

MINUTES

Windham Ridge Parent Advisory Council

April 7th, 2015 | 6:30-8:30pm

Attendance

Liz Novatsidis
Starr Mills
Véronique O'Malley
Doug Chester (regrets)
Kelly Giesen
Mukesh Gautam
Esther Boivin
Julie Romanovich
Houda Alassad
Kristina Barybina
Vivian Aitas
Preeti Kumar
Amir Mirshahi
Nina Halina-Zentsova (Guest parent)
Joanne Conte Casola (Guest parent)
Greg Beros (Guest parent)

Welcome

Agenda

Agenda approved by council, all in favour.

Principal Profile:

No suggested changes. Principal Profile approved by council, all in favour.

New YRDSB Head Lice policy NP657.0

Lice checks were done after March Break and 17 cases were reported. Nit Works (the company doing the lice checks) was surprised at such a high number.

Starr and Liz mentioned that they received letters of concerns from 5 families in the school. Council would like to send a package to Rita Russo, Superintendent, which includes:

- a cover letter
- invoice from a family whose child had head lice
- policies from 5 other Boards and
- revised wording to the working policy

Starr asked the council members to break out into small groups and draft any revisions or edits they would like made to the policy.

Liz and Starr will take all comments and prepare a final package which all members can review at next month's meeting. The package will then be sent to the Board.

Principal Report:

WRPS Constitution

Veronique said the school council constitution that is posted online is not the most up-to-date version. The version that is online does not include electronic voting by council members to pass a motion. The most recent version needs amendments to sections 8.05 and subsection 4.

All in favour to amend constitution to allow electronic voting. Amir to draft wording and present at next meeting.

End of Year event

The Blue Jays game that was selected as the end of year event had to be scrapped because the additional funds required (\$4000) were approved via electronic vote and as per constitution posted online, electronic voting was not allowed. The original \$4000 budgeted for the end of year event is not sufficient to cover the cost of the Blue Jays game.

Veronique mentioned that schools and school councils prepare budget plans for disbursement of funds. As a result disbursement of money not allocated in plans should be avoided. There was concern from council members across the table as to why our council raised money could not be spent on our kids as we wish.

Council agreed to consider budgeting a larger amount for next year's end of school event and to put it in the budget at the end of this year. We will continue to consider the impact: immediate and long-term of the money spent versus the educational value for all students

Veronique suggested that with the \$4000 we have in budget we could do an in-house end of year event. Something like birds of prey, or other animal show, followed by a picnic in the afternoon and perhaps ice cream trucks. We would also unveil our whole school first yearbook and provide time to children to sign each other's yearbook.

School Climate Report – School Plan Integration

Approved by Council, all in favour.

Request for funding

Buckets/Balls - Doug would like to set up some buckets with equipment on the playground pavement for recess activities. The bucket would contain assorted balls – tennis, basketball, softball, skipping ropes etc – so that kids have something to do at recess.

\$500 requested and approved by Council, all in favour. Kelly to email parents as well to ask for donations of used balls, skipping ropes etc.

Tables – the school needs additional portable tables for use during events hosted by the school such as the basketball area tournaments, carnival, community presentations, etc. The cost is \$1300 for 5 tables from a school approved vendor.

\$500 was approved by Council.

Treasurer Report

Mukesh went over the numbers. He said to hold on to the balance as in June we will allocate funds for next year.

Committee Updates

Education – Technology Workshop:

Speaker Michael Reist will be paid directly through the Board. The date has been changed to Wednesday May 13. Amir to send flyers for distribution to parents and community schools. Water, coffee and cookies to be provided at the seminar.

Fundraising / Staff appreciation lunch:

Hot dogs are starting April 8. 162 orders received so far. Our cost is 80 cents per hot dog. Selling price \$2.50. Final numbers to be in next month.

Staff appreciation tea and treats will be held in June. We have a balance of \$180 from last year. It was decided to do a similar event to last year – tea and desserts.

Julie to send an email to parents if they would like to participate and send a treat for the teachers.

Volunteers & Yearbook & Mural:

Julie – Yearbook sales are at 229 out of our 250 ordered in our contract with Jostens. **Council agreed to purchase two copies for the school for a total of \$44.**

Out of the \$2420 in our account, a portion of that will be used to pay the final invoice when it arrives in June.

Student Programs:

Houda – The Lego Wedo clubs are set for April. There is a one week delay in getting started as the Library is being used by the Book Fair. Club will start week of April 13 and run for four weeks. Houda needs volunteers and asked Esther to speak to the teachers to arrange for four student volunteers for each of Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for four weeks starting next week.

Esther to get back to Houda re student volunteer availability.

Communications/Council Website Updates:

Preeti – no update

School Grants:

Kristina:

The Toyota Evergreen Foundation application is ready to go. We will likely find out in June if we are getting the grant. If we get the grant, we do not need more funds for the Friendship Garden.

The Town of Richmond Hill does not give free or subsidized plants to schools or institutions. The subsidized plants are given only to residents of Richmond Hill. Kristina suggested that the Council members (who live in Richmond Hill) apply to receive the subsidized plants. The deadline to do this is May 8. Applications will have to be filled out by individual Council members, and then the plants will have to be paid for by Council members and picked up on a certain date. Council decided against this idea.

Liz suggested Kristina get in touch with Myrna Pavlin from Oak Ridges Public School who was chair of Council last year. Myrna might have some ideas about grants we could look into. Liz to provide Myrna's email to Kristina.

New Business

Character Matters

Joanne suggested putting something into place that fosters character traits. She was at Safety Village recently for a school event with Grade 5 students and many of them had very little to say about character traits. Esther suggested maybe having a system where a quote of the day is announced over the PA system and the teachers then discuss it in class.

Veronique suggested forming a sub-committee. Esther to discuss it with the teachers and form a group with parent volunteers. Joanne and Preeti volunteer to be on the committee.

Snow Removal

Veronique said there have been concerns from parents over the pavement being covered with ice in the winter. She said that the Board (Plant Services) has contractors in place who clear the bus loop and parking lot. No other area is cleared and the school is not allowed to arrange for any clearing. The school's caretakers are only required to clean four feet of area around the building.

Corrie McBain, our School Trustee, has been involved with Plant Services about salting/sanding the ice when it reaches a certain thickness.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 5th, 2015