

MINUTES

Windham Ridge Parent Advisory Council

May 5th, 2015 | 6:30-8:30pm

Attendance

Liz Novatsidis
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
Nina Halina-Zentsova (Guest parent)
Joanne Conte Casola (Guest parent)
Mirjana Rakic (Guest parent)

Welcome

Agenda

Agenda approved by council, all in favour.

Constitution Amendment

Amir suggested we stay with Board constitution and have by-laws and addendums as a procedural direction for us. Doug said we should add condition for e-voting defining when it is allowed.

It was decided to amend the cover page and title for now and propose to amend in the fall. Veronique will make amendments and clarify language and send to Liz and Starr. Council will review in June.

Final Review - New YRDSB Head Lice policy NP657.0

Liz and Starr will email to council members the pediculosis feedback report prepared to submit to the Board. Council members to review prior to June meeting. No new cases of lice have been reported at the school.

Principal Report:

June 1st – Grade 1 Orientation – Volunteers

Veronique advised that June 1st is Grade 1 orientation day at the school. Kindergarten students who are starting Grade 1 in September will be visiting the school with their parents. They will have an opportunity to visit the present Grade 1 students and parents will be in the gym for an information session. It would be nice if some council members could come out and meet and greet the new parents.

Liz, Starr, Houda, Julie, and Preeti to volunteer.

Options for overnight trips

Veronique is welcoming suggestions for a Grade 8 – and possibly Grade 7 (to cover all intermediates) - overnight trip for next year. Trips considered for either early fall or spring time periods. The trip to Camp Muskoka planned for this year is looking promising and kids are very excited.

Council to give ideas with program name and details at next month's meeting.

Update on expenditure – sports items

Doug said the bins have been set up with an assortment of balls. There are two bins outside and one bin inside which will be used to replenish the outside bins as needed. The kids will be coached on the games that can be played using this equipment so it is meaningful fun. Avengers students will also gather younger students during recess to teach them some fun new games with this equipment.

Vivian asked if more Four Squares could be painted on the pavement as it is a very popular game.

Veronique suggested to put this as a carry forward to September 2015.

Treasurer Report

Mukesh went over the numbers. Currently we have a surplus of approx. \$13,500.

Budget

School year 2015-16

The following amounts were allocated to the budget:

QSP	\$500
Playball	\$3,600
Scientists in the School	\$4,600
You're the Chef	\$700
Lice checks	\$1,600 (for 2 checks)
Playscape	\$2,600
School programs	\$500
Sponsorship/emergency funds	\$2,000

Budget approved, all in favour.

It was suggested by Esther that Playball be set up over two stretches of three weeks each during the winter months so the kids have something to do indoors in cold weather.

To increase possibility of a third lice check during the school year, suggestion was made to ask for parent donations to this cause.

Liz suggested another art mural in the second hallway. Veronique suggested to carry forward to September 2015.

Teacher's Report

The teachers would like to replace Carnival with two days of electives for the older grades (4 and up). Teachers and parent volunteers can form a committee to coordinate dates, buses and other planning. Electives would include tubing, skating, cross-country skiing, curling etc.

Grade 6 beginning of year activity to somewhere like Lake St. George.

Grade 7s would also prefer a trip at the beginning of the year as opposed to end of year to foster new friendships or build on existing ones.

Committee Updates

Education – Technology Workshop:

Amir: Wednesday May 13 is the Michael Reist seminar. Kelly to give a head count of RSVPs to Amir. Amir to pick up coffee from Starbucks (\$45 for 5L) and water for the seminar.

May 19 is the deadline to apply for the grant for next year. The issues that will be the focus of the school board next year are mental health and mathematics.

Mathematics was selected as the topic we should go with for next year's seminar. Veronique suggested Amir talk to Teresa Cowan, our math teacher, for ideas on suitable topics.

Fundraising / Staff appreciation lunch:

Vivian: October 8, 2015 will be the kick off for next year's QSP campaign. Hot dogs program is going really well. Suggested to continue with hot dog lunch next year but in fall and spring sessions.

It was suggested by Joanne to do a Junk in your Trunk fundraiser. Veronique suggested to carry forward to September. Need to look into permits from the Town of Richmond Hill, school board permission etc.

Thursday June 18 was selected as the date for the Teacher Tea Appreciation. It will be held at first recess 10:40 to 11:10.

Vivian and Julie to send email to ask for volunteers to cover for the teachers during morning recess.

Volunteers & Yearbook & Mural:

Julie: Yearbook sales are at 233 out of 250 purchased in our contract. We should have no problem selling the remaining books in June. Julie to determine how much of the yearbook funds in our books will need to go to Jostens at delivery time and report that number to Mukesh.

Student Programs:

Houda: Lego Wedo club almost done with just one week left. Very popular with the grade 3 kids. Scratch (computer programming) for grade 6 has also started.

Communications/Council Website Updates:

Preeti: no update

School Grants:

Kristina (via email): The Toyota greening application for \$3500 for friendship garden was submitted on April 30.

New Business

End of year party – Multicultural Day during Instructional Time and BBQ

Joanne suggested a multicultural day followed by a BBQ as a community event. The multicultural day would involve activities around different cultures and be held during the school hours. This would be followed by a BBQ in the evening. Starr advised that the multicultural day has been done in the past and requires months of planning and a huge volunteer base. As well, it would not be practical to have a BBQ the same day as the multicultural event as it makes for a very long day for both volunteers and kids.

Veronique suggested Joanne put together a proposal for the two ideas as separate events and we can look at it at next month's meeting.

Additional lunch option

Joanne suggested a sushi meal as an additional lunch option.

Veronique asked Joanne to put together a proposal with certification that the vendor was Ministry approved, identify cost to us and profit, set up volunteers, facilitate the program with the sushi company etc.

New Phys-Ed and Health Curriculum questions

Nina has concerns over the new sex-ed curriculum being too explicit and would like the council's help to raise awareness amongst the community and other parents. Veronique advised that the school has not yet received any material on the new curriculum. It is expected at the end of May and the teachers will receive training on delivering the new material as suggested by the Ministry of Education.

Veronique suggested we defer to June due to time constraints. As well, by next month we should have the curriculum from the Ministry with all the instructions and would be in a better position to answer any questions.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 2nd, 2015