

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School Parent Council Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2023 7pm-8:30pm

Hybrid: Google Meet and SWL Teachers' Lounge

Acting principal Arden would like to share the wifi log-in for those attending in person:

OCDSB_GUEST

Username: wirelessnet

Password: welcome

Attendance

The meeting was held as a hybrid format with 11 parents in attendance either in person or via Google Meet.

Musfira Uvaize – Treasurer

Erin Fletcher-Randle – Co-Chair and secretary

Aaron Malek – Chair

Ann Arden – Acting Principal

Approval of Agenda – Aaron Malek

- Agenda approved

Principal and Vice-Principal Report

- Due to principal Tim Hawes' injury on Labour Day weekend, Ann Arden, current vice principal, has been acting principal since October 10th until Hawes returns
- Darlene Laporte, a retired principal, is acting vice principal in Ann Arden's place
- Several field trips have occurred, including a SHSM best places to work job fair, a photography annual trip, and the Cappies Critics Training
- Three post-secondary presentations have occurred at Sir Wil this month, including UOttawa, Carleton and Algonquin
- LINK and leadership crew hosted games in the gym at lunch for grade 9 students, and Student Council has planned upcoming spirit activities
- The PD day on Oct 06 focused on literacy numeracy and mental health. The next PD day is Nov 24
- The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) will occur on Nov 28 and 29 for semester 1 students in ENG2D plus grade 11/12 students who still need to write. Semester 2 ENG2D students will write in the spring
- The Literacy Committee has been doing work with central staff on supporting emerging readers (fluency, comprehensive, phonics, scribing); the grade 8s last year did a screening tool which has been updated for the grade 9s this fall
- Progress reports went out on Oct 17 (initial learning update)
- Parent teacher interviews are tomorrow night (Oct 26)
- Midterm report cards will be out on November 21

- Grad photos will be Nov 21 and 22, and online booking information will be coming soon
- Arts Night will be Thursday November 30

Q: Why doesn't EQAO cover reading in grade 9 instead of grade 10?

A: Instead of having students write every subject in 1 year, the EQAO test covers math in grade 9 and reading and writing in grade 10. All of Sir Wil's feeder schools had a reading screening tool with results sent to Sir Wil to provide targeted reading supports to students in class, and Sir Wil also screens incoming students in the fall

Q: Does Sir Wil run a language lab, where students learn through headphones and workstations with an oral component to the class?

A: Sir Wil does not have a language lab set up, but language classes do have workstation set ups and opportunities for students to listen to audio, work on tasks, etc.

Q: Are grade 9 and 10 students writing formal exams this year?

A: Grade 11 and 12 students will be writing formal exams depending on the course, and grade 9 and 10 students will have summative assessments, evidence records, and other opportunities to show their learning, but no formal written exams. This is a district wide decision.

Q: Will students be at home during the exam writing period like last year?

A: No, it will not be like last January. All students will be in school doing meaningful learning during the 5 exam days. Students will attend for the first 4 days, with the final day reserved for students requiring extra support and opportunities. Students will not attend the entire day but would be expected to come in during their class time.

Q: Can you explain Launch 2023?

A: Launch is the exploration of post-secondary options occurring November 1. Students in grades 10-12 are able to attend the conference virtually from home, allowing students to personalize their experience and watch presentations related to their interests. Teachers have also registered for the Launch activities and will be setting up presentations related to the subject during their class that day for students who attend. Grade 9s will be doing the Take Your Kids to Work on the same day. Bell times will be adjusted to align with the Launch sessions so that presentations are not interrupted. If students are attending from home, those without permission slips will be marked as absent, but will still be able to log in to the conference.

Approval of September Minutes – Erin Fletcher-Randle

- Minutes approved

Treasurer's Report – Musfira Uvaize

- No balance change
- \$2,209, no expenses or revenues

- Photo frames expense denied, acting principal Arden to provide details soon

Q: Will school council be accepting teacher funding requests, and will there be a formal request period?

A: Council will be accepting requests, although we are limited in funds. Upon discussion, Musfira committed to spearhead a Simply Giving campaign period with a poster and email. Musfira will present council with a proposed poster and campaign wording (explaining campaign purpose) before the next school council meeting.

Discussion of meeting location/dates/times and special guest speakers

Proposed schedule of speakers which was emailed to all attendees in advance:

Date of Meeting	Potential Guest Speakers
November 29, 2023	Student Support (LST & SST)
January 24, 2024	Destreaming
February 28, 2024	Third Path
March 27, 2024	Guidance (Option Sheets)
April 24, 2024	SHSM Presentation
May 29 th , 2024	Board Representative

Attendees showed interest in learning about School mental health supports instead of de-streaming. It was determined that the guidance presentation should occur earlier in the school year, as well as the SHSM presentation, which may become a double presentation in January.

The new proposed schedule of speakers is as follows:

Date of Meeting	Potential Guest Speakers
November 29, 2023	Student Support (LST & SST)
January 24, 2024	Guidance (Option Sheets) + SHSM Presentation for an hour total
February 28, 2024	Third Path or SHSM Presentation
March 27, 2024	School mental health supports
April 24, 2024	TBD or Third Path
May 29 th , 2024	Board Representative

Acting principal Arden will arrange the presentations with the guest speakers, but school council will need to extend the invitation to the school trustee Dixon for the board representative presentation.

Round Table

Q: Does the school keep statistics on how many students are receiving learning support, are in the SHSM program, taking university or college stream, etc?

A: Acting principal Arden will present some data during the principal report of the next school council meeting, as she has data of Sir Wil students compared to other schools in the board

Q: Would like everyone to know that there is a parent conference on mental health on sat November 4. All parents should have received the email from OCDSB about the conference, and there will several workshops on mental health with OCDSB mental health team giving presentations

A: Ann will send out an additional communication to parents on the conference

Q: Would like school council to be aware of the upcoming Proud to Be Me grant opportunity for speakers to come to school to give presentation to students

A: As this is a grant opportunity for a presentation for students and not for parent engagement and involvement in the school, it is not within the scope of school council activities

Next Meeting – November 29, 2023 Hybrid meeting