

Minutes from WDHS School Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 17, 2015.

In Attendance: Sophie Boers (Co-chair); Michelle Visca (Principal); Janice Ramolla (Secretary); Devyn Kelly (Student Rep); Marsha Tersteeg; Nicoleta Baci (Teacher Rep); Alison Morris; Pam Leenders; Dee Shea; Jennifer Clarke-Brophy; Kathy Ness; Ian MacLeod; Sue Collette; Andrea Hawkins; Linda Alger; Phil Zylstra

Absent/Regrets: Karin Lang (Co-chair); Penny Deathe (Trustee); Dany Paterson; Susan Gaynor; Janice Kwasney; Sunny Sun; Jose Vanderkamp; Louise Hooper; Zara Thurgood; Cindy Myers; Kim Hayes

Agenda Item

1. Welcome & Introduction

- All council members welcomed and attendance sheet circulated.

2. Approve Minutes of the prior meeting

- Motion passed to approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting of October 20, 2015.

3. Guest speaker – Susan McKechnie

- Susan McKechnie, Career Counsellor was unable to attend.

4. Student Parliament report – Devon Kelly

- This week is “Anti-bullying Week”.
 - Thursday in home room doing “Positive Affirmations” where students write something positive about a classmate and then these will be put on lockers for the day.
 - Friday is “Pink Day”.
- Student Parliament is currently planning
 - mitten and glove drive.
 - Shoe box filling for the needy – each homeroom class will get 2 shoe boxes to fill with small items like mittens, hats, socks, hygiene items to be distributed to the needy on the streets of Hamilton.
 - Ugly holiday sweater and holiday hat contest.
 - Scavenger hunt.
- Movember – collecting money.
- Warrior wear – final date for orders/money was November 18.
- Marketing/Entrepreneur classes are planning a bake sale.
- Sophie Boers offered the help of Council with any initiatives as needed.
 - Devyn had nothing to ask of us at this point but will keep that in mind going forward.

5. Principal’s Report – Mag Gardner (HWDSB Superintendent)

- Remembrance Day Ceremony – was touching and well done
 - Emphasis on the father of a WDHS teacher, Mr. Kahgee. His father was native Canadian and went to a residential school until he began serving in

the Canadian Military but he was denied recognition of his years of military service by Canada until a few years ago.

- Report Cards coming home Thursday November 19, 2015 and Exam schedule will come home with the report cards.
- Labour Update – Caretakers (CUPE) have settled and things are much cleaner and getting back to normal. Office/clerical workers (OCTU) have not yet settled so some difficulties continue in the administration offices.
- Process is beginning to establish the elective course selection (option sheets) for next year.
 - Getting student input for optional courses and will base offerings from this input.
- Specialist High Skills Major (SHISM) – WDHS offers one in the “Environment” and this program includes courses and co op component. Board is expanding its SHISM offerings and WDHS is looking at offering an additional SHISM in “Aesthetics and Cosmetology”
- Grade 8 Parent Information Night is Thursday November 19, 2015.

6. Teacher’s report – Nicoleta Baci

- **November 19** – Report cards home
- **November 19** – Grade 8 Parent Information Evening
- Grade 9 and 10 students filled out option sheets (choosing their courses for the next school year) in class this week and Grade 11 students will fill them out next week.
- Parent Message Service called “REMIND” – can sign up to receive texts from Mr. Zuchollo. To sign up, go on the school website.
- **December 4** 10:45-1:20 in Atrium – Mr. Sartor’s marketing class and entrepreneurship class are planning to have a bake sale. A film crew is coming in to film the project.
- **December 7** – Common lunch – International Foods.
- **December 11** 6-9pm – Concert by the Music Department – Admission is free but will be accepting donations.

7. Parent Engagement – Speaker Program

- Council decided to form a subcommittee to plan the Parent Information Evening that we will be holding as a result of applying for and being awarded a grant from the Ministry of Education.
 - Committee members are Janice Ramolla, Sophie Boers, Kathy Ness and Marsha Terstege. Any additional volunteers are welcome.
 - Flamborough Centre School is holding their Parent Information Evening on February 4 so need to avoid that date.
 - Michelle Visca suggested waiting until after February.

8. Teacher Appreciation – Fundraising opportunities (budget \$400)

- Brainstormed some possible ideas on how to raise the necessary funds for the teacher appreciation lunch
 - Buy-in for a movie
 - Bake sale
 - Donations from parents (donation bucket at parent interview evening)
 - Trivia Night

- Raffle baskets at Parent Information Evening
- Silent auction of items at Parent Information Evening
- Could talk to Michael Collette at Rotary and is on AAG Parent Council (Michelle Visca suggested)

9. Update on kids crossing Parkside

- Continuing concern about the volume of jaywalking by the students
- Contact Judy Partridge about getting a light put at the back entrance – perhaps just a pedestrian light.
- Check about whether the plan is to put a sidewalk on the north side of Parkside from the front entrance to Centre Road. – instalation of a sidewalk might reduce the problem.

10. Yearbook

- Yearbooks are on sale now online for 20% off
- Josten's is helping put together the yearbook again
- December 3rd 5-8pm will be a fundraising event at Boston Pizza.
 - Any students can be shadow servers and get volunteer hours.

11. Open Forum

- Vaping – a parent had heard there is a “vaping issue” at the school.
 - Michelle confirmed that there have been a few incidents of students smoking vapour cigarettes on school property and these have been dealt with.
 - “Vaping” is treated the same as cigarette smoking by the school.
- Late assignments – student handing in assignments late can only be docked a maximum of 10%.
- Cell phone use in class – most teachers will not confiscate phones for liability reasons.
- Michelle Visca to bring in the Assessment, Evaluation, Reporting (AER) Policy to the next meeting.
- Next council meeting (in school meeting February 16), Michelle will ask Mr. Gregoriou to come as our Guest Speaker to discuss DECA and the business program at WDHS.

- **NEXT MEETING – DECEMBER 15, 2015 AT 5:30 PM AT THE AMERICAN HOUSE**