar confirmed for February 23rd. Water to be served during the seminar.
- Evaluations will be going out to parents with respect to the seminar for feedback.
- Child minding is arranged for the 23rd.

French Ambassador

- Bonhomme costume secured along with a red hat and ceinture flechee (sash) to make it an authentic Bonhomme Carnival costume.
- Digital resources (approximately 8-10) sent out to teachers. These are resources showcasing education activities related to the Carnival theme that teachers may choose to use in their classrooms.
- Public Speaking Club will begin last Wednesday in February with Mme. May being the teacher rep for this club.
- Metis Fiddler Duo has been priced out at about \$800 per performance. Suzanne to look into possible grants that may cover part of the cost which would give council an opportunity to consider them for next year's Carnival.

Fundraising

- Astoria hot lunch fundraiser to begin February 17th. Order forms going out Friday February 5th.
- Will run for a 6 week trial period followed by a 6 week trial period of the D-Lite Sushi fundraiser.
- Taste test tonight of what the students will be offered in their lunches from the various vendors.

School Grants

- Waiting to hear back from the various grants applied for.
- Note made to apply earlier in the school year for any grants as the process of approval takes some time.

Student Programs

- With the help of administration, there has been a lot of coordination between teachers and parent volunteers.
- 90 students have applied for the Newsletter Club. These students will all meet once a month to work on the newsletter.
- Lego, Storytelling, Primary Choir and Product to Sale Clubs will also be ready to launch in the next few weeks.
- Playball as well will be running soon for Grades 1 and 2.

Teachers' Rep

- Teachers have continued to understand Modern Learning through staff meetings and Professional Development Days.
- Narrowing it down to what to focus on to prepare students for the future

- Assessment
- Enriching tasks
- Differentiating and personalizing lessons
- Increasing problem solving and making thinking visible
- Carousels of different workshops with presentations on the different facets of learning.
- Challenge of practice, which is connected to the School Improvement Plan (SIP) is being simplified so all can work towards it. Challenge of practice to challenge students to think and understand deeper.
 - Challenge of Practice determined last year. Is it still reflected in the current year?
 - Students continue to struggle with in-depth inferencing vs. literal or surface level understanding.
 - Guiding students at all grade levels to push themselves to seek out a deeper understanding in all subjects.
 - Added challenge is to accomplish this in a very fluid way with French as a second language.
 - Student programs is working on incorporating this.

Yearbook

Grade 7/8 contributions to the Yearbook is going well.

Looking to set up day to take team photos. Will be in touch with administration to arrange this.

Sales so far are at 62 out of the 250 required as per the contract with Jostens.

- Next step would be to send out paper order forms to each student.
- Sales need to be improved.

Volunteers

- Volunteer forms are being revised and drafts will go out to fellow committee members for their review.
- Parent volunteers have been requested for “You’re the Chef”. This will be an after school program only.
- Also looking for parent volunteers through-out the day for Carnival.
 - Mme. Seguin has also requested a \$230 budget for Carnival. This will be used to buy Hot Chocolate for the students and also to purchase some ribbon.
 - Council voted on spending \$230 for Carnival. Spending approved with all in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report at a glance:

Opening Balance: \$20,767.91

Gross Fundraising Profit: \$19,868.74

Total disbursements: (\$22,568.30)

Lice Checks and Yearbook (\$838.12)

Lego Robotics and Supply Coverage (\$2,463.51)

Prologue (\$7,182.52)

Scientist in the School (\$2,691)

TECH/YRDSB Cost Sharing (\$4,579.70)

Library Books Purchase (\$3,200)

Science and Math Materials (\$1,613.45)

Closing Balance: \$18,068.35

- Opening and Closing Balances have been included in the Treasurer's Report at the request of council.
- More Scientist in the School booked but dates and dollar amounts not yet known.

Council Initiative Report

- Council wide initiatives had been selected last meeting. Need to determine
 1. Coordinators for each initiative
 2. Budgets for each initiative
 3. Advertising ideas for these initiatives when all coordination is completed.

Skating Party

- Teresa Stefanutti will coordinate the skating party
 - Teresa had done some research and at this point in the season, securing ice time for an evening is proving difficult on short notice, therefore, other ideas were put forward with the option of moving the skating party to October/November/December depending on ice availability at an arena geographically closer (Bond Lake Arena) to the school, if possible.
 - Ideas put forth were: Dance night, Movie night, Bowling night and Craft night.
 - Date options are Wednesday April 6th or Thursday April 7th.

“Leaving Our Mark” Arts Café Night

- Joanne Conte Casola will coordinate the “Leaving Our Mark” Arts Café Night.
- Discussed Draft Proposal that was sent to all council members for review prior to meeting.
 - Suggestion was made to combine this with the Spring Concert. Concerns over gym capacity and ability to accommodate additional people when Spring Concert is normally at a 75% capacity. Determined that it may be better to run the Arts Café Night separate from the Spring Concert.
 - Maximum budget requested for this event is \$6/child + HST and with 540 students at the school for a total budget of \$3,661.20 + \$50/class for framing. Potential to recover costs and provide significant fundraiser through silent auction or ticket purchase.
 - Vote on spending. All in favor. Budget for Arts Café Night approved.
 - Committee of parents required. Joanne to submit newsletter to parents to request volunteers and to obtain resources and supplies.

Welcome Back BBQ

- This event still needs a coordinator. Anyone interested is asked to contact Joanne Conte Casola. If no council members are interested in coordinating this event, suggestion was made to reach out to other parents.

Administration's Report

- Enrollment for 2016 stands at 569. 51 students have registered for Grade 1. Projection is at 96. Registration is ongoing. If numbers are within projected, then there will be 5 Grade 1 classes in September 2016.

Principal Profile

- This was last reviewed and updated in April 2015. This needs to be revisited by council. Paper copy provided at meeting and electronic copy will also be provided.
- There is no standard Board Profile to compare to.
- This is collected and reviewed by the Superintendent. Gives council and hence parents a voice in what kind of person they would like to see in the principal of their school.

School Profile

- Collected all pertinent information from the school website and condensed it into a School Profile.

Regional Parent Symposium

- This is a symposium which engages parents and gives them a voice. Theme of this year's symposium is focus on successful strategies to improve parent engagement related to Mathematics, Modern Learning and Mental Health.
- Each elementary school may send a delegation of parents (up to 3 parents)
- There is also an opportunity to volunteer at the event. 30-35 volunteers needed. Some training will be required and volunteers will be able to attend one seminar.
- All those interested must contact Cindy Galpin before February 8th.

Next Meeting

Thursday March 31st, 6:30-8:30pm