

Dundas Valley Secondary School Council Minutes

November 17, 2020

Present: Zoey Heeney, Gail Cipriani, Michael Murray, Jonathan Schinkel, Dawn Bennie, Ella Cockburn, Dara Coulter, Rebecca Gualtieri, Cathy Veldman, Donna Nunan, Sue VanEgdom, Lisa Spenler

1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 6:33

Land Acknowledgement: Lead by G. Cipriani

Introduction of parent members, DVSS staff and Student Prime Minister

2. Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Motion to approve: D. Coulter seconded by S. VanEgdom

3. Prime Minister's Report: Ella Cockburn

- 1st School Council open meeting to be held Nov.18
- 23 students expected at the meeting under the new format (no limit on number per grade)
- Remembrance Day video was posted on Student Council's Instagram page
- Student Senate – have a bullying draft document for the panel
- Grad Wear – can still be ordered, available to all students, can be just DVSS spirit wear
- Grade 9 video being developed as a virtual tour for Gr.7/8 Orientation night
- Clubs that are still available to join are on Student Council's Instagram

4. Teacher's report: Rebecca Gualtieri

- Discussed the staff's perspective on the current teaching situation.
- Positives – with longer in person classes, building stronger connections with students.
- Altering lessons based on student feedback as to what's working and what's not
- Negatives – hard to navigate between in person and remote and the changing of the two
- Many struggling, so needing to be more compassionate and understanding with deadlines
- HWDSB - Learn, Disrupt, Rebuild (LDR) – building a community of care and an inclusive learning environment

5. Principal's Report

- Phys Ed Heads and leadership courses for Gr.12s – looking at how to execute in a virtual environment - virtual Special Olympics or a charitable endeavour?
- Global Connect Gr.11 course – organizing a virtual conference. Need to consider privacy issues in the virtual world and still follow protocols.
- Mr. Gardner and the OFSAA Board trying to organize a 3km province wide challenge to keep students physically active.
- Last year's Grads – had to figure out how to distribute their grad packages so the Office Staff and Mrs. Bennie are arranging courier delivery to students
- Honours Awards – given in person to current students or sent to those learning remotely.

- Only overall top average award granted to students in Gr.9/10/11 for 2019/20 school year, no individual subject awards were given due to the disparity for students to learn and achieve marks last year.
- Last year's yearbook is being sent by courier to Grads
- 2020/21 Yearbook has unfortunately been cancelled – no way to have school/extracurricular photos with the current learning situation. Need to have a minimum \$8800 yearbook contract in place so needed to cancel.
- No HWDSB school photos this year, Grad photos are still uncertain
- Grad 2021 – discussions are starting with a Board wide committee. Need to have equity of access and opportunity for all schools and students. Considering whether that can be everyone together or individual recognition.
- DVSS Parent Resources available – for mental health well-being
- Mental Health Action team, led by Mrs. Lawson and Mrs. Henderson, info on the Guidance Hub
- Midterm marks were submitted today (Nov.17) and reports should be distributed late next week. Will mail reports to remote learners and those with a spare.
- Will be a letter to accompany the reports outlining current opportunities for involvement and support
- November 27 is a PA Day. Staff will spend half of it in Health & Safety training and the other half focused on Student Success and helping struggling learners.
- HWDSB has decided there will be no written final exams.

6. Mr. Murray

- Outlined DVSS opportunities for students – contests and councils that have been approved
- Mr. Smith looking at a virtual cross country club

7. Mr. Schinkel

- Outlined the information that will accompany the midterm reports
- It highlights the supports that are available and offers clarification to families.

8. Other Business

- Next meeting January 19/21

Adjourned @ 7:57 pm

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