

## Minutes from WDHS School Council Meeting: Tuesday, October 17, 2017

**In Attendance:** Sophie Boers (Co-chair); Karin Lang (Co-chair); Janice Ramolla (Secretary); Brent Monkley (Vice Principal); Virginia McCulloch (acting Principal); Mylissa Tom (Student Rep); Lianne Broughton; Jennifer Clarke-Brophy; Michael Collette (Rotary rep); Marsha Ter Steege; Kimi Hoefs; Brenda Folk; Louise Hooper; Penny Deathe (Trustee); Carl Galloway; Jennifer McPherson; Ginessa Cetra-McColl; Jennifer Vince; Carrie MacLean; Darin Ahing.

**Absent/Regrets:** Wanda Bielak (Principal); Alyson Johnson.

### Agenda Item

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

- All council members welcomed and a few new people were acknowledged.

#### **2. Approve Minutes of the prior meeting**

- Motion passed to approve the Minutes of the prior Council Meeting of September 19, 2017 (Motion from Jennifer/Ginessa).

#### **3. Community Representative – Michael Collette**

- Food4Kids
  - Rotary Club held a **Brunch on September 23 9:30 am – 1:00 pm** to raise money for Food4Kids.
  - This brunch was the fourth of four monthly fundraising brunches and raised a total of \$6000 for the Food4Kids program at Mary Hopkins Elementary.
  - Next council meeting Michael is planning to bring Kevin Smoke who is another Rotary Club member who will outline and explain the leadership and exchange programs being offered by the Rotary Club this school year.
  - Rotary Club is holding a Trivia night next week.

#### **4. Student Parliament report – Mylissa Tom**

- Homecoming Week was last week (October 10-14)
  - Tues – Warrior Day pep rally – very successful.
  - Wed – Spirit Day – movie buy in made \$200.
  - Thurs – Football Game – great attendance.
  - Fri – Had to cancel the Homecoming Dance due to lack of sufficient ticket sales.
- Looking at having a Winter Formal after the Christmas break.
- Doing a food drive – Halloween or Hunger – volunteers will go out into community to collect food donations.
- Halloween festivities – have students wear costumes or wear black and orange. Looking at getting a designated “food day” so can have candy.
- Warrior Wear – using a new company “Entripy Custom Clothing” this year. Working on creating a new school logo. Will have the ability to purchase on line. Will have samples of the clothing but will not have the logo on them. Samples/new logo will not be ready for Parent/Teacher interviews.

## 5. Principal's Report – Virginia McCulloch

- Wanda Bielak sent her regrets. She continues to be working only part time due to continuing concussion protocol.
- Ms. McCulloch is a retired principal who will be filling in for Wanda and will be working full time at the school until Wanda is fully recovered and is able to fully resume her duties.
- **Ms. McCulloch has requested that any and all email correspondence sent to Wanda Bielak be copied to her as well. Her contact email is vmccullo@hwdsb.on.ca.**
- Ms. McCulloch relayed a principal's report from Wanda
  - Board and school priorities remain the same as last year.
  - Special emphasis on students with IEP's and who are college bound (applied).
  - Also emphasis on students in grades 9 and 10 who have been missing classes a lot.
    - Recognition that many have mental health (anxiety) issues and impulse issues.
    - Staff is sitting down with the student, caregivers, parents, teachers, student services to explore the reasons behind the skipping and how the school can work for the student.
- Next PA Day – Mental health strategies to support students.
- New programs and initiatives
  - Best Buddies Chapter is being set up at the school.
  - Terry Fox walk/run fundraising made over \$2000.
- Requested input from parent council and student council on where we would like to direct any money fundraised by the school.
  - In the past, school has supported Flamborough Women's Resource Centre, Drummond House, and the Food Bank.
  - Council discussed various possibilities including a sock drive, a Walk In Closet (donations of clothing to be available to low income, needy students in the Board) and the Prom Project.
  - Recognition that low income families in our Board need toiletries, socks, underwear.
  - Ms. McCulloch and Ms. Kindree (teacher rep) agreed to look into the Walk In Closet program.

## 6. Teachers Report – Kara Kindree

- November 1 is Take your Grade 9 to work day.
  - If not participating, will be arrangements made for day at school including spark activities, literacy activities and a workplace safety workshop.
- Parent/Teacher Interviews on October 19.
  - Will have university and college booths present (Mohawk, Sheraton, U of Waterloo).
  - Student Services will host an information session about post secondary following the interviews.
- Intramurals are up and running.
- English – writing competition is upcoming.
- Science – inviting students to participate in the Bay Area Science Fair.

## **7. Board/HC-HY update – Penny Deathe**

- Bus transport (driver shortages) – still not resolved.
- Student use of personal devices
  - No current policy.
  - Trustees discussed use of personal devices during downtime/lunches primarily at the elementary level.
    - Currently the policy around use is left to the teacher’s/principal’s discretion.
    - Penny encouraged parents/council members to email her your thoughts about the need (or not) for a policy.
  - Ms Kindree expressed her view that she likes that students have their phones and tells the students they must “manage” their technology in that managing technology is a real life skill in today’s world.
  - Ms. McCulloch expressed her view that phones are very valuable so when a teacher collects phones before a class/test, the school is now responsible for all these phones until they are given back.
- EQAO results are in
  - Principal will share these results at some point.
  - Can access results on the website.

## **8. PIC Update – Lianne Broughton**

- PIC is Parent Involvement Committee which is an advisory group to the board and the trustees and is made up of representatives from each school’s Parent Council across the Board.
- Majority of the last meeting on October 10 was about K-1 literacy.
- PIC will be putting out a template for school council by laws.
- Wed Nov 1 – At Liuna Station, HWDSB will hold a Pathways Information Night to help students and parents learn about the variety of options available. Drop in format 6:30-9 pm.
- PRO Grant suggestion – Several schools are using their grant to rent a movie called “Screenagers” produced by a doctor in the US with teenagers. Movie looks at how technology impacts kid’s development and explores parental struggles with social media and video games. Movie can be rented for USD 500 and can be shown to students during the day and shown to parents in the evening. The movie comes with discussion guide and list of discussion points.

## **9. What’s your path – committee setup for spring**

- Subcommittee was established – Sophie, Penny, Janice, Ginessa, Louise, Brenda.

## **10. WDHS in community**

- WDHS could be involved in
  - Remembrance Day at the Legion.
    - Council agreed to donate a wreath.
    - Mr. Flosman can get 2 students to lay the wreath.

- Penny to look into ordering a wreath through the Board.
- Christmas Parade (November 25)
  - Could have school band, dance team, decorate the school bus, mascot.
  - Michael Collette (Rotary rep) will let the parade committee know we are interested.
  - Could combine with a sock or coat drive.

### **11. Gardening update**

- Gardening done outside front doors of school.
- Will do it each spring and fall.
- Will need more volunteers next time.

### **12. Bake sale – Parent interview night**

- Subcommittee reports they are ready to go.
- Volunteer sign up sheet circulated.
- Need baked goods.
- Sheet given to Ms. McCulloch to get drink order requests from the teachers during interviews.
- Target is to raise \$500.

### **13. Open Forum**

- Scoreboard on football field.
  - Not working in the evening.
  - Some kind of electrical problem and are working on it.

- **NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2017 AT 6:30 PM**