

Dundas Valley Secondary Parent Council Minutes
Tuesday November 15, 2022 - 6:30pm
Online Meeting

Present Online: Renu Kohli, Jenn Warren, Nancy Nemeth (DVSS), Zoey Heeney, Dara Coulter, Andrew Coulter, Cathy Veldman, Tammy Lombardo, Rebecca Hoo, Leah Abbey, Lori Philips, Janet Fairly, Joshua Kinsman, Zein Radwan, Carol Gideon, Alice Smith

Regrets: Susan Moelker

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM
- Land Acknowledgement read by Zoey Heeney

2. Approval of Minutes and Agenda –

- Motion to approve by Cathy Veldman, seconded Dara Coulter

3. President's Report – Andrew Coulter

- Winter formal confirmed at Marque Gardens, Ancaster. 5:30-10pm, dinner, dance, DJ. Sign up for tickets, pay online \$60 p/p. Min 180, max 300 capacity. Avail all grades.
- Nov 30 – School open house for gr 7 & 8. Chloe Deighton is new vice president. Also will have parent council representation at gr 7/8 open house.
- Family / Teacher night – had students helping/directing parents, students that helped were commended, council represented.

4. Teacher's Report - Jenn Warren

- Highlight: Josh Kinsman – Transportation & Technology teacher & runs transport SHSM at DVSS. He engages students and has info for students for all areas of this trade. He provides tangible link to transport field, with hands-on learning. Students learn by building engines/rebuild, take engines apart etc., but after that learning is student-led in a real mechanics shop type setting. His in-class assignments have 3 basic components – 1) engines. 2) service manual usage 3) safety

Gr 12 students work on teacher/student vehicles. Includes maintenance (brakes, wheel alignment, etc) painting, tire rotation, radio install etc., and gr 11 more just technical side of things, gr 10 Junior classes don't need pre-requisite subjects to enrol in this.

TTJ20 – GR 10: structured & safety training. Basics of vehicle operation, disassemble small engine.

TTJ30 – GR 11: buying vehicle guidelines, maintenance skills, care of vehicles.

TTJ3C: Gr 11 college prep: learning about advances in vehicle technology and how to start apprenticeship in transportation fields

TTJ4E: GR 12 workplace prep. Focus on vehicle maintenance & procedures

TTJ4C: gr 12 college prep – in depth look at vehicle systems and develop trade skills, use of diagnostic equip and repair failures in vehicle management systems

The SHSM Program at DVSS is ministry run. Other SHSM opportunities at DVSS are Arts and Culture & Business. SHSM's help students that are considering work in these 3 fields. Process is: - course selections, then co-ops and networking, field trips to colleges that do the programs, experiential learning, and last certification arranged by DVSS (e.g. height work, CPR, 1st Aid etc.)

5. Principal's Report - Renu Kohli

- Labour actions last few weeks, caretakers are back, but still in negotiations.
- Open house gr 7-8 – feeder schools on 30 Nov.
- Board pandemic recovery adds supports to gaps in learning – i.e. hiring LTO to help student success with literacy etc. – avail till the end of semester.
- Trips back on, music program planned to Montreal in April
- Deca event happened a few weeks ago.
- - Formal dance Dec 8 if enough interest
- Dec 15 – winter event for the Band
- Windows need to be replaced in school circle, getting quotes.
- Gym open again in circle
- Athletics up and running. Many options. Fall sports done, winter sports starting soon. Athletics has it's own twitter account.
- School running a food drive.
- School running a winter clothing drive.
- Walk-a-thon planned – Mr. Able
- Peace Medal breakfast coming up this Thursday
- Mid Term repots going home this week, honours certificates going home this week too.
- Inclusion- focusing on students' strength & needs of individuals, possibly let parents see slide show at our next meeting
- Equity focusing – looking at certain words in history and explaining connotations of it etc.
- School learning plan – staff writing lunch and learn & line it up with board priorities.

6. Parent engagement – Zoey Heeney

2 parts to this. DVSS parent engagement fund \$500 automatic and PROgrant application process up to \$1000. The ministry provides program funds for specific events to bring parents into school. Last year we had presentation from Woodland Cultural Centre. We can do something else but need suggestions. E.g. game night. Another suggestion is an event at Woodlands itself, or we could provide welcome packages for new parents, or possibly provide snacks/drinks at winter concert. Another suggestion is to do something in Spring inviting parents for next year's school council, those parents already on school councils from the 4 feeder schools or inviting those council members to attend the gr 7/8 info evening. Renu suggested to bring speaker in that can talk about supporting our kid's mental health.

7. Other Business – Zoey Heeney

- Zoey suggested to invite a speaker on Youth mental health and support as an idea for our Parent Engagement event.
- Parent Council representation in attendance at the Teacher Family Night, went well.

Next meeting Jan 17, 2023 at 6:30pm

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:50 pm