

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2023 6:30-8:30pm

Teacher's Lounge

Attendance

The meeting was held in person with 13 parents in attendance

Musfira Uvaize – Treasurer

Erin Fletcher-Randle – Co-Chair and secretary

Aaron Malek – Chair

Ann Arden - VP

Approval of Agenda – Aaron Malek

- Agenda approved

Principal and Vice-Principal Report

- Nancy Girozan retired at the end of the 2022-2023 school year and is replaced by Tim Hawes for the 2023-2024 school year
- Due to principal Tim Hawes' injury on Labour Day weekend, Bill Arden, a retired principal, has been acting principal since the start of the school year
- Ann Arden, current vice principal, will be acting principal starting October 10th until Hawes returns
- Darlene Laporte, a retired principal, will be the acting vice principal starting October 10th in Ann Arden's place
- The basketball court behind the Sir Wil had damage to the concrete due to snow removal last year, and we are fortunate to now have a fully paved basketball court with new nets along with tennis courts with freshly painted pickle ball lines
- Sir Wil is only school in province to have live broadcast school announcements each morning. Laurier Live link is on the school website
- Our student enrolment numbers this year are up from expected numbers over the summer (from 997 to 1090), allowing for staff increases
- 3 sections of second semester may have to be cut, meaning two courses may be combined or a low enrolment course may be cut
- September 1st PD day staff focus was mental health and wellness for students and staff, literacy and required safety training
- The next PD day is Friday October 6, which will focus on mental health and wellness, literacy and math
- 1st of 6 required fire drills for the year completed. 2 lockdown drills will also occur over the school year. While no notice is provided ahead of time to parents and students, teachers will be prepared in advance to provide support to students
- The Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) is prioritizing getting students to school, with the second priority of school sports and events. Sir Wil has a protocol for school transport for parent and staff drivers for sport events in

the cases where school busses are unable to be secured for events. This alternative plan would be communicated in advance on the permission form

- School supports are running, including regular visits by social worker, psychological support worker, itinerant educational assistant for attendance support, Rideau Wood addiction services worker, Indigenous educational support
- Guidance has been meeting with graduating students in small groups of 5-8 students to prepare for post-secondary planning
- The school board is in a difficult fiscal situation this year to balance the budget. School budgets will not be increasing this year, requiring individual team fees to be increased (from an average of \$35-\$70 to \$50-\$100). Parents can reach out to guidance and the vice principal for students requiring financial assistance to participate
- Hopeful that cafeteria service may be running by the end of 2023
- Many school field trips are funded or subsidized financially by outside sources (such as Carleton University, Ottawa University)
- Grade 9 orientation and Link Crew camp went well. Student council elections occurring now. Student senators will be participating on student senate day. Lunch and spirit activities, occurring, and Rec leaderships program is back
- Field trips to animation festival, photography, SHSM field trips have occurred. 15 students will be going to a reconciliation field trip tomorrow
- Sports teams and clubs are currently running, including football, junior boys soccer, senior girls soccer, senior girls basketball
- Sir Wil is a school/students spectators only school for sports events occurring on property, meaning in-school games are for students (and parents) only, using Sir Wil school cards or other proof for ID
- October 4th is school picture day

Approval of May Minutes – Erin Fletcher-Randle

- Minutes approved

Treasurer's Report & Report of Expenditures – Musfira Uvaize

- \$2,209, no revenue after May, balance remains the same
- Funding request for \$360 for photo frames from last year invoice was declined
- Report of expenditures approved

Q: Do we maintain a list of alumni from Sir Wil to begin an alumni association for fundraising for school council?

A: unsure, but Aaron offered to look into this option

Description of School Council Election Process – Ann Arden

- Any parent who wants to be a member can nominate or self-nominate. Voting by proxy is not allowed. Only names of those selected will be announced. Minimum required number of school council members is 6

Announcement of New School Council Representatives and Executive

- Council has 3 new members at large
- Vote was unanimous: Treasurer is Musfira Uvaize, secretary and co-chair is Erin Fletcher-Randle, Chair is Aaron Malek.

Other – Meeting location and dates

- Meetings will be held on the last Wednesday of each month, except for June and December due to schedule conflicts
- 6:30 start time for meetings, with guest speaker first, and school council business at 7pm until 8:30pm
- Hybrid meeting option is discussed, with a trial hybrid meeting for October 25th and decision to be made after that. Hybrid meeting link will be sent out 1-2 hours before the meeting to those who inquire in advance

Other - School Council meeting presentation schedule

- Presentation options for the first 30 minutes of the school council meetings for the school year:
 - Student support (LST centre), Specialty High Skills Major (SHSM), third path, guidance counsellor course selection option sheets, de-streaming
 - October meeting will plan to follow last year's presentation schedule order. Parents are invited to email school council at sc-sirwilfridlaurierss@ocdsb.ca if there is interest in particular speakers
- Parent suggestion of school trustee as speaker

Round Table

Q: Are school volunteer hours requirements changing?

A: Yes, since volunteer hours were reduced and adjusted due to Covid-19 restrictions. Ann Arden will put together a more detailed response on the requirements at the next school council meeting

Next Meeting – October 25, 2023