



Windham Ridge School Council

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 6:30-8:30 p.m. via Zoom

In Attendance

Council Attendance

Julie Romanovich

Vivian Aitas

Tara Dimopoulous

Parvaz Kirouac

Rachel Hamou

Angela Lambros

Maria Pulsoni

Nadine Raymond

Jodie Montagnese

Sophie Elias

Cassandre Lennox

Guest Attendance

Diana Shin

Trisha Nurse

Rojeen Salemi

Sherry Murray-Davis

Kathy Zivontsis

Mary Ghiasi

Laleh Azizi

Anita Arcimartello

Regrets

Jessica Moore

Carolyn Gallinger

Niloufar Saadati

Welcome & Introductions ~ V. Aitas and J. Romanovich

The Co-chairs opened the meeting and called a round of quick introductions.

Land Acknowledgment

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 closest neighbour and partner in education.

To honour this agreement we will take up our responsibility to be respectful of their traditions, knowledge 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 C. Lennox, seconded by N. Raymond and unanimously carried.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes held June 1, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 1, 2021 will be carried out in our next meeting to give council time to read as it was shared only just prior to this meeting.

Council Norms

Shared with meeting attendees

Council Objectives

Shared with meeting attendees

Council Elections for 2021/2022

Vivian and Julie shared the current candidates list, opened it up to anyone who may like to submit their self-nomination since there may have been issues with the form submission and data retrieved.

After deliberation and review / explanation of current council roles the council candidates were determined:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Vivan Aitas | 10. Liping Yang |
| 2. Julie Romanovich | 11. Sophie Elias |
| 3. Maria Pulsoni | 12. Nadine Raymond |
| 4. Tara Dimopoulos | 13. Parvaz Kirouac |
| 5. Jodie Montagnese | 14. Cassandre Lennox |
| 6. Anahita Ogra | 15. Sherry Murray-Davis |
| 7. Trisha Nurse | 16. Rojeen Salemi |
| 8. Diana Shin | 17. Kathy Zivontsis |
| 9. Daniela Teti | 18. Laleh Azizi |

Council was formed as below:

| ROLES | 2021/2022 |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Chair/Co-Chairs | Julie/Vivian |
| Treasurer | Laleh |
| Secretary | Trisha |

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Parent Engagement | Nadine, Parvaz, Sherry, Cassandre |
| Fundraising | Maria , Tara, Jodie, Rojeen |
| Yearbook | Cassandre , Trisha |
| Student Programs | Nadine , Kathy |
| Volunteer Programs | Tara , Jodie, Rojeen |
| Communication | Diana , Kathy |
| Health and Wellness | Diana, Parvaz , Sherry, Rojeen |
| School Grants | Sophie |

Those highlighted in blue will be representing the committee in future meetings and will be our main focal point for committee specific initiatives.

It was noted that there were a few people who submitted their candidacy but were not present at this meeting. Vivian and Julie will reach out to them to see if they are still interested.

Mme Saadati will return as teacher representative on a 50% capacity. Role to be shared with another teacher.

We will be exploring the possibility of including a student representative this year, something we have not had for several years now. Looking for teacher’s guidance on this but we have discovered that 102 intermediate students have signed up for leadership roles out of a total of 140 students.

Proposed meeting dates for this year reviewed and no issues as of yet – November 2, December 9, February 3, April 5, (May 17), June 2

Administrators’ Report~ R. Hamou, A. Arcimartello

Update

Welcome to Mme Arcimartello our new Vice-Principal.

Welcome back to Sandy Fiorido who will now take on the role of Administrative Assistant, and welcome to Mme Khan as our new office assistant.

School had a very busy September. Many initiatives started.

- VORC came to visit for the Grade 2 and Grade 4 students
- Intermediate Student Leadership club formed with 102 students interested. Teachers may look at splitting students into different groups to take on different initiatives since interest is high. One team has started with morning announcements already.
- Cross country started for Grades 4-8
- Volleyball also has begun
- Terry Fox run took place on September 29, our school raised about \$1516!
- School also recognized Orange Shirt Day on September 30, our first day of Truth & Reconciliation

Air conditioning was installed in library, gymnasium, and the office. Construction is finished and library will hopefully reopen soon to students.

Recess cohorts are larger this year. Although split by floor where the first floor classrooms eat first, then go outside and the second floor classrooms go outside first, then eat after – some grades have been arranged so that they can go outside together regardless of the floor. For example, grade 8s go outside at the same time even though one class is on the second floor.

We had one COVID case where one grade 6 class had to stay home and isolate.

New Teachers

Mme Wood- Grade 4 LTO replacing Mme Eyahpaise

Ms. Gallucci Grade 7 LTO Teacher

Teachers

Mr. Mc Innis Grade 5 & 6

Mr. Halkusis Intermediate Eng/Math/DD

Mme D'Ambrosio Grade 4 Homeroom Teacher

Mme Koka Grade 2 Teacher

Mme Nucifora Primary and Junior Prep teacher

Mme Priore Grade 1- our new, 5th class

Lead teachers for this year:

Technology Lead Teacher: MJ Pearson

Curriculum (Literacy/Numeracy) Lead Teacher: Anisha Suleman

Student Supports (ELL and Special Education) Lead Teacher: Shawn Raha

Well-Being Lead Teacher: Nancy Seguin

Indigenous and Equity Lead: Christin Breault

School Athletic Representative: Roula Dasilva

Classroom Organization

Current classroom organization:

| Grade | Number of classes |
|-------|-------------------|
| 1 | 5 |
| 2 | 4 |
| 3 | 4 |
| 4 | 3 |
| 4/5 | 1 |
| 5 | 2 |
| 5/6 | 2 |
| 6 | 2 |
| 7 | 2 |
| 8 | 3 |
| Total | 29 |

Possible Event

Mme Gallucci surveyed intermediate students and there was huge interest in a harvest week or some kind of carnival or outdoor event. Apple cider can be served outside, one grade at a time, pumpkin carving is also an idea, parent volunteers may be required for this event. R. Hamou to see if this is possible after speaking with the board.

Things are happening but staff is being more creative in making sure safety protocols are followed.

Treasurer's Report- C. Gallinger

Buddy benches, picnic table and outdoor classroom were installed over the summer months. This year's fundraising plan and council budget will be determined and shared at next meeting.

Teachers' Report - N. Saadati

As part of Safe & Caring schools initiative, students are told what the benches are for – a safe place for students to take a break or rest. Picnic table use is scheduled by grade similar to the playscape.

Committee Reports - V. Aitas and J. Romanovich

Yearbook

Last year's grade 8 yearbook to be finalized and printed soon.

Student Programs

M.Pulsoni suggested idea of virtual zoo tours as an example of a program for students.

School Grants

Thanks to N. Raymond, Windham Ridge was awarded the Whole Foods Grant for the very first time. \$3,000 was received last week. It will go towards the Edible Garden project as we seek to relocate the garden in a more suitable location in the yard. Grade 3 teachers will once again incorporate the garden in the science curriculum.

New Business – V. Aitas and J. Romanovich

School Photos

R. Hamou has booked the dates for individual student photos as well as grade 8 grad photos with the company that did our grade 8 grad photos from last year. Waiting for the go ahead from the school board.

Teacher Appreciation

Last year, our annual teacher appreciation event did not take place due to health restrictions. In lieu of this, council decided to plant a tree as a gift of appreciation. Location for this tree still needs to be determined. It was hoped that the tree could be planted near the outdoor classroom to provide some shade in the future but we are informed that the soil around that area may not be good to sustain the tree. Will need to speak to some experts to get more information.

School pick-up and drop off traffic concerns

It was brought to our attention that there continues to be concern about the safety and flow of the traffic during pick-up and drop-off times along the street and in the kiss and ride loop. Some cars continue to disregard the rules when driving and ignore the safety of the children who are walking. It was questioned why we do not have a crossing guard at any of our intersections in and around the school. T. Dimopoulos and P. Kirouac to do a bit of research on the possibility of a crossing guard. Is this something with the

Town of Richmond Hill, or the school board, and is a petition needed to present our case. The traffic is a continued COVID challenge due to the increased number of parents choosing to drive their children instead of taking the school bus.

Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 2, 2021 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.**