

Wesmount school council minutes – February 20, 2018 (7:00-8:45 pm)

Members in attendance:

Angela Ferguson, Mike Armstrong, Hanif Dadani, Kim Kolpin, Sarosh Dadani, Greg?

1. Hanif Dadani opened the meeting – welcomed members, requested to sign attendance form.
2. Hanif Dadani turns the meeting over to Sarosh Dadani who gave overview of Quest. Background of it... video interview of a student who is in it and wanting to change a law...
3. **Student Council Report** (by Sarosh Dadani)
Gives student council report of upcoming events including spirit week

Angela Ferguson explains more about Quest in regards to questions from Kim Kolpin; explaining that it allows students to tackle large issues, teachers inventing as they go, students designing the course and the means to which they can meet course expectations

Sarosh explains that many students are focusing on social justice issues

Mr. Dadani asks Sarosh what the main idea is for Quest.. Sarosh explains that many are taking on issues that could help 'change the world'

Mr. Dadani asks Ms. Ferguson how students are able to find such concepts (the social justice issues) and how they learn about 'disruptive technology'... Angela Ferguson answers about how problems are tackled with the 'pro-pro' model for example, where teachers are co-learners with the students – as well as being guides to help the students find solutions.

4 **Teacher Report** (by Mike Armstrong)

- I. Overview of the 3 proposed SHSM programs and what SHSM programs are.
The three proposed programs are Information Communication Technology, Outdoor Education and Fitness / Health. Programs require students to take a bundle of specific courses and a co-op related to their SHSM. Ministry funding will be provided for specific certification and training relating to employability and safety as well as skills suited to their specific SHSM.
SHSM programs are delivered for all pathways – new workplace level courses on offer in Career Cruising
- II. The proposal packages have been forwarded to the Ministry of Education for approval in late spring.

5 **Principal's report** (by Angela Ferguson)

- I. Trying to align school goals with the Board goals as well as meet our school needs
- II. Stated goal for our school is that every student in grade 9 will get at least a level one in all 8 courses (we had 98% meet that goal)
For grade 12 students – there are 317 of them – and 68 grade 12+ students. Of the 317, 260 were on track with credits, hours and literacy to graduate.
54 others had significant concerns, 15 of those are set to graduate. 34 will need intervention from guidance (alter ed. Specialized Programs etc.) and there are another

20 of the 54 who will need a fifth year. Of the grade 12+ 25 graduated at the end of semester one, approx. 12 of those 5th year students will need a further support (Turning Point for example)

- III. Cabinet retreat: attacking questions about Westmount 20/20 and how we can be more self-directed, how we can change? Looking at Advisor, Flex Days, what does a guide look like.. Moving away from booklet driven to more student driven... a shift from task completion to demonstration of deeper thinking

(Suggestions of getting parents involved in school council. Greg? Suggests an evening celebration for opening the labs.. using money that is available for parent engagement)

New grade 9 students for 2018-2019: 309 for this year... we had 326 last year. As new ones come in our numbers are likely to go up to the same as last year.

Fire Alarms – someone pulled them at Westview and shortly after at Westmount. Later there was another alarm that went twice... we went on “fire watch” as heat sensors in the food area failed We are getting a new ‘fire panel’ and PA system with the renovations.

Good news items... one student successful with DECA and going to the international completion in Atlanta.. Business Entrepreneurship..

Also, we have partnered with YMCA, we are awaiting approval from the Board, a teacher has applied for an indigenous trip to Nunavut.. 4 from Westmount, Delta, Westdale, SJAM flying to Nunavut... then the community will be coming to Hamilton after that.

Positive Space group going to Vancouver and partnering with Thomas Hainey to brainstorm on how to make schools more inclusive.

Both trips funded by the Y MCA-- the Nunavut one is costing \$140,000 students pay a \$70 registration fee

6. Science and LC renovations tour and update

7. **Approval of Previous Minutes**, (by Hanif Dadani)
carried

8. Other business

Greg? Asking about the digital display not being updated regularly

Angela stated she will look into ensuring it's updated so as to remove outdated messages

- 9 Next Meeting: March 22nd 7pm in Room 123 (after Parent Interviews)

