

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2023, 6:30-8:30pm

Virtual – Google Meet

Attendance

The meeting was held via Google Meet and open to parents/guardians of SWL students.

Presentation – The Third Path

- Traditionally, there are two educational paths educational programs follow, which are either: 1. a focus on well-being, and 2. a focus on academic achievement. The third path centres and combines these two focus paths.
- Recognizing cognitive strain in students (fatigue, disengagement, absence, phone use, sleeping, avoidance)
- Positive and negative mental efforts draw from the same source of overall effort
- Many students don't realize that they are mentally depleted, and teachers can help by recognizing it and adjusting the classroom environment/learning style, forming connections with students, etc.
- Link to presentation slides can be found at the following link:
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/16UwIFUtGSAySq1H2audqk-s5t5NjAlbkf1-L1zZZ-Nk/edit?usp=sharing>

Question: How are the supports presented to the students, is there a formal process, or do students approach the teacher with their difficulties?

Answer: Staff communicate, and guidance relies on teachers and parents to identify when things are amiss with a student. Resources in-school include counsellors through the Orleans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre who work individually with students, an EA, a social worker, and a school psychologist. The resource 1Call1Click has yielded good connections to support for students as well.

Approval of Agenda – Aaron Malek

- Approved

Principal and Vice-Principal Report

- Grad photo retakes (January 18) were a success, with comments from photographers on how well-behaved and respectful each student was
- Grade 8 information night on Feb 2nd from 5pm-7pm for incoming students
- Mr. Jupp is leaving to be a Vice Principal at Cairine Wilson. The job of Student Success Teacher will be shared by two part-time teachers, Ms. White and Ms. Dorion

- Ms. White and Ms. Dorion The immunization/vaccination clinic on January 20 was successful, and there will be another clinic. Students will need parents to fill out a permission form to participate
- Sharing is Caring campaign provided 550 food items and a donation of \$1081 to the Orleans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre for the local food bank
- In the middle of student success and exams week. Exit interviews, credit recovery and catch-up is underway
- Tomorrow (January 26) is a snow day with busses cancelled. Exams will be postponed to Friday, January 27
- 1st day of the new semester, students need to check the wall near the front entrance and the wall near the cafeteria for their second semester timetable. Some teachers and/or rooms may have changed.
- Class lateness was becoming an issue, and communication with parents, staff and students has yielded positive results, with a focus on problem solving instead of the need for penalties

Question: Bell times were changed by 10 minutes this year (from 8:30am to 8:20am) and wondering if its because of bus shortages?

Answer: Yes, it is so school start times are staggered, allowing bus drivers to coordinate pick-up and drop-off at several schools

Question: is OSTA still experiencing issues with driver shortages?

Answer: yes, but we are fortunate to have not been affected at Sir Wil

- February is Black History month, and the student group Black365 will do smaller events instead of one large assembly
- March 7 is the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) for grade 10 students and those in grades 11 and 12 who still need to write. Preparation will begin in February and March
- Please remind students to return class textbooks when exams are done

Staff Representative Report – Roberte Vincent

- In late fall, 3 feeder schools came to Sir Wil with help of Link Crew for tour. Two more will be happening in spring. Presentations on course options sheets happening now so that grade 8 students will be able to choose courses for grade 9 next year
- Course selection option sheet process for students is underway now, with focus on grade 12s now, and assemblies happening for grades 11-9 upcoming

Question: Are we still using platform Xello for course selection?

Answer: We are, but Xello shuts down after courses are selected until the next year

- Mini-enrichment course series coming up, emails circulating, spaces for 8-12 students to attend the mini-enrichment courses. selection process for this year is to be decided at a staff meeting

- Grade 12 University-bound students have wrapped up applications and College-bound applications will be wrapping up soon for deadline
- Hands for Humanity fundraisers of cookies in fall and desserts in winter presented \$500 to the Orleans-Cumberland Community Resource Centre for Christmas hampers. Staff also participated and provided 60 Christmas hampers
- **Sports:** Wrestling club ended late November-December, picking up again in February with an upcoming tournament, girls' team are doing well. Swim season started October, lots of victories, 23 swimmers representing all grades, 12 swimmers qualified for OFFSA. Junior boys' basketball, senior boys' season underway and placing second. Girls' senior volleyball wrapping up soon, junior girls starting soon. Volleyball club has been running a few months
- **Arts:** Arts Night December 8 and music night Dec 15 went well. Upcoming musical theatre performance of Grease will have 5 performances (March 1-4), with feeder schools invited to a matinee. A parent in community has donated half a corvette for the musical. Band performed at several elementary schools

Questions and Comments

Q: How are students studying for the grade 10 literacy test coming up in March if they don't have English class next semester?

A: The grade 10 literacy test is to assess that students have met the grade 9 standard, and since its focus is on literacy and not strictly English, all grade 10 classes will have a prep activity day, not just English classes

Q: If a student is absent for the grade 10 literacy test, there will be a back-up day for those who missed it on March 7?

A: There will be a make-up day for those students who missed the test day. There will also be opportunities each year for students in grade 11 and grade 12 if they either aren't successful or missed the grade 10 test days

Q: Did students take the grade 10 literacy test last year, or are they catching up now due to COVID?

A: Two years ago, the grade 10 literacy test graduation requirement was waived, but this is no longer the case. Last year, there were two test sessions to catch everyone up

Approval of November Minutes – Erin Fletcher-Randle

- Approved

Treasurer's Report – Musfira Uvaize

- Revenue from Simply Giving campaign was \$1001
- Opening balance from last meeting is \$3,380.33
- Spent \$811.12 on white boards, and closing balance is \$3,570.21
- The funding approved for teachers at the November meeting is currently being administered
- A new round of funding requests and approvals will begin in February

Round Table

Comment: Last meeting, a parent was going to look into ski equipment lending libraries. Ottawa Outdoor Gear rental library could be an excellent resource

Comment: Supporting school councils email came out today, and Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant funding applications are running from January 30 - February 20, 2023. School Councils can apply to receive up to \$750 per council. The purpose of this grant is to support innovative projects/activities that engage parents/caregivers and build their capability in anti-racism, equity/anti-oppression, and food sovereignty. Cynthia (parent attendee) is willing to gather the information to share with school council if parents are interested, since the application period will close before the next school council meeting. Would Madame Leduc be interested in helping, as many of her activities may qualify for the funding?

Question: For the Parents Reaching Out Grant, what does the food sovereignty program involve? Heard about a school that made an indoor vegetable garden to provide learning on growing own food, donating yield to food bank

Answer: The grants parameters require that any proposals must also involve parents not just students and staff

Next Meeting – February 22, 2023