



MINUTES

Windham Ridge School Council

Wednesday October 26 2016 | 6:30-8:30pm

In Attendance

Council Attendance

Julie Romanovich
Vivian Aitas
Catherine Salole
Joanne Conte Casola
Gina Celsie
Suzanne McWhinnie
Teresa Cowan
Kelly Giesen
Angela Lambros
Maria Pulsoni
Tara Dimopoulous
Rachel Hamou
Nereo Bonomo
Ester Boivin
Leila Mireskandari

Guest Attendance

Patricia Lambros
Starr Mills
Alla Koren

Regrets

Jinos Dadelahi
Dotan Shemer
Bridget Hijazi
Narendra Chandrasekhar
Jennifer Yan
Parissa Giahinejad
Anna Margitta

Welcome & Introductions ~ V. Aitas and J. Romanovich

Round table introductions.

Motion to approve agenda by T.Cowan. Seconded by G. Celsie. All in favour. Motion carried.

Approval of Sept 29th minutes. Amendment required regarding number of grade 1 classes: initially there were 4 grade 1 classes now there are 5. Motion to approve minutes with noted amendment by M. Pulsoni. Seconded by T.Dimopoulous. All in favour. Motion carried.

Draft minutes will be first shared to school administration and council chairs, then to full council for edits. Draft minutes will be posted on council website 1 week prior to council meeting. Final approval of minutes will occur at the council meeting and then posted on website.

Review ~ V. Aitas and J. Romanovich

Council Membership

- Secretary position filled by C. Salole
- Vacant Position: Yearbook Committee Chair
- New Position: Wellness Committee Chair
 - Committee acknowledges the importance of following formal process for creating a committee and appointing chair.
 - Consensus around the importance of health and wellness to student success.
 - Motion to create Health and Wellness Committee, chaired by J. Conte Casola by T. Cowan. Seconded by L. Mireskandari. All in favour. Motion carried.
 - Leila Mireskandari will join Health and Wellness committee and school council.

Updated School Council meeting dates

- Nov 30th, January 16th, Feb 15th, April 4th, May 4th, June 6th

Constitution and School Council Handbook

- To fulfill our annual commitment, a subcommittee will form to review constitution and council handbook and make recommended edits to bring to the next council meeting.
- Subcommittee members: M. Pulsoni, J. Conte Casola, C Salole.
- It was suggested that the entire council should review constitution and handbook

Treasurer Report

- Included in Administrator's Report.

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

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

The Board's newly developed Board Improvement Plan (BIP) will be presented to the school's staff on Friday Oct 28th. The BIP has 3 foci: Mental Health and Well-being; Math; and Modern Learning. The school will use the BIP to develop the School Improvement Plan (SIP) that reflects 3 similar foci. Progress in the SIP will be shared at future School Council meetings.

Making a difference

- 10 students attended the Me to We Day in Toronto

- Goal is to engage students in leadership opportunities and agency in deciding where and how they will make a difference.

School Council Budget

- Budget presented.
- Overview:
 - Opening balance: 22, 314.31
 - Revenue To Date (Pizza, Greek & QSP): 36, 662.00
 - Planned Expenses: 19, 426,68
 - Ending Balance: \$35, 626.11

Windham Ridge Fundraising Plan

- Fundraising plan presented.
- The strategy in preparing the plan was to earmark new initiatives that advance the SIP as well as to look at last year's initiatives and requests from teachers.
- The projected expenditure is approximately \$31, 700.00 which is in line with what we raised last year, specifically \$34, 475.96. It is anticipated that we will raise approximately the same amount.
- Playscape repairs will either come from the school budget or from the \$2500 that was raised at the time of building and intended for maintenance. **ACTION: N. Bonomo will look into where this expenditure will come from.**

Parent -Teacher Interviews

- Parent-Teacher interviews will be held on Nov 24 (evening) and Nov 25 (morning)
- Parents will be able to book an online appointment with homeroom teachers the 1st week of November.
- Parents will be able to book online appointments with specialty teachers between Nov 16 and Nov 22.
- Due to time constraints, it is possible that teachers may not be able to meet with all of their student's parents. Students who are progressing with difficulty will be prioritized for meetings.
- Note: Grade 7 and 8 teachers will contact parents directly rather than using the online system.
- Information will be going out to families shortly.

Halloween Harvest Activities ~ T. Cowan

- The following information has gone out to families:
 - Grade 8 students are planning Halloween activities including a dance, for all grades.
 - Grade 1 parade will occur in the morning.
- **Action: T. Dimopoulos, J. Romanovich, V. Aitas will volunteer to help.**

Teachers' Report

Grade 8 end-of-year ~ T. Cowan

A grade 8 trip is being planned. Initial research, with involvement of students, has been completed. A survey will go out shortly to parents for feedback. Angel fund can be accessed to help ensure trip is accessible to all students.

Extra-Curricular ~ E. Boivin

- Teams: Junior and Intermediate Volleyball , Soccer.
- Still looking for a teacher to coach basketball.
- Lots of clubs running this year.

Committee Reports

Volunteer ~ T. Dimopoulos

- The volunteer pool has not been responsive to emails. A communication will go out again to solicit help and more volunteers.

Education

- Committee members were not present. No report was made.

Fundraising ~ M. Pulsoni

- QSP Update
 - \$15,500 raised, shy of our \$20,000 goal
- Lunches
 - Astoria has raised \$2, 100 profit
 - Planning on sushi lunch from Jan-March Break
 - Currently investigating options for March Break – June
- Other fundraising ideas
 - Currently investigating a spring fundraiser and an alternative to QSP next fall. Interest in QSP is on the decline. We will need to decide which fundraiser, that would generate significant funds, to pursue by May.
 - Fresh From The Farm – school community can purchase Ontario-grown fruit and vegetables to raise money and support local famers.
 - Big Box fundraising – 33 greeting cards for \$33. Some schools have had great success raising \$6,000 - \$10,000.
 - Other ideas discussed include: dance parties, school supplies, gift cards
 - Small fundraising options include popcorn, cookies.
- Discussion around needing to be data driven and get feedback from parents on what fundraisers they would like to support.

ACTION: M. Pulsoni will draft a survey to solicit feedback from parents. T. Cowan will mount survey on google docs and have her grade 8 students run survey during Parent-Teacher interviews.

- Mabel's Labels was presented as an easy, no-cost fundraising option. There was agreement in moving ahead with Mabel's Labels.

ACTION: M. Pulsoni will create a Windham Ridge account and promote to the school community.

Student/Lunch time Programs ~ G. Celsie

- Grade 1 Lego club beginning in November until March. Promotion will begin soon to grade 1 students for participants and parent volunteers.
- Potential Art club will run for grades 2-3 and 4,5&6 between March and April
- Currently researching other Lego clubs for older students. Also investigating ways to solicit volunteers.
- Playball: Office will book and pay for Playball for grade 1 and 2.
- Currently investigating a gymnastics club. A local organization has been contacted. It would cost \$5 per child per session. Insurance fee of \$50 would be covered by School Council. Potential age group: grade 3-5.
- Yoga was suggested as an option for older grades.

School Grants and French Ambassador ~ S. McWhinnie

- Potential grants were researched and presented. A sign-up sheet was circulated to solicit volunteers to complete grants. SIP could allow us to focus on areas for grants. Suggestions were welcomed for other grant opportunities.
- Franco tips will continue. Committee is looking into creating a French public speaking club and ordering French packages/kits that can be used in the classroom to get students excited about French.

Yearbook ~ J. Romanovich

- More information is forthcoming. Mme Gasior and J. Romanovich have been working on ideas including tying in the kindness theme into the yearbook.

Mental Health and Wellbeing ~ J. Conte Casola

- Assembly is being planned on May 18th for speaker Sara Westbrook to speak to our students on mental health and resilience. A parent presentation is planned during the evening of May 18 along with Oak Ridges Public School parents.
- Public health nurse to coming to address mental health and wellbeing. Date TBD
- L. Mireskandari presented her gardening program that could begin in the spring.

ACTION: R. Hamou needs to confirm conflict of interest

New Business

- New Constitution review committee will report back to council at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

November 30, 2016 6:30-8:30