



MINUTES

Windham Ridge School Council

Thursday March 31st, 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 practice

In Attendance

Council Members

Alain Baradar
Amir Mirshahi (regrets)
Andrew Browne (regrets)
Anna Margitta
Bridget Hijazi
Cindy Galpin
Dan Cipollone
Dima Berchalli
Gina Celsie
Jennifer Yan (regrets)
Joanne Conte Casola
Julie Romanovich
Linda Muffit (regrets)

Nereo Bonomo
Simin Ghaderi
Solmaz Baradar
Suzanne McWhinnie (regrets)
Teresa Stefanutti (regrets)
Vahid Danaee (regrets)
Vivian Aitas

Guests

Corrie McBain
Katherine Salga
Kham Wong
Nadia Dasilva
Sandra Mieres

Approval of Minutes

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

Motion to approve February minutes by Joanne. Motion seconded. All in favor. Minutes approved.

Committee Reports

Communications

- Designed Sushi D-Lite order form. Ready for printing and distribution on Friday. Will also be posted online on Council website.
- Updated council e-mail address on website. E-mails sent to old e-mail address will still be received.

Education

- Internet Safety seminar on February 23rd was a success however there was a concern with attendance numbers. Possible factors affecting attendance: repeat of same seminar from last year and the fact that a similar seminar topic was being held on the same evening at Oak Ridges Public School.
- This year's PRO-GRANT workshop confirmed for Thursday May 19th from 6:30-8:30pm. Topic is "How to Help my Child(ren) Mathematically" by Ron Lancaster from OISE. Fee is \$900 and there will be \$100 spent on refreshments and snacks.
- Admin and Co-chairs are working on collaborating efforts and pooling grants for PRO-Grant with Oak Ridges Public School Council and admin for next year's PRO-grant initiative
- Request for feedback from council members on topic of interest for 2017 PRO-GRANT. Several expressed concern that what has been offered to date has been repetitive and would like to see something new. Opportunities may arise through a collaborative effort with Oak Ridges Public School with topics that are in line with Board initiatives and our school improvement plan.

French Ambassador

- Great group of Gr. 6-8 students in French Public Speaking Club.
- There is an entry fee for each student participating in the French Public Speaking Festival in May at Glendon College. 4 students from Windham Ridge will enter the competition and the entry fee is \$65 per person. All in favor of this expenditure. \$260 approved.
- Franco-Fun tips continue weekly.
- Suzanne has facilitated the donation of 30 gently used French books to the intermediate teachers for their classroom collections.

Fundraising

- Astoria hot lunch fundraiser is in its 4th week and has been very successful. 2 more weeks remain. Fundraising of approximately \$200 a week for a total of approximately \$1,200 over the 6 weeks.
- Sushi D-Lite fundraiser starts May 4th and will go on for 6 weeks. Arrangements for volunteers will be made once the orders come in and the needs are determined based on the number of orders.
- Movie night coming up Thursday April 7th, 2016. Being put on by council but fundraising from food purchased is for Me to We Fundraiser.
- Last month's meeting offered an opportunity for council members to sample the food that is being offered at Windham Ridge Public School through the parent council's fundraising efforts. Feedback was requested on the pizza offerings. Pizza House is the current vendor. Pizza Pizza was a suggested vendor. Various vendors were trialed over the years however Pizza House has honored a consistently reliable relationship and offers best quality ingredients. Consensus was reached that council would continue with the current vendor Pizza House.

School Grants

- Waiting to hear back from the various grants applied for.
- Grants committee will find out in May if Windham Ridge has been approved for the SCool Life Fund for Musical Theater Equipment.

Student Programs

- Several programs are running e.g. Lego Robotics, Lego We Do, Playball, Paper Club and Choir. “You are the chef” cooking program will begin as a full day program on June 2. Suggestion for opportunity to engage grandparents or other care givers to volunteer.
- Solmaz is looking for volunteers Tuesdays/Wednesdays for 2 more programs: Story-telling and Product Marketing.
- There was a request for anyone wanting to present ideas for new activities/clubs at the school, to please contact Solmaz Baradar.
- Request to review all programs offered to students to ensure balance of arts/academic/physical programs.
- Request to survey students to see what they prefer. Julie to initiate survey.

Teachers’ Rep

- Grade 6 students have been receiving Assertiveness Training. Helps them learn how to communicate with their peers and the understanding of aggressive response vs. passive response.
- There is an in house public speaking club. Students from Grades 6, 7 and 8’s and possibly Grade 5 will be selected to present to all the students at Windham Ridge Public School.
- Mme. Thiessen is organizing her annual skill trades trip to allow students to explore possibilities outside the university stream. Different workshops offered and all Intermediate students will have an opportunity to attend.
- Two teachers are leading a workshop in effective class management. Different dates are being offered for teachers to sign up for this workshop.

Yearbook

- Students are engaged in contributing to the Yearbook and are enjoying what they’re doing and in particular the Grade 8’s. Looking at making this a class based involvement for next year.
- Sales are at 186 of 250 that we were hoping for. Sales are still ongoing and will continue until all 250 are sold. Looking at reducing contract numbers because sales seem to be down compared to last year. Once contract numbers are reduced, cost of printing goes up and so there’s a possibility that the number of pages in the yearbook may need to be reduced.
- There was a question put forth on whether teachers could get subsidized or free yearbooks. Council decided against this as it not equitable to students who pay full price. Council funds are not used for this purpose but for the benefit of students. There will be copies of the yearbook available at the library for sign out as well as in the office for browsing.
- It had been mentioned that the lack of enthusiasm for the yearbook may be as a result of work to rule at the beginning of the year as well as the limited amount of activities at the school this year.

Volunteers

- Volunteer forms are being revised for 2016/2017. Julie will provide to fellow committee members at the next meeting for their review. Suggestion to include that extended family such as grandparents or uncles/aunts /caregivers of students are also welcome to volunteer.
 - Concerns were raised over the fact that there are parents of students at Windham Ridge P.S. prefer to volunteer at other schools and not at WRPS.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report at a glance:

Opening Balance: \$20,767.91

Net Fundraising Profit: \$33,368.02

Total disbursements: (\$33,270.66)

Lice Checks and Yearbook (\$838.12)

School Programs and Supply Coverage (\$5,427.50)

Special Events (\$14,338.89)

Scientist in the School (\$3,273)

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

Library Books Purchase (\$3,200)

Science and Math Materials (\$1,613.45)

Closing Balance: \$20,865.27

Council Initiative Report

Movie Night

- Teresa Stefanutti and Teresa Cowan are organizing the movie night together. Order forms have gone out for food being offered at movie night for easier management. There may be on spot sales possible but nothing confirmed as of yet.
- Movie Licensing is coming out of school budget. License required even if not charging an entry fee. Can we be used for all events at the school involving showing a movie e.g. Carnival, end of year movie night etc. License is valid for a full year.

"Leaving Our Mark" Arts Café Night

- Footprints will be taken soon. Paragraph sample has been written up and sample sent to teachers. Lots of parents have offered to volunteer. No date has been set yet for the actual night. Awaiting approval of date from administration.

Welcome Back BBQ

- Nadia DaSilva has volunteered to coordinate this event. Requested additional volunteers to help. Corrie McBain and Angela Lambros volunteered. Anyone else interested in volunteering are asked to contact Nadia at nadia_garro@yahoo.ca
- Looking for a local company to provide the food – BBQ hamburgers, hot dogs etc. Food will be pre-sold.
- Full event with possibilities to include things like jumping castles, dunk tank, face painting
- Nadia to discuss this with administration and report back at next meeting with a budget proposal.

Skating Night

- Still planning a family skate for all students at Windham Ridge Public School and their families for next school year.
- Needs to be scheduled in advance to secure a date. Best possible location was determined to be Bond Lake Arena.
- Budget requested \$500. All in favor of this spending. \$500 spending approved.
- Date to be determined by administration and communicated to council.

Council Newsletter and Website

- Proposal put forth to introduce a monthly council newsletter for distribution either electronically or in paper
- Also put forth a proposal to produce a council website to keep parents informed of all that council does and what is going on around the school.
- For some ideas, Beverley Acres Public School was cited as a good example.
- Call out to parents willing to volunteer on this initiative to please contact Alain Baradar at 20inbox@gmail.com . From parent council, Solmaz and Simin volunteered.
- Sample newsletter to be provided by Alain/Solmaz/Simin to council at the next meeting on May 2nd, 2016.
- Note was made that it is not permissible to include any personal advertising on this website as per Board policy.

Healthy School Programs

- It was brought to council's attention that the Town of Richmond Hill offers programs to schools at a starting fee of \$25 (varies based on program) per person for each 6 week program. The town provides their own facilitators and liability insurance. The school would be required to dedicate a space and assist with registration.
- Program ideas include yoga, cartooning, hip hop etc. Connected to the idea of mental wellness through diverse programs.
- Concerns were put forth with respect to inclusivity and affordability to all. The town does offer a subsidy and as well, there is the opportunity to apply for assistance through Jumpstart program and in additionally, based on circumstances, possibly through council.
- Can be coordinated with other current events run by parent council.
- Committee to be established to review all programs offered to students.

Collaboration between Oak Ridges P.S. and Windham Ridge P.S.

- Administration and council chairs from both schools met to discuss collaboration between the two schools.
- Discussed sharing resources and planning for seminars and events together to allow a wider community engagement.
- Suggestions put forth included and were not limited to
 - Wellness and mindfulness days for staff, students and parents
 - Bringing compassion into the community through the Tour For Humanity bus with focus on school related issues such as bullying
 - Organizing presenters and pooling PRO-GRANT funds
- Looking at organizing a committee to meet outside of council to follow through with this initiative and expanding to include other schools in due time. Any volunteers interested should contact Joanne at jcontecasola@gmail.com

Feedback on School and Principal Profile

- Omit "consideration given to male representation within the administrative team" as this can be discriminatory. Qualifications should not be gender specific.
- No other feedback presented.

Teacher Appreciation Tea

- Vivian and Julie volunteered to help with this.
- Will present suitable date at next council meeting.
- \$200 budget suggested. All in favour. Expense approved.

- Administration to establish date.

End of School Dance Party

- Fun end of year event for all students to run throughout one predetermined school day. There would be a schedule set up for each grade to have a turn in the gym.
- Fun entertainment involving dance.
- Cost expected to be about \$650 for the DJ rental. All in favor of expense. Budget approved.

Next Meeting

Monday May 2nd, 6:30-8:30pm