



# MINUTES

Windham Ridge School Council

Wednesday November 30 2016 | 6:30-8:30pm

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## In Attendance

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### **Council Attendance**

Julie Romanovich

Vivian Aitas

Catherine Salole

Joanne Conte Casola

Gina Celsie

Teresa Cowan

Angela Lambros

Maria Pulsoni

Tara Dimopoulous

Rachel Hamou

Nereo Bonomo

Ester Boivin

Leila Mireskandari

Jennifer Yan

Bridget Hijazi

Parissa Giahinejad

### **Regrets**

Suzanne McWhinnie

Kelly Giesen

Narendra Chandrasekhar

Anna Margitta

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## Welcome & Introductions ~ V. Aitas and J. Romanovich

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Motion to approve agenda by T. Cowan. Seconded by M. Pulsoni. All in favour. Motion carried

Approval of Oct 26<sup>th</sup> minutes. Amendments required:

- On page 2, correct the reference to the School Council as a committee

- On page 4, add the Fresh From The Farm fundraiser in the Fundraising update

Motion to approve the minutes with noted amendments by J. Conte Casola. Seconded by J. Yan. All in favour.  
Motion carried.

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## Administrator's Report ~ N. Bonomo and R. Hamou

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### BIPSA/SIPSA Activity

The school is advancing the School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (SIPSA) through 3 main foci – math, mental health and modern learning. This particular meeting focused on math, specifically how we can engage students in math beyond paper, pencils and memorizing through problem solving group activities. N. Bonomo and R. Hamou ran meeting attendees through a small group math exercise that encouraged conversation and risk-taking to solve a math problem. Student learning, in activities such as these, is assessed through teacher observation. Future plans involve using EQAO data to inform where the gaps in student understanding are so that we can strategically adjust our efforts.

### Mental Health and Wellbeing

The school is continuing the Kindness Challenge and will soon be moving into activities that foster empathy. Grade 1 and 2 students will be provided support around self-regulation of emotion

### Parent-Teacher Interviews Update

Parent feedback on Intermediate interviews was generally positive as the gym facilitated access to all teachers. However, some parents thought that the conversations were rushed. The online booking program was helpful in scheduling meetings. A suggestion was made to include representation from the various high schools to be available during parent-teacher interviews to answer questions.

### Halloween Update

Halloween activities were a success. However, not as many parents attended the parade, possibly due to timing.

### Conflict of Interest Follow-up

All board approved vendor/providers can be considered by school regardless of vendor's school affiliation. L. Mireskandari's gardening program is a board-approved vendor.

**ACTION: N. Bonomo and R. Hamou will set up a meeting with L. Mireskandari's to explore if and how the garden can be incorporated into the SIPSA.**

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## Treasurer's Report ~ N. Bonomo for A. Margitta

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- Updated budget presented.
- Overview
  - Opening balance: 22,314.31
  - Fundraising revenue to date: 38,000.20
  - Fundraising expenses to date: 18,977.69
  - Fundraising profit: 19,022.51

- Expenses: 20,750.44
  - Net profit: - 1, 727.93 (expecting more revenue to come in to off-set this negative)
  - Ending balance: 20,586.38
- M. Pulsoni indicated that the QSP revenue numbers were incorrect.  
**ACTION: M. Pulsoni will check with numbers with A. Margitta.**

## Teachers' Report

### Grade 8 Trip ~ T. Cowan

- Grade 8 trip will be to Ottawa for 3 days and 2 nights at the end of the year. Supplier will be coming in to provide information to parents and students.

### Extra-curricular ~ E. Boivin

- Girls volleyball team made it to the quarter-final. All in all, teams demonstrated great sportsmanship.
- The following clubs are still looking for representatives:
  - Eco Club
  - Lego Robotics club

**ACTION: R. Hamou will send an email out to the general parent and teacher population to fill the positions?**

## Committee Reports

### Constitution & School Council Handbook ~ J. Conte Casola on behalf of Sub-committee

The Subcommittee reviewed the School Council Constitution within the context of the purpose and role of school council as outlined in The School Council Handbook: "...to promote parent, family, & community engagement in support of student achievement and wellbeing in an equitable and inclusive manner". With this in mind, 18 recommendations and amendments were presented, discussed and agreed upon (See appendix).

#### **ACTION:**

**T. Cowan will find a student who can fill the role of student representative.**

**N. Bonomo and R. Hamou will look into the formal process for updating/revising the constitution.**

### Fundraising Update and Parent Survey Feedback~ M. Pulsoni

#### Parent Survey Results & Feedback

- Total response: 110, ~30% of parents
  - Not many people saw the link to the survey in the Friday email update. We should consider sending a solo email out to the parent community should we need more feedback.
- More than half of those surveyed do not want to do QSP

- More than half of those surveyed were interested in Fresh from the Farm
  - o This is a smaller campaign (ie will not generate the same revenue as QSP)
  - o M. Pulsoni had an opportunity to see Fresh From The Farm arrive at a local school, it seemed organized and smooth

**Action: Council will need to decide by the spring if we want to move ahead with the Fresh from the Farm fundraiser**

- School dance-a-thon was rated the next highest in the survey
  - o Notes: Another school raised \$20,000 for a “Spook-a-thon” dance party. They raised money through ticket sales and raffles.
- Suggestion: Fresh from the Farm in the Fall, “Spring Fling” dance party in the winter
- Many thanks to the grade 8’s for administering the survey during parent-teacher interviews

### Health and Wellbeing ~ J. Conte Casola

- Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> Mental Health Event at Oak Ridges Public School: Michelle Cassidy will speak on mental health and wellness. Currently looking for volunteers.
- Confirming May 18<sup>th</sup> events with Sara Westbrook who will be speaking to parents and students about Resilience, confidence and wellbeing.

### Volunteer

- No update given

### School Grants and French Ambassador ~ S. McWhinnie through email

- Government Grants:
  - o Application made to the Metro Green Apple Program for \$1000 to use towards nutrition program. We should be hearing back within a month.
  - o Music grant will be worked on in Dec.
  - o Please let S. McWhinnie know if you have any ideas or would like to fill out a grant application.
  - o Discussion: consider advancing SIPSA when thinking about grants.
- French Ambassador:
  - o Preliminary entrance application has been completed for 4 of our students to participate in the 33<sup>rd</sup> French Public Speaking Contest on Saturday May 6 at York University’s Glendon Campus.

### Student Programs ~ G. Celsie

- Lego club has started and going well. The parent volunteers and grade 1 teachers have been great.
- Considering extending lego club for older grades though Mindstorm.
- Currently investigating organizations that will come to the school for a Creative Club for 60 grade 4 & 5 students.
- It has proven helpful to solicit parent volunteers from the classes that will be involved in the club.
- Concern was raised about finding something for the grade 6’s.
- Community building event discussion
  - o Suggestion for a skating event was made
    - Need to have some options available (eg. cross country ski’s) so that students do not feel left out.
    - Logistically, a couple of grades could go per day.

**Action: E. Boivin to look into process for to borrow ski’s and skates.**

## Yearbook ~ J. Romanovich

- To encourage earlier sales, we will sell the yearbooks at an early bird rate of \$22 and 25

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## Other business

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- Babysitters available for meetings.

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## Next Meeting

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January 16, 2017 6:30-8:30

Constitution Review November 2016

- The Constitution was reviewed in reference to The School Council Handbook, keeping in mind the purpose and role of the school council; as outlined on pg 17 (To promote parent, family, & community engagement in support of student achievement and well being in an **equitable and inclusive manner**).
  - Some content may appear to be in violation (of the above) and of board policy, as it does not foster equity and inclusivity. Some content presents as obstacles to parent engagement. This constitution is in need of revision. The following suggestions are recommended:
1. Summary of events needs to have consistency in format. Specific changes are not specified in the last 2 changes made (is this required?)
  2. Page 1 Article III. iv) change "School Plan for Continuous Improvement" to "School Improvement Plan" (SIP) or SIPSA?
  3. Page 2 Article V. Section 5.02. Do we endeavor to include a community rep? Who/What does this refer to?
  4. Page 2 Section 5.05 & 5.07 are redundant
  5. Page 3 Section 5.07 under secretary iv). Add "distribute meeting minutes to council **and guest attendees**"
  6. Page 3 Section 5.07 change title of "chair of committee" to "lead" or "spokesperson" to eliminate confusion with council chair, also paragraph below "Chairs/Co-chairs of committees" needs revision: Change "it is a requirement" to "an expectation". Remove last sentence "This creates a fair and equitable environment amongst all voting parent members". This is subjective...how do you measure an "equitable" contribution? Some parents are available and interested in offering more time than others. Also suggest addition to last sentence after "voting is restricted to active school council members": "Council will endeavor to seek parent opinion/feedback prior to any necessary vote to adequately represent parent voice".
  7. Page 3 Section 6.02 Change title of "Chair of sub-committee" to "Lead" or "spokesperson"
  8. Page 4 Section 7.04 Why don't we have a student rep? If this is not applicable than remove it from constitution
  9. Page 5 Section 7.08 iii. Second paragraph: "Members interested in completing another term shall let his/her intentions be known by May of the current year". Why is this necessary? It is not inclusive of new families joining the school and may deter new members from joining if they feel this disqualifies them or if they believe roles are already acclaimed. Remove this as it is not inclusive of new members.
  10. Page 5 Section 7.09. i. Recommend it state "the council **and/or principal** may suggest/appoint parent members"
  11. Page 5 Section 7.09. section i).iii).iv). are repetitive and need to be condensed
  12. Page 5 Section 7.11 In place of "Removal procedures" we need to refer to members adhering to a code of conduct. Tone should not be punitive and should not state "remove him/her". Eliminate this section completely as it is well stated in section 8.04 what the expectation is regarding attendance.
  13. Page 6 Section 8.04 also add: "members are accountable to attend meetings or state planned absence". Remove last sentence? Removal of a member should be at the discretion of principle if a member is in violation of the expected code of conduct (which needs to be established and included in the constitution).
  14. Page 6 section 8.01 ii). This is not inclusive. This should read: "Meetings will be scheduled on alternating days of the week in the effort to be inclusive and accommodate all parents".
  15. Page 7 section 9.01, i). should read: Agenda items should be submitted to the chair "no later than" one week prior to the council's next meeting. Otherwise, ( i). & iii). both state that each should happen 1 week prior to next meeting; this is not possible.
  16. Page 7 section 9.01 iv). Alter last sentence as this is not inclusive, especially considering the sentence prior. Members and non-members should have equity in proposal of items at the opening of the meeting. Council is the only open forum where parents can express their opinions and concerns.
  17. Pg7 Section 9.02 ii). Add "minutes shall be sent by the secretary to all members of council **and parent guests**"
  18. Pg 7 Article X section 10.01 – needs to be amended to reflect current practice