

# **Dundas Valley Secondary School Council Minutes**

## **March 16, 2021**

**Present:** Zoey Heeney, Gail Cipriani, Michael Murray, Jonathan Schinkel, Dawn Bennie, Jen Warren, Ella Cockburn, Dara Coulter, Donna Nunan, Sue VanEgdom, Susan Moelker, Amy Zuccolo, Lisa Spenler

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

- Meeting called to order at 6:34 PM
- Land Acknowledgement: Lead by G. Cipriani

### **2. Approval of Minutes and Agenda: Motion to approve:**

- D. Coulter seconded by S.VanEgdom

### **3. Prime Minister's Report – Ella Cockburn**

- Hosting 1 meeting per week as an Open Council with Executive and members together.
- UN Incentive – Sustainable Development Goal for 1 week – challenge students to support the goal
- Relay for Life – hoping to have a virtual event
- With Waterdown DSS – having a joint event with their Parliament – all students welcome

### **4. Teacher's Report – Jen Warren (English Department Head)**

- 2 themes they are focusing on – Thinking and Rethinking
- What do we want students to know and the skills to have after taking our class?
- Thinking skills for solving wicked problems – reading and writing will follow if we think this way
- Used to value defending your singular stance – thesis, evidence, prove your thesis
- What we value now – how to build complex thinkers
- Consider all evidence rather than dismissing it - embrace opposing ideas
- Support others to articulate their thoughts even if different than ours
- Cognitive Flexibility – how to cultivate with students with past experiences
- Rethinking our practice of what and how we teach
- Recognizing voices that need amplifying in our English classes – examining stories and voices that are overlooked

## **5. Principal's Report**

- Opportunities available at DVSS – listed on the school website
- Homework Club – Tues/Thurs 3-4:30 for Gr.9&10 – March 16-June 10 – online registration
- Confirming September enrolment and staff allocation in the next few days
- Weekly Grade 12 communications sent through email and are on the website
- Looking in the possibility of a Grad yearbook
- HWDSB Responsibilities – first goal is to improve the graduation outcome for all students
- Teachers have ethical obligations – provide inclusion, prevent discrimination and barriers
- Learn.Disrupt.Build – building a community of care and a positive culture and student well being
- When addressing concerns, always start with the student's teacher

## **6. Parent Engagement Fund**

- \$500 has been granted to the school
- Online presentations?
- Partner with Westdale and/or other surrounding schools?
- Inclusion themed speaker? Would tie in with the Board's message to students

## **7. Other Business**

- Next meeting April 20/21

**Adjourned @ 8:07 pm**

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