



MINUTES

Windham Ridge School Council

Tuesday January 12th, 2016 | 6:30-8:30pm | 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 practices

In Attendance

Council Members

Amir Mirshahi

Bridget Hijazi

Cindy Galpin

Dan Cipollone

Dima Berchalli

Gina Celsie

Joanne Conte Casola

Julie Romanovich

Nereo Bonomo

Vivian Aitas

Simin Ghaderi

Suzanne McWhinnie

Teresa Stefanutti

Vahid Danaee

Alain Baradar (regrets)

Andrew Browne (regrets)

Anna Margitta (regrets)

Jennifer Yan (regrets)

Solmaz Baradar (regrets)

Linda Muffit (regrets)

Guests

Alla Koren

Jillian Dobson

Karen Sorbara

Sandra Mieres

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

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

Committee Reports

Communications Committee

- School Council Membership has been updated on the school website to reflect current membership.
- Franco Fun Tips have been posted to the website under Documents and Information as per request made in previous meeting.

Education Committee

- In searching for free seminars, a YRDSB presentation on Cyber Security has been booked for Tuesday February 23rd from 6:30-8:30
 - Amir to reach out to other neighbouring schools to have their parents take advantage of this seminar.
- Need to confirm date for PRO-GRANT seminar. Suggested dates are Thursday May 12th Thursday May 19th, whichever is available. Confirmed date to be communicated at next meeting.
 - Seminar title is “How to help my children mathematically” by Ron Lancaster or OISE
- Suggestion was made for future council to try and arrange these seminars earlier in the school year to have more impact and to be more useful to parents.
- A question was raised as to how important council feels webinars would be to parents. These can be presented to either the parents directly by council or resources can be found whereby certain teachers may be interested in highlighting them to parents.
- Concerns were raised with regards to the sources of these webinars and authenticating those resources.
- Simin to provide a detailed report on this to council chairs and administration for their review and feedback.

French Ambassador Report

- Franco Fun Tips are online and available for parents to refer back to and will be updated weekly.
- Carnival is set for February 19th. Suzanne, Julie and Mme. Seguin are in communication with regards to organizing this event.
- On the lookout for a Bonhomme costume. Purchase price is high. Options are rental or alternatives.
- Suggestion made for Metis Fiddler Band to perform. Suzanne to inquire.
- York University’s Glendon College hosts a French Public Speaking competition annually at the Provincial level open to all Grade 4-8 students. Suzanne has been assigned as YRDSB’s representative to this competition.
 - For 2016, 6 YRDSB students will be selected.
 - At WRPS, French Public Speaking Club will be available to students from grades 6, 7 and 8. This club will run in March and April and will be held Wednesdays after school for 8 weeks. Teacher representative has been found.

Fundraising Report

- \$4,600 for QSP deposited into council account. Deposit made after Treasurer's closing date. Amount will be reflected in next month's Treasurer's report.
- In lieu of the ice cream party, it was agreed that a magazine subscription to the library would be the students' reward for participating in the QSP drive. In consultation with the school librarian, "J'aime Lire" was agreed on. Should be in the library in 6-8 weeks.
- February 15th, the new pizza cycle begins. Forms will be distributed soon and need to be back by February 1st.
- New Lunch programs.
 1. Astoria – Greek lunch to start February 10th every Wednesday and to go on until the end of March. Will include 4 lunch options at a base price of \$6 per meal. There was a question raised as to whether the meals would be considered nut free. No immediate answer. Assumption that it is but a confirmed answer will be sought.
 2. Sushi D-Lite – Vendor is a kosher facility and so no shellfish on site at all. The lunches provided will be shellfish free and sesame free. Dates not confirmed yet but lunches will be provided on Fridays.

School Grants

- Applications have been made to the following grants
 1. School Nutrition Program Grant which is for approximately \$1,500
 2. Green Apple Grant
 3. School Life Fun Grant – for musical and lighting equipment for approximately \$3,000. Expecting to hear back in May.
 4. Environmental Earth Angels for a butterfly garden or tree planting initiative. Any teachers interested in this project are requested to contact council or administration. The funding covers all materials and delivery as well as lesson plans for the teacher(s).
 5. Speak Up Grant for Grades 7/8. The program provides grant funding to help students lead projects that make a long lasting impact on their school environments. The grant is for up to \$2,500. Communication has been made with Grade 7/8 teachers.

Student Programs

- Programs will begin in the next week or two. Communication has been made with parents and it was indicated that sign-up sheets will go up in the schools for the students themselves to sign up.
- Programs to look forward to are:
 1. School Newspaper Club – open to all grades
 2. Soap Sculpting for Grades 4 and 5
 3. Lego for Grade 1
 4. Primary Choir for grades 1-3
 5. Products and Marketing Club for Grades 7 and 8
 6. Storytelling for Grades 4-6
- Suggestion was made to add the dates the clubs are held to the school calendar online.

Teachers' Report

- Teachers are engaged and active and consistently working within the framework of the 3 foci – Modern Learning, Mental Health and Math.
- Brainstorming and sharing ideas on how to prepare students for the 21st century.

- Visionary work. Preparing students for what will be out there in the future with regards to positions that do not yet exist

Yearbook Committee

- Meeting to be arranged soon with Mme. Horton and the Grade 7/8 Yearbook Committee
- New initiative this year whereby the Grade 7/8's will be more hands on in creating the Yearbook pages. Much excitement about this.
- The December Yearbook promo yielded 38 sales. Those who purchased were able to get free personalization for their Yearbook.
- Posters will be going up around the school soon.
- Paper Yearbook order forms are completed. Question as to how long to keep the order period open for.

Volunteer Committee

- Revising the volunteer forms to meet council needs. Classroom needs are communicated through individual teachers.
- It was noted that this would still be valid for the current school year.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report at a glance:
Net fundraising revenue from term 1: \$15,521.11 (QSP Cheque for \$4,600 not reflected in this amount)
Total disbursements: (\$14,481.34)
 - Prologue (\$7,182.52)
 - Lego Robotics Competition (\$160)
 - Scientist in the classroom (\$1,721)
 - TECH/YRDSB Cost Sharing (\$4579.70)
 - Lice Checks and Yearbook (\$838.12)
- A request was made to include the opening balance in the Treasurer's Report so that available cash can be seen at a glance.

Administration's Report

In consultation with staff, it was determined that Library, Math and Science resources were needed.

- Library requested a budget of **\$3,200** to increase each division (primary, junior and intermediate) by about 50 books with an additional 40 comics and graphic novels.
 - There was a question raised as to whether there were specific vendors the library must use. The answer was no but emphasis was made on the importance of buying library bound quality books due to the amount of handling they go through at the school level.
 - There was also a question as to whether book donations would be accepted. That needs to be discussed with the librarian on a case by case manner. If the library is unable to accept them then there may be teachers that would love to add to their personal classroom library.
- Various math and science resources for a total of **\$1,432.20**

- In addition, based on previous council reporting, we need to budget for Supply Coverage for sporting or extra-curricular activities (9 days coverage) for **\$2,292.21**
- \$3,600 was budgeted for Playball. What will actually be spent on Playball will be in the range of **\$1,300**. Playball is for the primary grades (1-3) so it was suggested that perhaps we can schedule an activity for the remaining grades 4-8 with the difference.

Total expenditure amounted to \$8,224.41. Council was reminded that there was an outstanding item from the December meeting with regards to Grade 1 teachers requesting Bee-bots at a cost of \$500. Adding that in brings the total to **\$8,724.41**.

Council was reminded that there is a carry-over from last year of \$20,767.91. Council also continues to raise funds through lunch programs. In addition, as per board policy, the end of year council bank balance should not exceed \$1,000.

It was decided to vote on this expenditure today. Quorum met. Motion to approve spending of \$8,724.41 by Amir. Motion seconded. All in favor pending confirmation of the balance carried forward from last year of approximately \$20,767.91.

Principal Nereo Bonomo and Vice Principal Cindy Galpin challenged council to brainstorm a list of possible events to build community through parent engagement. Council was broken up into 4 random groups to come up with their ideas.

- Suggestions put forth were as follows:
 - *Meet Council Mixer (Beginning of year) *Welcome Back BBQ (Beginning of year) *Help feed the poor *Year end BBQ *BBQ/Family Picnic *Multicultural Day *Food Festival to showcase cultures *Coffee Break which would focus on mental health/mindfulness which could include guest speakers, yoga night, etc. *End of year BBQ and junk in the trunk fundraiser *Franco Fete which is the celebration of French culture through food/culture and Music *Skating Party * Meet the Principal and Vice Principal Event *Arts Café Night (leaving your mark)
 - Voting took place by the process of Dotmocracy whereby each person present was given 3 dots to place on their 3 favourite choices.
 - Top 3 choices were (not in any particular order):
 - Skating Party
 - Welcome Back BBQ
 - Arts Café Night

Board

- Enrollment projection for 2016/2017 school year is 568 which is up 30 students from this year. This is due to the boundary changes that were discussed back in November.
- French Immersion information night across YRDSB will be held on Thursday January 14th.

Next Meeting

Wednesday February 3rd, 2016 from 6–7:30 pm followed by a social in the staff room.