



## Windham Ridge Parent Advisory Council Minutes

May 6, 2014 – 7:00pm to 9:00pm

[YRDSB Policies for comment](#)

Attendance: Liz, Starr, Carmen, Amir, Mari, Kelly, Karen, Veronique, Athena, Aggie

Guests: Hooda, Joanne

	Agenda Item/Discussion	Action/Vote Results
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting timekeeping (Athena)</li>   <li>• Council dates for 2014/15 – “council vote”</li>   <li>• Constitution amendment (section 8.01)</li> </ul>	<p>Athena opened by asking if council agreed to Amir becoming our official timekeeper and moderator. This would ensure each person was able to speak in turn and keep our meetings efficient and on time. Everyone in attendance agreed. Thank you Amir!</p> <p>Liz provided, to council, the council dates of 8 neighboring school meetings. All schools elected to hold their meetings on the same day of the week each month. It was agreed by a unanimous vote of all 8 members in attendance that we would continue with the first Tues. of specific months and motion was carried. It should be noted that we deliberately choose not to schedule Mondays as our 3 feeder schools meetings are on Mondays and there may be parents that want to attend both. This can be reviewed on a yearly basis, as needed, by new council members. A notice of dates will be included in September “Book of Forms” communication with parents.</p> <p>The Ontario Ministry as well as York Region requires that Parent Councils meet at minimum of 4 times per year. Current practice the past two years at Windham Ridge has been 6 meetings per year. Since our current constitution states a minimum of 8 meetings, we need to consider and amend. Council votes 8 all in favour to amend constitution to read a minimum of 4 meetings will be held each year to reflect York Region policy, however Windham Ridge will schedule 6 meetings per year. Additional meetings will be added as required. It was however stated that we did not want to go longer than 2 months without a scheduled meeting. Meeting times were discussed and the possibility of changing the meeting time to 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Members and non-members in attendance with small children preferred an earlier end to our meetings. This was put to member vote: 6 voted for; 2 against; motion was carried. Babysitting is provided for members and non-members children.</p> <p>All members of council require “equal access to information” regarding council business. As such, Liz proposed that all communication for council consideration be forwarded solely to the Chair first, who will in turn share with council as required. As well, any school parent requiring time on council agenda must send written request to chair at a minimum of 1 week prior to meeting. Chair will then schedule time accordingly at next council meeting for parent voice to be heard. Should there not be a sufficient amount of time available on the next council agenda the discussion can be scheduled to continue at the following meeting. Council decided to vote all 8 in favour of amending our school council constitution to reflect these 2 requests and the motion was carried.</p> <p>A school parent requested that agenda be posted at a minimum of 1 week prior to all meetings. Council agreed by vote 8 all in favour to endeavor to post 5 business days prior to meeting as a general practice, but not less than 2 days prior. Motion carried.</p>
2	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please review financials prior to meeting (attached)</li> <li>• Financials and board policy</li> </ul>	<p>“Scientist In the Classroom” - \$4000.00 – Council vote – 8 all in favour – motion carried</p> <p>Playball - \$3200.00 – Council vote – 8 all in favour – motion carried</p> <p>Basketball nets and installation - \$200.00 – Council vote – 8 all in favour –</p>

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		<p>motion carried</p> <p>Playground Tarmac painting - \$1000.00 – Council vote – 8 all in favour – motion carried</p> <p>5 iPads - \$2000.00 – Council vote – 8 all in favour – motion carried</p> <p>Council will continue to support traditions such as You're the Chef, Brass Rub Art, etc. next year. Brass Art originally approved by council at \$400 was invoiced at \$630. Veronique agreed the school would pay the difference in cost.</p> <p>Council will be left with \$1000.00 carryover to next year. It should be noted there is no regional policy regarding amount of carry over of council funds to the following school year. Council agrees that we need to spend all money in a thoughtful responsible manner.</p>
3	<p><b>Principal's Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent Climate Survey</li>   <li>• Art Mural</li>   <li>• Teacher communication with parents</li>   <li>• School Improvement Plan (Omitted on agenda in error)</li> </ul>	<p>School Climate Survey will be made available to all York Region school parents this year. Our school will send out particulars when available.</p> <p>YRDSB has communicated with parents the upcoming changes to the number minutes of French language instruction. Starting in grade 4 there will be equal time given to instruction in French and English.</p> <p>Next year we would like to hire an artist to work with all of our students to create an art mural for one of our walls to provide and more warm and friendly environment at our school. We are currently looking into costs and providers (Athena)</p> <p>It was noted at our last meeting that parent communication from teacher to parents of multiple children at our school needed some sort of consistency to ease the amount of emails at varying times. Athena would like to create a weekly summary, which teachers could post to on a specific day. It was noted by Aggie that ETFO does not require that teachers create communication through a set schedule. This would be something we would have to work through.</p> <p>All members were asked if any more review was needed regarding School Improvement Plan. Council agrees all questions have been answered and review is complete. Any further parent enquiries should be forwarded to Liz.</p> <p>Our grade one induction will be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00am. 5 council members will be in attendance.</p>
4	<p><b>Teacher's Report</b></p>	
5	<p><b>Committee Updates</b></p> <p>Education (Amir)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pro Grant selection for next year</li> </ul>	<p>We are anxiously anticipating our upcoming Parent Engagement Night. On Thurs. May 15<sup>th</sup> Allison Schaeffer will be presenting "The Worries and Fears of the Adolescence Years". Babysitting will be made available as well as refreshments. A flyer has been sent out to all parents. There will 2 reminders sent. We will also send to local schools for posting. (Sandy)</p> <p>It was proposed that for our PRO Grant next year we consider "Boys and Girls Learn Differently" presented by Michael Reist. Council voted all 8 in favour to hire Mr. Reist. Amir will book for us as soon as possible.</p> <p>Additionally, council has asked that our school consider a "CyberBully Workshop" for students and parents and voted all 8 in favour to set aside \$1000.00 for a September/October date.</p>
6	<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<p>A school parent requested her email communication be read to council in lieu of her absence at today's meeting. Topics included: frequency of meetings, days of week, when dates are set, policy review). Liz shared with all in attendance. No</p>

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		<p>questions or comments from council were noted.</p> <p>Liz, at the suggestion of a parent (not on council), brought forward the idea of opening meetings with “do all approve agenda”. All members agreed by vote of 8 that this was not necessary. Should it become a commonly followed practice at all schools this could be revisited.</p> <p>In response to parent enquiry on council financials, it should be noted that copies are on file in our school office for review.</p> <p>Joanne generously shared some insight she has gain on “Rewards and Children”, specifically from author Barbara Coloroso, and asked us as a school to consider how they are affecting our children.</p> <p>Veronique will be providing a list of all school reward programs that are currently being used for council input. – June meeting (tentative)</p> <p>REMINDERS:  Principal Profile review – June meeting  Yearbook for next year – June meeting  Use of Technology in the Classroom (Joanne) – June meeting (20 minutes)</p>

Next meeting: June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, School Library