



# Windham Ridge School Council

Tuesday, November 2nd, 2021 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 Sophie Elias Diana Shin Trisha Nurse Maria Pulsoni	Leonard Serieux-Halls Andrea B Em May Gina Celsie Kelly Donaldson Kenny Wong Vanessa Wen	

Welcome & Introductions ~ V. Aitas and J. Romanovich  
Co-chairs opened the meeting.

### Land Acknowledgment

Recognizing both Treaty Recognition Week and Holocaust Education Week

The new Land Acknowledgement for this year was read to the Council. It is provided here for reference and for those who would like to read the revised version:

“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

Motion to approve the agenda by D.Shin, seconded by C. Lennox and unanimously carried.

## Approval of the Meeting Minutes held June 1, 2021 and October 6, 2021.

Motion to approve June 2021 and October 2021 meeting minutes by T. Dimopoulos seconded by P. Kirouac.

## Constitution

To be shared with Council members to read, review and add suggestions.

Council input will be addressed at the next meeting (December 2021) and any updates will be added by February 2022.

## Principal Profile

To be shared at a later date.

## Administrators Report - R. Hamou, A. Arcimartello

School Improvement Plan (SIP) - Safe, healthy and inclusive learning and working environment to promote a sense of belonging.

### Mental Health & Well-being Focus:

Provided school wide initiatives such as "Caring & Safe School Presentation" for students; Harvest Day & Spirit Days; cooperative play; "buddy bench"; Tree of Kindness (Arbre des actes de Gentillesse)

Caring & Safe School Presentation: Acknowledgement of the feelings of others; handling Conflicts; Bullying (social media and in person) Video presented to students in grades 4-8; Online Safety tips; anonymous Report IT button on school website; Progressive Discipline; Consequences of actions; Student Voice

Discrimination/ Racism Presentation: Adress protocol for hate & discrimination; Micro-Aggressions; anti-Black racism; Video presented to students

Destreaming: Math will be de-streamed in grade 9 starting 2021-2022 school year. Staff will be receiving Professional Development (PD) to support student transition from gr.8 to gr. 9 in math in collaboration with the Student Success team at King City SS.

De-Streaming - Video provided by YRDSB "What families want to know."

Information on Progress Reports & Parent teacher Interviews will be sent home to parent/ guardian.

Suggestions on recent Curriculum Night via google feedback form - not mandatory.

Reminder to students/ families that school doors are locked at 8:40am - punctuality is key!

Admin, Laleh and co-chairs will meet at the beginning of November to discuss fundraising initiative

## Teachers' Report

October was another busy month!

Cross country completed and students were awarded ribbons for participation.

Volleyball practice and season continues..

The Card Club meets during lunch where students can play various card games with friends. Debate club information coming soon.

Harvest Festival was a huge success with many outdoor activities and class pumpkin decoration competitions.

Staff and students are honoring Islamic Heritage month by showcasing the various achievements and contributions of Muslims around the world. For example, morning announcements include interesting facts about inventions and contributions of notable Muslims which further affirms the identities of our Muslim students, staff and families.

### Treasurer's Report-

Nothing to report at this time.

### Committee Reports - Julie & Vivian

#### Volunteer

Thank you for all parental involvement in Harvest Day. Until further direction from YRDSB, the school will wait to create a parent volunteer list.

#### Fundraising

Fundraising opportunities were raised with a suggestion to look into best practices of other schools. Any ideas not discussed can be emailed to the committee.

#### Big Box of Cards (a box of greeting cards)

- Would need to be booked prior to Dec 31st (waiver of delivery fee)
- What are the logistics of delivery if mailed to the school for students to take home?
- Prizes for most sales: Gift cards (retailers/ Apple/ Samsung/ Amazon)
  
- School Dances
  - Short sessions by class/ grade- will not be possible due to indoor COVID restrictions
- Selling cookies
  - individually packed -possibility
  - school cash online- no cash handling
- Scholastic book drives- virtual

#### Yearbook

Last year's grade 8 yearbook to be finalized and printed soon. Admin will connect with intermediate teachers to assist with the process.

Anticipating a school wide book this year as a possibility.

#### Mental Health and Wellbeing

Suggestions for parents to support school and community initiatives over the next few weeks.

Examples:

- Senior Living Residences

- Mitten/ hat tree
- Food donations (Richmond Hill Food bank)
- Holiday Angels Program (sponsor/ support a family)
- 360 Kids
- Spring: Health and Environment focus
- Guest Speakers

More information to follow.

### Parent and Student Engagement Committee

A few initiatives were suggested to engage all families, especially our new parents to the school to make them feel welcome and comfortable at our school.

- Virtual Coffee Chat
- community cause event
- Virtual paint nights/ holiday cookie baking demonstrations
- Connecting new families with our existing community
- Connect potential events to Student programs
  - Edible Garden (Spring)
  - Garden Committee
  - Other projects to include various grade levels
  - Scientist in the Classroom (Virtual)
  - Virtual Field Trips (Reptilia/ Toronto Zoo) sign up at lunch

To address the School pick up/ drop off concerns, suggestions were made to make it a family event where students encourage their parents to walk a few days a week versus driving; possibility of a fun challenge and adding this information to the newsletter. City councillor, Greg Beros was contacted regarding traffic safety issues and the crossing guard shortage that he will provide feedback on at a later date.

### New Business – V. Aitas and J. Romanovich

Spirit Wear will be available until November 19th and there will be a link in the newsletter and a separate email to families.

Photo Day - Nov 5th

Re-take Day - Nov 23rd

Grad Photos Dec 9th

### Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, December 9th, 2021 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**