

# MINUTES

## Windham Ridge Parent Advisory Council

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*November 4th, 2014 | 6:30-8:30pm*

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### Attendance

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Liz Novatsidis  
Starr Mills  
Véronique O'Malley  
Doug Chester  
Kelly Giesen  
Mukesh Gautam  
Esther Boivin  
Amir Mirshahi  
Julie Romanovich  
Houda Alassad  
Kristina Barybina (absent)  
Vivian Aitas  
Preeti Kumar  
K. Wong  
Sherry Murray-Davis

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### Welcome

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October meeting minutes approved.

Veronique and Doug welcomed Corrie McBain as new School Trustee. Doug to do a little vignette in the November newsletter to congratulate Corrie.

December meeting cancelled. The council meets again on January 6, 2015. If any issues arrive before that, they are to be circulated via email.

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### Principal's Report

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Homework policy response:

Liz and Starr did not receive any revisions or comments from the rest of the council regarding the homework policy. However Starr mentioned that maybe a statement should be made in the policy to accommodate kids with a Growth Plan or IEP. Those kids may need more time to complete their homework and the parents of those kids should speak with the teachers if they have any concerns about the length of time taken to complete homework.

Veronique and Doug to revise accordingly and send to council.

Overnight Field Trip - Intermediates:

Grade 8 teachers suggested some locations and costs to parents. Camp Muskoka has been selected this year by the parents. The plus points of this location are a variety of other activities above and beyond the numerous sports activities, overnight security and coach bus. The date of the trip is May 20 to 22.

Grade 6 overnight trip is not possible at this time.

Grade 7 trips this year already include visits to the Ripley's Aquarium, Scenic Caves Collingwood and Rock Climbing.

Suggestion to start looking into a possible overnight trip for the Grade 7s next year with a link to the French curriculum. Possibly send forms out in the spring to the Grade 6 parents to gauge interest and plan for a trip early in the following school year.

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## Treasurer Report

Gautam went over the reports in detail and suggested keeping the balance in reserve. Wait for the final QSP numbers to come in December before spending.

Liz said that council should get a full inventory from Dan Cipollone before putting any more money in musical instruments.

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## Teacher's Report

Esther Boivin: Paperless classroom going well. Especially beneficial to those students that regularly misplace loose sheets.

Parent-teacher interview online booking system very easy to use. The only issue is the time slots allowed does not provide enough appointments for teachers to see many parents beyond their own homeroom students. Senior grades going to the Richmond Hill theatre on Wednesday, Nov. 4 and Juniors are watching a performance later next week, "Trois Mousquetaires".

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## Committee Updates

### Education – Technology Workshop:

Amir Mirshahi – not getting anywhere with Alyson Schafer. Current charges are \$2000 per hour. YRP (York Regional Police) will confirm the date for a workshop on Cyber Bullying. The workshop is free of charge so we save the \$1000 that we budgeted for it.

The costs associated with the seminar will be babysitting (\$20 per student for the night x 4 students). Bottled water and cookies to be provided as refreshments.

The tentative date is Thursday November 27. All feeding schools and Beynon Fields as well as Lester B. Pearson will also be invited.

Amir to let Liz and Starr know once confirmation is received from YRP and to start marketing the event.

### Fundraising – QSP / Direct Donations:

Vivian Aitas –

QSP going great. The numbers are as follows as of November 4:

Online sales	\$16,644.50
Paper sales	\$7,026.00

Direct donations        \$2,630.00

Profit is 0.35% of sales \$8,284.00

Expenses                \$369.00

Final numbers to be out in December.

QSP Rewards: Bring Your Teddy/Crazy Hat day scheduled for Friday, Nov. 7. Possibly a No Homework Day for the entire school. Top selling families to be offered front row seating at a “school” concert of their choice. Emphasis placed on “school concert”. {Note: Bon Jovi is not included in our concert of choice selection}

#### Volunteers & Yearbook:

Julie Romanovich – **Yearbook:** Instructions for the photo sharing site has been sent to teachers and staff as well as some parent volunteers. Jostens requires a decision for the cover of the yearbook by end of November. Agreed to let the Grade 8 select the cover. Cover samples given to Esther to gather the grade 8 vote. Also noted to give Grade 8s some freedom to design their pages in the yearbook as it is their graduating year.

An art contest can be run to have students’ artwork selected as cover pages for certain sections throughout the yearbook. This is an alternative to selecting one student’s artwork for the cover of the yearbook which would increase the cost of the entire book by \$4.

Sales to start in January at a price of \$22. Establish a cut-off date and late purchases after that date will be available for a cost of \$25. Reminder that a copy should be ordered for the library and the office.

For this first year, we want to keep it simple and just get the book done. No personalization will be offered and no dedication space or ads will be sold.

Lifetouch (our school photographer) has offered to return to take photos of clubs/teams.

Suggested: a raffle contest to win a yearbook

**Art Mural:** the artist, Lindsay Davies, who painted the walls of Lester B. Pearson has visited our school and taken a look at the space in the stairwell. She is open to theme ideas of our choosing. ‘Oak Ridges Moraine’ is a possibility. Still need to determine how students can be involved. The artist estimated a cost of \$2000 for the space and would not be able to start until January.

Esther to look into getting the Grade 7s and 8s to create panels for the Front Hall – the large brick wall by the gymnasium. She can also provide the frames for this project.

#### Student Programs:

Houda Alassad – programs are underway. Lego club is offered to Grade 1. Clay club offered to Grades 2 and 3. Other possible clubs are Origami for Grades 4 and 5. Esther mentioned a few Grade 7 students are very familiar with Origami and perhaps can offer their assistance. Houda received the forms for the Lego and Clay clubs from the parents and will be sending confirmation emails out with an email address dedicated for this purpose. Programs to start the week of November 10.

#### Communications/Council Website Updates:

Preeti Kumar – School council section of website has been updated with new council members list, school calendar 2014-15, direct donation letter and form and October minutes. The school council phone line has been deactivated as it is not being used and most communication is in the form of email. If anything else should be on the website, please let Preeti know so she can add the information on.

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## New Business

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A parent of a boy in Grade 1, asked if the wi-fi in the school can be turned down as her son is sensitive to it. Veronique advised that this is was not possible unfortunately as the wi-fi is across the board and we have no control over it. Doug to enquire with the board as to what their current research and position is regarding Wi-Fi and respond to the parent directly.

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## Next Meeting

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Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2015