

MINUTES

Windham Ridge Parent Advisory Council

June 2, 2015 | 6:30-8:30pm

Attendance

Liz Novatsidis (regrets)

Starr Mills

Véronique O'Malley

Doug Chester

Kelly Giesen

Mukesh Gautam

Esther Boivin

Julie Romanovich

Houda Alassad

Kristina Barybina (regrets)

Vivian Aitas

Preeti Kumar

Amir Mirshahi

Joanne Conte Casola (Guest parent)

Welcome

Agenda

Agenda approved by council, all in favour.

Final Review - New YRDSB Head Lice policy NP657.0

Starr went over all the documents that have been prepared by council to be submitted to the Board.

Motion first by Amir, seconded by Kelly, all in favor, motion passed

Constitution Amendments

Council agreed, at school administrator request, to replace the current wording in Section 8.05.iv of the Constitution to read as follows:

Motion First Amir, Seconded Vivian, all in favor, motion passed

Electronic / email voting by council members shall be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

- a. In exceptional circumstances due to issues such as inclement weather, illness or family emergency or, when an issue is time sensitive, School Council members' electronic votes will be accepted by electronic mail or private telephone line provided they are given to the School Council Chair(s) designated for that purpose.
- b. Electronic / email mail voting is not permitted for new business, or discussion items that have not been discussed a council meeting
- c. Electronic / email voting results must have quorum and receive majority vote to pass

New members to Council this year had questions as to how next years Council would be formed. The election and self-nomination process were discussed. From this conversation Council also discussed at length replacing the current wording in Section 7.08.iv of the Constitution to read as follows:

"A chair/co-chair can be acclaimed or voted into the position on a yearly basis. To be considered for the position of chair, a person must have served as a member of any parent council for a minimum of one year."

Motion First Mukesh, Seconded Hooda, all in favor, motion passed

Joanne expressed concerns regarding this change.

All Council members acknowledged this concern by discussing further the fact that the new wording was necessary to ensure succession and continuity into the next school year. Amir checked online a sampling of schools in the YRDSB and found that these schools were more inline with our new wording. All council members also had an opportunity to express their own views and agreed unanimously this was the best course of action.

Council proposed to keep the first Tuesday of the month (6:30-8:30pm) as the date for Council meetings this 2015-2016 school year. Any changes can be made when the new council holds its first meeting on October 6, 2015.

Starr thanked all Council members for volunteering their time this year and working so hard. Their efforts have created an extra special year for our children, and they are appreciated. Council's success is dependant on the diverse talents of our committed members. Six of nine members are brand new to council this year. All new members had an opportunity to share their positive experiences of feeling welcomed, included, supported and encouraged as first time members on council.

Principal's Report

Grade 7/8 - Options for overnight trips

The Grade 8 trip to the Muskoka Camp was a huge success. It was reported that the facilities were lovely. The kids were kept busy and there were always counsellors on hand.

Suggestions for next year's trip include Lake St. George, Midland Wildfire Camp, Quebec City trip.

Playground tree

One of the new trees planted on the playground don't look healthy. Steve and Adrienne may have information on warranty.

Update on expenditure – sports items

Doug said the bins with sports balls are being used with much enthusiasm. Dan Cipollone's students are coaching the Grade 1 students on how to use the balls for different sports. Preeti commented that the skipping ropes are

being misused by the younger elementary students (kids tying each other, putting the rope down the drain pipe) and that is a safety concern.

Doug and Veronique to look into the skipping ropes.

Treasurer Report

Mukesh went over the numbers. Currently we have budgeted for 2015/16 on all items that council traditionally sponsors.

Teacher's Report

Esther mentioned that the parents have expressed concerns to the teachers about excessive charitable fundraising. It is suggested the school support two or three charities a year. Maybe Terry Fox and a local food bank. Keep the third charity option open for any unforeseen circumstances or natural disaster relief efforts.

It was also suggested to keep Grade 8 graduation fundraising to a minimum.

Committee Updates

Education – Technology Workshop:

Amir reported that 42 people attended the seminar by Michael Reist on May 13th. 24 evaluations were completed and 92% gave excellent reviews. Part of the comments were that the teachers should have been part of this session because it dealt with how boys and girls learn differently.

The grant application for the Mathematics seminar for next year has been submitted. It has not been approved yet.

Fundraising:

Vivian reported that the hot dog program is done. M&M meat shop will be paid off in June. Esther mentioned that the teachers are very excited about the sushi lunch. Joanne said she is working on getting the Healthy Schools certification for the sushi program. Looking forward to fall planning of QSP and Pizza lunches.

Yearbook:

Yearbooks are scheduled to arrive earlier than expected ship date. Final invoices to be paid by end of school year. Julie has met with volunteer committee regarding plans for next year. Any changes and requests will be put forth to the new council in October.

Student Programs:

The Scratch program for Grade 6 is ending. The teacher asked if the council would support the gift of a Rubik's cube to each student who attended the program. Council voted against this due to cost on advisement of Houda.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 6, 2015