



MINUTES

Windham Ridge School Council

Monday November 2nd, 2015 | 6:30-8:30pm | Meeting called to order by Principal Nereo Bonomo

In Attendance

Council Attendance

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

Guest Attendance

Gina Celsie
Alla Koren
Corrie McBain
Sandra Conte Ewacha

Board Presentation from YRDSB Planning Department

Trina from YRDSB Planning was welcomed to provide a presentation on changes to FI boundaries. School projections are reviewed by the Board annually and proactive approach to enrollment is taken. Beynon Fields has 6+ feeder schools vs. Windham Ridge that has 3. With time, Beynon Field's school population is expected to increase meanwhile Windham Ridge's population is expected to decrease and Windham Ridge is not at capacity. To balance the two school populations, enrolment boundaries to change and Bond Lake P.S. to be added to Windham Ridge's list of feeder schools. Full Presentation available at the following link:

<http://www.yrdsb.ca/AboutUs/Departments/Planning/Documents/bdry20151102-WindhamRidgePSSC.pdf>

Principal's Report

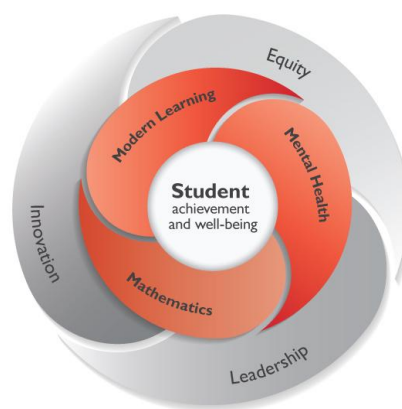
Principal Nereo Bonomo and Vice Principal Cindy Galpin presented. Started by sharing the list of Council Norms.

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

New Business

- Principal Nereo Bonomo and Vice Principal Cindy Galpin also presented the WRPS Focus for this year based on the YRDSB's Improvement Plan which has a primary focus on student achievement and well-being.
- Related that to the School Improvement Plan
<http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/windhamridge.ps/info/Documents/SIP%20Learning%20and%20Teaching%202014.pdf>
- 3 areas of priority to be focused on are Mathematics, Mental Health and Modern Learning within the foundational practices pivotal in grounding all decisions which are Equity, Innovation and Leadership.



- Council initiatives need to be more reflective of the School Improvement Plan (SIP).

Approval of Agenda and October Minutes

Motion to approve agenda by Anna Margitta. Motion seconded. All in favour. Agenda approved.

Motion to approve October Minutes by Anna Margitta. Motion seconded. All in favour. Minutes approved.

Council News

- It was noted that there were 4 vacant positions on Council. Co-chairs to inform parents in the form of a newsletter of the available positions. Possibility of elections should there be a high demand to fill those positions.
- Gina Celsie, guest parent in attendance, requested membership on council on School Grants committee. Joanne Conte Casola passed motion to accept Gina Celsie on council today. Motion seconded. All in favour. Welcome Gina.
- Suggestion was made to keep council membership at an odd number to facilitate voting.

Treasurer's Report

Due to Work to Rule mandates, School Council was unable to pay any invoices until now. The following outstanding invoices are for items that were preplanned and budgeted for by the previous council (2014-2015) and have either happened or will happen this current school year. These invoice totals include:

- Scientist in the School \$776
- School wide Lice Checks \$896.66

In addition, the following invoices will be paid through the School Council budget since these items will no longer be covered through the Arts Package fee, which has been cancelled.

- Prologue Performances \$4,779.90
- Performances at Richmond Hill Center for the Performing Arts \$1,295.50

Anna Margitta to work with Linda Muffitt (EOA) to resolve all outstanding budgetary issues and provide an updated report at next council meeting.

Committee Reports

- There were requests for changes within committees: Anne Mason has requested removal from the Education Committee and would like to create a Constitution and Policy Advisor position. This position would ensure council compliance with School Board Policy. Dima Berchalli has requested to join the Volunteering Committee. Suzanne McWhinnie would like to create a position of French Education Ambassador. The French Education Ambassador would act as a helper to the school community to support and enhance the learning of French by helping connect the community with educational and cultural resources and help in planning events that support French.

- Suggestion to assign a rep for each committee to facilitate communication. Due to time restrictions, this will be done next meeting.

Education Report

- Windham Ridge P.S. application for 2015/2016 PRO-Grant seminar: “How can I help my child mathematically” was approved for the amount of \$1,000. Council has agreed to schedule the PRO-Grant Seminar/Workshop in May 2016.
- Amir Mirshahi has tentatively booked Ron Lancaster from OISE to conduct the seminar http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/ctl/Faculty_Staff/Faculty_Profiles/1752/Ron_Lancaster.html
- Council to approve the actual date of the seminar in future meetings.

Fundraising Report

- QSP has so far raised \$15,000. Goal is \$20,000.
- Deadline was extended to Friday November 6. Budget of \$500 associated with QSP has not yet been used.
- Proposal made to provide an ice cream sundae bar to two classes with highest percentage participation as a reward, to the students, for their fundraising efforts. One class in the primary grades (1-4) and another class selected from Grades 5-8
- Some parents objected to this and preferred that the whole student body be rewarded for their efforts. This suggestion to be duly noted and reopened for discussion at a later time. As the ice cream sundae bar was decided on and budgeted by previous council as well as the fact that QSP 2015 is near the end, new reward initiatives will be considered and discussed for next year.
- There were also concerns raised by several parents with the toys being used to motivate the kids to sell the subscriptions. Prefer to educate the children on what QSP helps with at the school level and yield motivation from that. To be brought up for discussion at a later time.
- There was a request for information on plans for Grade 8 end of year trip. This inquiry was directed to the school principal.

Communications Report

- The website has been updated with the new council members and their positions and committees.
- All Parent Council meeting dates have also been included in the school calendar.
- An e-mail address has been set up for the Parent Council and posted on the website for anyone wishing to communicate directly with council.
- A suggestion was made to include an automatic reply indicating that responses from council may take a few days. Dima Berchalli to look into this and update council at the next meeting.

New Business

Request for council members to brainstorm ideas related to SIP.

- The following ideas were shared for building community and a strong sense of belonging (to offset the school climate survey (2013-2014) that states 31% of parents don't feel welcome). Suggestions made were for a "Junk in the Trunk" event which is a community based garage sale with proceeds or parts of the proceeds going to council. A silent auction of the students' artwork, Multicultural Day and BBQ. Also, a student book exchange that would allow students to trade books to further their reading.
- Also looking at implementing new lunch options to provide a new variety of healthy lunches and in turn to raise funds for more French Literature for the school library. Lunch Lady makes a lot of profit in our school and it is felt that this money is best kept in our school.
- A proposal was made to have a Council Newsletter go out to parents to keep them up to date with council and also to engage parents. Further discussions to follow.
- In addition, a suggestion was made to consider Coffee Meetings to help with community building. This has been implemented at other schools. These could be held during the day and in the evening in order to accommodate the most parents possible. At the first meeting council can provide the topic of discussion and going forward, different parents can suggest different topics.

Next Meeting

Wednesday December 2nd, 2015 from 6:30-8:30