



Windham Ridge School Council

Wednesday, Oct. 4, 2023 6:30-8:30 p.m.

In Attendance		
Council Attendance	Guest Attendance	Regrets
Vittoria Leone Sabrina Singh-Itwarie	Afarin Foroughmehr Houda Alassad Farida Babrawalla Rocco Di Lena Flo Hu Parvaz Kirouac Mariam Kottab Melissa Kurz Angie Lambros Patricia Lambros Cassandre Lennox Diana Li Qian Li Ying (Joyce) Lin Mel Louie Jodie Montagnese Maryam Movasseli Lisa Schiafone Sukaina Sheraly Diana Shin Apurva Talsania Anthony Teti Kathy Zivontsis	

Welcome & Introductions

- Welcome by V. Leone
- Introduction of all parents in attendance

Land Acknowledgment

- Land Acknowledgement read by V. Leone

African Ancestor Acknowledgment

- African Ancestor Acknowledgement read by S. Singh-Itwarie

Review of Council Norms

- Call for additions to agenda
 - Voting
 - Volunteers
- Recent School Council Video –
 - Video outlined policy changes and the role of council.
 - Student representative to be included in Council this year.
- Policy #262 – PEAC Video – Revised school council policy
 - Revised policy ensures:
 - Equitable access
 - The creation of a safe space
 - Active engagement
 - Greater transparency and understanding
 - Acknowledgement of both well being and mental health
 - The addition of inclusive language
 - Determine the impact of school activities on the community
- Policy and handbook are available on the yrdsb.ca website

Elections for 2023-2024

- Self- nominations available through start up package.
- Members can be nominated.
- 21 voting members. Council consists of the following:
 - Chair/co-chairs
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Committee members (to a total of 21 members)
- Things that council can vote on, if a consensus can't be reached:
 - If there is no consensus with how funds are reallocated, based on the already approved fundraising plan, then a vote will take place
 - 50% quorum required
 - Initiatives in the school if consensus not reached

Executive Members for 2023-2024

Chair/Co-chairs

- Will be elected based on the new roles and responsibilities that have been outlined.
- Voting members who want to nominate themselves as co-chair – Jodie Montagnese & Parvaz Kirouac
- **Jodie Montagnese & Parvaz Kirouac** named co-chairs for the 2023-2024 school year.

Treasurer

- Will receive a monthly report in advance of the council meeting and will share report with members.
- Voting member(s) who want to nominate themselves as treasurer – Rocco Di Lena & Apurva Talsania
- **Rocco Di Lena & Apurva Talsania** named co-treasurers for the 2023-2024 school year.

Secretary

- Takes minutes at meeting and shares minutes with co-chairs and administration for approval.
- Voting member(s) who want to nominate themselves as secretary – Lisa Schiafone
- **Lisa Schiafone** named secretary for the 2023-2024 school year.

Voting Members for 2023-2024 school year

Houda Alassad

Farida Babrawalla

Afarin Foroughmehr

Flo Hu

Mariam Kottab

Melissa Kurz

Angie Lambros

Patricia Lambros

Cassandre Lennox

Diana Li

Qian Li

Maryam Movasseli

Sukaina Sheraly

Diana Shin

Lucy Spina

Anthony Teti

Committees for the 2023-2024 School Year

- **Volunteer Committee**
 - When there are school events, the volunteer committee will work on gathering groups of volunteers who are able to participate. A master list of volunteers will be collected by the school and the committee will use this list to reach out to the volunteer/parent community.

- Being part of this committee also includes volunteering at different events.
- **Committee members:** Melissa K, Sukaina S, Farida B, Patricia L, Anthony T, Qian L, Flo H, Kathy Z
- **Fundraising Committee**
 - This committee will work at developing fundraising plans and executing them.
 - **Committee members:** Qian L, Melissa K, Mariam K, Angie L, Lisa S
- **Yearbook Committee**
 - This committee will liaise with teachers/students at the school in order to produce the 2023-2024 school yearbook.
 - **Committee members:** Cassandre L, Melissa K, Flo H, Diana L
- **Mental Health and Well Being Committee** (Healthy Schools)
 - Connect with the Parent Engagement committee to offer activities for students that promote health and wellbeing.
 - Healthy Schools action plan will be shared with parents
 - **Committee members:** Maryam M, Diana S, Sukaina S
- **Parent Engagement Committee**
 - Host activities for parents to promote engagement throughout the school year.
 - **Committee members:** Maryam M, Afrin F, Sukaina S
- **Grants**
 - Parents will research and apply for grants to support school initiatives.
 - **Committee members:** Patricia L, Apurva T
- **Student Programs Committee**
 - Develop and host activities for students within the school.
 - **Committee members:** Houda A, Mariam K, Kathy Z, Patricia L
- **Communications Committee**
 - Developing communications to share with the community.
 - **Committee members:** Melissa K, Diana S

Administrators Report - V. Leone, S. Singh-Itwarie

- First day - soft entry for grades 2-8– staff were inside to meet students upon entry to school.
- 26 homeroom classes with 540 students
 - We started with 26 homeroom classes and some primary class numbers were too high, so the school was given an additional staff.
 - System changes could not support hiring of grade 2/3 teacher. Currently:
 - 2 grade two classes at 23 students
 - 1 grade 3 class at 23
 - Started with a 7/8 split and two grade 8 classes
 - Has been changed to two grade 8 classes of 30 students (not over compliance)

Outdoor Spaces

- The new tarmac to be painted in the coming weeks.
- Track, pickleball courts, four square, hopscotch.
- The Board covers \$5000 for tarmac painting when there is new tarmac.
- Shading in the yard
 - Shade umbrellas no longer permitted, awnings not permitted
 - Putting umbrellas on the tarmac would interfere with the snow plan and would interfere if portables were needed in the future.
 - In lieu of the umbrellas, a grove of trees will be placed near the outdoor classroom which will provide shading in the coming years
 - Possible grants to cover the cost of the shading through partnership with Marina Dimitriadis at Board level

Grade 8 – Cedar Glen- Outdoor Education Centre.

- Grade 8 students to Cedar Glen in October
 - Purpose is to build collaboration, social skills, community etc to support the year ahead
 - Depart from WRPS on October 30th 8:45 a.m. return on October 31st at approximately 6:00 p.m.
 - Cost- \$206
 - Angel fund shared with families to support if required.
- Grade 8 graduation trip in June- has not been confirmed
- Grade 7 students will not go to Cedar Glen this year

School Council Forum

- The Central School Council forum scheduled for Wednesday, October 25th from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Richmond Hill High School.
- Two members from council can attend the forum.

Questions from Council Members:

- Student representative will represent full student body
- Parking lot safety- State of the parking lot has been brought to the board's attention

Teacher's Report

September

- School participation in:
 - Caring & Safe Schools Assemblies
 - Terry Fox Run/Walk - \$680 raised
 - Orange Shirt Day

October

- Big Brothers, Big Sisters York/Peel – One-to-One Mentoring
 - 1 social work student will come in to provide mentorship to three WRPS students during school hours, 1 hour/week
- Athletics:
 - Cross Country (Gr. 4-8) - 75 students will be participating
 - October 11, at George Richardson Park, volunteers are welcome to support
 - Intermediate Volleyball

- Tryouts have happened for the Grade 7 and 8 boys' and girls' teams.
- Intramurals
 - mini leagues per grade during recess, 3 days a week.
 - recreational and for students that did not make the volleyball team.
- Band has begun
- Student Clubs: Fun Club
- Fire Department Presentations
 - Each grade has a 30-45 minute presentation
- Outdoor equipment has been ordered and to be distributed to each homeroom for use during recesses.
- Volunteer committee –
 - Start up package has links for VSS, contact Sandy in the office with any questions