



Draft School Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, February 6, 2017

Time: 7:00 pm – 9:00pm

Location: Westdale School Library

Co-Chair	Diane Crawshaw	Principal	Michelle Visca
Co-Chair	Joanne Thompson	Secretary	Louise Adam
Triune President		Staff/Teacher Rep	Sarah Lindner
Guest		Community Rep	Kaywana Gargarello

Parents: Diane Crawshaw, Joanne Thompson, Louise Adam, Michelle Rodney-Bartolos, Kaywana Gargarello, Kyra Paterson, Wendall Gillis (Vice-Principal), Sarah Lindner (Staff/Teacher Rep), Nicola Lawford (Triune/Student Council Rep), Sandra Binns (OFHSA), Angela Murchie (OFHSA)

Regrets: Michelle Visca, Grant Thomas, Phyllis Connelly

Opening and Approvals:

Approval of Agenda for Monday, February 6, 2017 meeting

Approved by Kyra Paterson & Seconded by Michelle Rodney-Bartolos - ALL IN FAVOUR

Approval of Minutes from Monday, December 5, 2016 meeting

Approved by Kyra Paterson & Seconded by Sarah Lindner - ALL IN FAVOUR

1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- Home & School Membership – see Chair Report (below)
- Holiday Hampers – see Principal Report (below)
- Superintendent/Trustee Date – Tuesday, April 4th, 2017

2. CHAIR REPORT – Diane Crawshaw

- Parent Engagement Fund – Diane suggested we have a speaker – subject of the presentation would be on transitions re Sir John A. MacDonald School closure and students coming to Westdale Secondary School
- Michelle indicated that the transition plan takes place at the Board level
- Kaywana indicated speaking from personal experience, it would be beneficial to assist families coming to Canada ie. weather conditions, kids/students’ camps, etc.)
- Wendall mentioned that they will be striking a plan early next year (the ground is broken however not certain whether for school or community centre)
- Sandra/Angela (OFHSA) handed out forms to parents who wanted to join/renew the Westdale Home & School Association (to be added to the current list of members which include family, affiliate and life members) – they mentioned that a new member must wait 20 days after signing up before being able to vote
- Sandra advised that OFHSA has Home & School documents translated into 8 different languages, i.e. EQAO information, tip sheets, etc.



- A suggestion was made to contact the life members – Angela will provide contact info and share with Joanne
- A motion will be put forward at the next meeting for Home & School Elections to take place to elect the executive; a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary (a quorum is the number of executives + 2 members)
- Angela will inquire about extending new memberships be extended to September 2018
- Parent School Council will connect with Grant Thomas re changing signing authority members on the bank account – the bank will require a copy of the minutes indicating the motion
- Diane mentioned Westdale will have a membership drive in the future to coincide with Parent/Teacher Night
- Everyone agreed that moving forward a Home & School Meeting will take place before the Parent Council Meeting
- It was mentioned that there should be enough money in the H & S bank account to pay for one more grad award for June 2017
- Inclement Weather Policy – Diane mentioned that although the policy was reviewed 2 years ago, it should be revisited possibly asking for parent input/feedback
- Concern was mentioned for families (either with both parents working, or single parent families) who don't have student care options on snow days – possibility of students at risk
- Sandra suggested it would be beneficial to inquire as to the evidence/reason for the policy

3. PRINCIPAL REPORT – Vice Principal Wendall Gillis

- Wendall reported that exams went well and that report cards should be out shortly – he still has to sign them which will happen this week
- The consensus around the table is that students and parents want the exam review process reinstated – it is an issue given this takes place at the university level
- Sarah mentioned that a number of teachers give students the option to come see them to review the exam (it would be helpful if students made appointments in person or via email)
- This does create issues in terms of taking up a lot of teacher/student time to coordinate
- Wendall indicated it was a Board decision to take exam review away
- Michelle mentioned that regardless of poor turnout (if that is the reason for eliminating exam review), it should still happen
- Kaywana indicated that the Board needs to be equitable to all students in terms of exam review regardless of poor turnout
- Wendall mentioned that there may be a different procedure for the 2nd semester exam review process in June



- Sandra mentioned that the School Calendar feedback process is taking place and that we can provide our input online
 - o <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Secondary-Draft-Calendar-2017-2018.pdf>
 - o https://hwdsb.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b4471fJdUmDfsdT
- Sarah indicated should would poll teachers/staff
- Wendall indicated that there are numeracy struggles throughout the world – specifically problem solving
- Westdale is addressing that by teaching students to think for themselves – he indicated that the textbooks do not help the students to achieve this as they prevent the students from going through the thinking process
- Textbooks provide the information but not the EQAO
- Wendall is heading the initiative to teach students the process of problem solving
- There are four parts in the process – Westdale is working on the first step by identifying and restating the problem in a different way
- The first step is broken down into three sections:
 1. Journal entry;
 2. Authentic problem solving;
 3. Explicit teacher problem solving.
- The three part lesson helps students to work on the process and engage them more
- The success of this system is dependent on the balance between inquiry based learning and getting back to basics

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

- Nicola mentioned if students are interested to come by Room 12 to check out Triune at lunch time
- Triune provides representation for students
- Triune elections are held annually (President, Secretary, Treasurer, Members)
- Nicola's presentation highlighted school activities:
 - o Spirit Week
 - o Grade 9 Day/Terry Fox Run which included a bbq lunch, scavenger hunt, and a club fair showcasing various Westdale Clubs, i.e. sports, drama, newspaper, etc.
 - o Westdale Formal
 - o Diversity Week – scheduled for the first week in March 2017 (guest speaker, showcasing culture, religion, gender identity, etc.)
 - o “Westdale’s Got Talent” Show (with judges, prizing, etc.)
 - o Pink Day (anti-bullying)
 - o Bell Let’s Talk Day
 - o Warriors for Wellness (encouraging dialogue around mental health)
 - o Holiday Hampers (wish items)



- Best Buddies (connecting mentors and students with special needs)
- Nicola suggested parents follow Triune on Twitter/Instagram (@WestdaleTriune, @Official_Westdale_Triune)

5. TEACHER REPORT

- Sarah indicated that the Westdale School Parent Council Facebook page is up and running
- A “big thank you” goes out to Sarah, Wendy (staff) and Luca (student) – in addition, thank you Sarah for providing gift cards to them for their much needed assistance
- Sarah mentioned staff/teachers are working on a 3 tiered feedback system – a new method of teaching
- Sarah mentioned that she will speak to staff about having a Special Education presentation at a future meeting
- Sarah indicated that Tony (school council rep) will present at the next meeting

6. SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS/DISCUSSION

- Westdale Field Update - Kaywana Gargarello announced that Mr. Dave Walters has resigned from the Westdale Secondary School Parent Council Sports Field Sub-Committee
- (Update to follow in a separate document)

7. OTHER BUSINESS

- Meeting dates:
 - April 4th, 2017 (Tuesday) – Superintendent Sue Dunlop to attend
 - May 1st, 2017 (Offsite)

Meeting adjourned at 9pm