

## **Minutes from WDHS School Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 22, 2015.**

**In Attendance:** Sunny Sun; Penny Deathe; Janice Ramolla (Secretary); Michelle Visca (Principal); Pam Leenders; Marsha Terstege; Louise Hooper; Sophie Boers; Jennifer Clarke Brophy; Dany Paterson; Kim Hayes; Andrea Hawkins; Cindy Myers; Susan Gaynor; Jose Vanderkamp; Phil Zylstra; Dee Shea

**Regrets:** Karin Lang (Chair), Kathy Ness; Alison Morris, Ian MacLeod.

### **Agenda Item**

#### **1. Welcome & Introduction**

- Karin Lang (current Chair of Council) was unable to attend the meeting so Michelle Visca stepped up to run the meeting.
- All council members (returning and new) were welcomed and attendance sheet circulated.
- Michelle outlined the structure of council meetings which typically include guest speakers, Student Parliament report, Teacher Report, Principal Report, HC-HY/Trustee report by Penny Deathe
- Council meetings are typically the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30 with December and June's meetings being socials, no meeting in January, and the March meeting being held after March break.

#### **2. Principal's Report – Michelle Visca (Principal)**

- Grade 9 orientation day at Christie Conservation Area on Wednesday September 23.
- Terry Fox Assembly scheduled for September 30.
- Homecoming Week scheduled for week of October 13-16 with many events including;
  - Student Awards Assembly on October 15.
  - Football game
  - Spirit Assembly
  - Teacher/Student volleyball game
  - Dance
- Preliminary Report Cards go home October 15.
- Parent/Teacher Interviews October 22.
- Plant updates
  - New sign in front of the school. Full pixelated. Awaiting one missing part right now.
  - Skylight has been a problem for several years now (leaking). Plan is to re-do before winter and will be re-designed to prevent leaking.
- PRO Grant – Last June, Council successfully applied for \$800 to hold a Parent Information Evening with guest speakers.

- Will discuss details of what speakers to bring in etc... at the next council meeting.
- Andrea Hawkins has contacts in the mental health area.
- Caretakers union contract negotiations – escalated job action to start next week – No cleaning of stairwells and hallways.
- Parent Assist is still not working – Michelle to enquire as to when it might be up and running.

### **3. Healthy Community-Healthy Youth (HC-HY)/Trustee Update – Penny Deathe**

- Penny relayed that the new Director of the Board of Education is fantastic.
- Are working on establishing a new strategic direction – communication is key – should be done by the end of December and will launch in January.
  - Board gathered feedback from population and trustees spent the summer looking at every comment made.
  - Key features are resource equity, communication and respect.
- TLE – Transforming Learning Everywhere
  - By September 2016, every Grade 9 student will have an ipad
  - There are pilot schools where this is the case already.
- HC-HY
  - Explained structure and partners and purpose.
  - Supporting positive youth development using 40 assets
  - Funded the last 3 years by Trillium and expired last spring.
  - Innoweave, a consortium of partners including the government, is the new funder.
  - Focus on developing a “theory of change” using the 40 assets
  - “What’s your Path” seminars for students/parents will hold a kick off evening then follow up with sessions throughout the year.
  - More information can be obtained by going to [www.focusonthe40.ca](http://www.focusonthe40.ca)
  - WDHS supports this model and has, as a school, focused on one particular asset being “a caring adult outside the family”.

### **4. 2015/16 Executive/Elections (Chair/Co-Chairs; Secretary)**

- Michelle relayed that Karin was prepared to “Co-Chair” but on willing to “Chair” council alone.
- Sophie Boers offered to Co-Chair with Karin and a vote was taken and passed.
- Janice Ramolla offered to continue as Secretary and a vote was taken and passed.

## **5. Open Forum**

- Communication between parents and school
  - Sophie will send out to all council members the social media guide that was created last year. This lists all websites, Facebook pages, twitter accounts etc.
- Next meeting – Penny will ask Michelle Rosenburg from HWDSB if she will be a guest speaker to discuss Mental Health.
- **NEXT MEETING – OCTOBER 20, 2015 AT 6:30 PM**