

Minutes from WDHS School Council Meeting: Tuesday, October 20, 2015.

In Attendance: Karin Lang (Co-chair); Sophie Boers (Co-chair); Janice Ramolla (Secretary); Devyn Kelly (Student Rep); Mag Gardner (Superintendent); Penny Deathe (Trustee); Dany Paterson; Marsha Terstege; Cindy Myers; Nicoleta Baci (Teacher Rep); Mr. Brent Monkley (Vice Principal); Susan Gaynor; Janice Kwasney; Sunny Sun; Alison Morris; Pam Leenders; Dee Shea; Jose Vanderkamp; Louise Hooper; Jennifer Clarke-Brophy; Zara Thurgood; Linda Alger; Kathy Ness; Ian MacLeod

Regrets: Kim Hayes; Sue Collette; Andrea Hawkins

Agenda Item

1. Welcome & Introduction

- All council members, and guests were welcomed and attendance sheet circulated.
- Special introductions were made for Michelle Rosenberg, our guest speaker this evening, Mag Gardner, the Hamilton Board Superintendent, Ms. Baci, the new teacher representative for this year, and Mr. Monkley, the new Vice Principal.

2. Approve Minutes of the prior meeting

- Motion passed to approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting of September 22, 2015.

3. Guest speaker – Michelle Rosenberg – Mental Health and Well-being Liaison Manager

- Went around the room briefly introducing ourselves and the grade our children are in at WDHS so Michelle had a better idea of the makeup of the attendees.
- Michelle presented a summary of the HWDSB Revised Mental Health Strategy
 - Promoting student wellbeing
 - 3 areas of initial focus
 - Fast access to high quality services
 - Identify and intervene early
 - Close critical service gaps
 - Highlighted areas of focus
- Based on the Collaborative and Proactive Solutions model described in the book *Lives In The Balance* by Dr. Ross Greene (website livesinthebalance.org)
 - Aim is to help strengthen kids “lagging skills”
 - Mary Hopkins (Principal Jennifer George) is a pilot school in rolling out this strategy.
- Ideas for Info Sessions (for the planned WDHS **Parent Information Evening**)
 - “Plan B Conversations” – problem solving conversations you can have with a youth who is not meeting expectations in some area of life.
 - Digital Sanity
 - Different Mental Health Services offered in Hamilton
 - Dr. Jean Clinton – speaker on teen behavior
 - Adolescent Brain – Cam Fraser (Mag Gardner knows him)
 - Building Healthy Relationships – Penny Deathe (Developmental Assets)
 - Identifying Signs and Symptoms of Mental Health Issues
 - Career Pathways

- Creating an Inclusive Environment
 - Which of the 40 assets would most closely tie to this?
- HWDSB Mental Health website is going live in the next month.

4. Principal's Report – Mag Gardner (HWDSB Superintendent)

- Michelle Visca (Principal) is away on family business so Mag Gardner (Superintendent) is sitting in for her.
- New Vice Principal Brent Monkley has started at WDHS.
- Temporary VP's, Lynda Wigood and John DiLiberto will finish October 30 and December respectively.
- Dan Stepaniuk, WDHS VP currently deployed with the Canadian Forces in Africa, is due back in December.
- Homecoming week (the past week) went very smoothly.
- Provided an update on the current state of the Union bargaining groups.
 - Elementary
 - Principals are picking up the slack.
 - Efforts are centred on ensuring that good relationships are maintained with the teachers.
 - Secondary (Caretakers – CUPE)
 - Caretakers not cleaning hallways.
 - Are still cleaning garbage pails, classrooms, bathrooms.
 - There was a recent anonymous call to Public Health complaining about smell and garbage.
 - Public Health came to the school and inspected it thoroughly and found no concerns.
 - OCTU (Office/Clerical)
 - Elementary – not answering door buzzers or phones.
- Parent/Teacher Interviews this week and a football game the same evening - Grade 9 orientation day at Christie Conservation Area on Wednesday September 23.

5. Teacher's report – Nicoleta Baci

- **October 22** 5pm-8pm – Parent/Teacher Interviews
- **October 22** 7pm-8pm – Gr. 11-12 Post-Secondary Education Session
- **October 26** - November 6 – Grad Photos
- **October 28** – Music Department – vendor night at the Youth Centre – fundraising for the Nashville/New Orleans trip.
- **November 9 – 13** – Periods 3 & 4 – Grade 12 students will have an opportunity to individually discuss post-secondary plans.

6. Student Parliament report – Devon Kelly

- Devon introduced herself as Student Parliament President.
- Focus of Student Parliament this year will be
 - The Arts.
 - Traditionally WDHS tends to have an emphasis on sports so felt that needed to focus on the Arts this year to bring the Arts profile

up and to help with making ALL students/groups feel equally important.

- Starting with the Band (fundraising vendor night at Youth Centre)
- Getting Everyone Involved
 - Concerned about the very low student involvement in school events ie. Homecoming events, Halloween food drive
- Improving Communication
- “Make a Difference Month” – choosing 4 different charities and will concentrate on one each month.
- “Student Appreciation Month” – 1 month focus on each area (athletics, arts and academics)

7. Parent Engagement

- “What’s Your Path Event” – began a few years ago for parents and students in grades 8 to come to an evening to help with the transition to grade 9.
- This event is expanding to become **“What’s Your Passion”**
 - Will reach students and parents from grades 7-12, helping them find their passion and future career path. Susan McKechnie, an academic advisor, professional recruiter, and a local parent, is helping HC-HY organize and develop the event. The format will be interview style. The kickoff event is **January 12** and will feature Susan being interviewed around the importance of career planning and the parent’s role. Subsequent session, every Tuesday from January 17th – May, will each focus on a single career cluster. followed up by weekly workshops every Tuesday afterwards until May. Professionals from these career clusters will be interviewed by Susan followed by a Q & A.
 - For more information about Susan McKechnie, go to www.freshmanagement.ca, search her on facebook, or email her at susan@freshmanagement.ca
 - Also check out this article <http://examiner.com/lack-of-guidance-counsellors-ontario-prompts-entrepreneur-to-expand-services>.

8. Open Forum

- No comments.
- **NEXT MEETING – NOVEMBER 17, 2015 AT 6:30 PM**