



MINUTES

Windham Ridge School Council

Thursday September 29th 2016 | 6:30-8:30pm

In Attendance

Council Attendance

Joanne Conte Casola
Suzanne McWhinnie
Bridget Hijazi
Nereo Bonomo
Rachel Hamou
Vivian Aitas
Anna Margitta
Julie Romanovich
Maria Pulsoni
Narendra Chandrasekhar
Kelly Giesen
Teresa Cowan
Esther Boivin
Parissa Giahinejad
Gina Celsie
Tara Dimopoulos

Guest Attendance

Dima Berchalli
Teresa Stefanutti
Corrie McBain
Ali Azadmanesh
Mary Dunstan
Leila Mirenskandari
Preeti Kumar
Starr Mills
Patricia Lambros
Alla Koren
Jennifer Yan

Regrets

Jinos Dadelahi
Dotan Shemer

Welcome

Motion to approve agenda by Joanne Conte Casola. Agenda approved by council. All in favour.

Motion to approve June 7 minutes. All in favour. Minutes approved.

Council Elections

All positions acclaimed.

Co-chair(s)

Vivian Aitas & Julie Romanovich

Treasurer

Anna Margitta

Secretary

?

Ambassador (French Education)	Suzanne McWhinnie
Education	Parissa Giahinejad Dotan Shemet
Fundraising	Maria Pulsoni Bridget Hijazi
Health & Wellness (Parent Representative)	Joanne Conte Casola
Members-at-large (Committee undecided)	Narendra Chandrasekhar Jinos Dadelahi
School Grants	Suzanne McWhinnie
Student Programs	Gina Celsie
Volunteer	Tara Dimopoulos
Yearbook	?

Secretary and Yearbook positions vacant. Council list and vacancies to be communicated to parent community.

Council norms: Objectives - to review pg. 17 in the Council Handbook

New Committees: last year French Education Ambassador – Suzanne McWhinnie. This year Health & Wellness – Joanne Conte Casola – collaborating and pooling resources with ORPS. Two events on mental health and wellbeing are being planned. This topic is in line with board foci and funding is approved through PRO Grant.

Leila Mireskandari and “edible gardens” project at Beynon Fields was mentioned.

Proposed dates for future meetings:

Wed. Oct. 26

Thurs. Dec. 1

Mon. Jan. 16

Wed. Feb. 15

Tues. Apr. 4

Wed. May 3

Tues. June 6

Current school council constitution requires revision.

- School council to review the constitution.
- Possibly create a committee.
- YRDSB has a handout “School Council Handbook” and recommends that all members become familiar with this.

Principal’s Report

Principal Nereo Bonomo and Vice Principal Rachel Hamou presented.

Partnership between admin and council for benefit of the children. "Assume positive intentions"

Communication

- Continued improvement in terms of communication to greater community.
- Twitter account has been created @WRPS_YRDSB
- Friday weekly stays as is until changes necessary
- Support from council initiatives of the School Improvement Plan
- Would like to suggest starting Council meetings with report from administration.
- Set goals for school and shared with council.

School Leadership team

Technology lead – Mme Horton

Math – Mme Rouse

Mental Health & Well Being – Mme Gasior

Enrollment

- 575 students
- 25 classes
- We started the year with 4 Grade 1 classes @ 23 students each (10% of classes can be non-compliant – should be at 20)
- Result of continued registration through September
- 2 weeks ago the committee that reviews class numbers and sizes approved a fifth class for Grade 1
- Overflow to Devon's Drive PS came back to WRPS
- Students transitioned well
- Besides a 2/3 and a 5/6 split class, all others are straight
- Grade 8s are at 22 per class (last year 30 in one room)

EQAO

- Results printed not sent home yet
- Grade 3 Math: WRPS 85% at level 3 or 4 (Level 3 – reached provincial standard; Level 4 – over achieved provincial standard)
 - 2 years ago Grade 3 Math at 99%
 - Board is 76%; Province is 63%
- Grade 6 Math: WRPS 85% at level 3 or higher
 - Province at 50%; Board at 65%
 - 7% decrease from 2014 (92%)
 - Writing 97%; 2014 (96%)
 - Reading 97%; 2014 (98%)
- To note: students who met the provincial level standard in Grade 3 did not meet standards in Grade 6
- Needs to be looked into and assessed as to why

No designated paperless class in WRPS. Technology as a tool to enhance instruction and all children to be given equal access.

School trips/Field trips

- Trips are not compulsory
- Could be used to enhance curriculum

- Admin seeking feedback from council on field trips
- Families that need financial support for field trips – how do we help?
- How do we serve parent community?
- How do we reach out to other parents?
- Include the student voice too
- Angel Fund: council to put money aside to assist families that cannot afford trips – good idea, to be discussed
- Take into account the # of trips along with the cost of the trips because it adds up with the number of children too

Learning Commons

- Waiting for furniture to arrive
- Senior management approvals took some time to come through

Extracurricular Activities

Following is a short list:

- # of clubs/teams that are running: Need parent help
- Sports teams – Junior and Intermediate only
- Mme Boivin - Athletic rep
 - Cross Country, Hockey, Volleyball, Basketball, Badminton, Track & Field
- Math & Science – Mme Cowan, Mme Thiessen, Mme Vuia
 - Mathletics Grades 4-8: voluntary participation; paid for by parents
- Beaver Computing – Gr. 7 & 8: voluntary; paid by parents
- Let's Talk Science – Grades 6, 7, 8
- Bridge Building – Grades 4 & 5 – looking for another teacher to assist

Arts

- Andrea Pimenta – new music teacher
- Junior choir – Gr. 4, 5, 6
- Possibility of 2 parents available to help with a primary choir

Treasurer Report

- No budget for this year established yet
- Meet with new executive to review budget based on SIP and establish fundraising plan

Council News

- Kids Kitchen – Thursday, Friday, and Monday
- Tuesday is Pizza day
- Wednesday is a possible hot lunch day – Astoria?
- 432 pizza orders (350 last year)
- Lice checks: slight cost increase
- Council to invite parents to bring ideas on what they would like to see in the school via survey or other means TBD
- QSP kickoff assembly October 6

- Welcome back BBQ on September 22 was a huge success. Thank you to the organizing committee for the time, effort and a fabulous event!

Next Meeting

Wednesday October 26th, 2016 from 6:30-8:30