

Dundas Valley Secondary School Council Minutes
16 April 2024, 6:30pm
Hybrid Meeting

Present: Jennifer Warren, Nancy Nemeth, Zoey Heeney, Cathy Veldman, Tammy Lombardo, Chloe Deighton, Dian Alexandre, Jennie Feijer

Regrets: Nicole Gregan

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Meeting called to order at 6:36 PM
- Land Acknowledgement: By Dian Alexandre

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

- Cathy Veldman, seconded Zoey Heeney

3. President's Report – Chloe Deighton

- April 11th – Spring Semi Formal – at Carmen's - went very well.
- There is a student council meeting 18th April – discussing doing a Talent Show late May, early June & possibly other small events too.

4. Teacher's Report (Jen Warren)

- Recent PD Day they had a teacher discussion around supporting students' mental health & wellness PD days typically regarding Math & Literacy levels, but now see these are also impacted by loss during Covid of social emotional development which affects their education ability. They considered the cognitive level of kids at these ages and see issues arising based on their ages at the time of Covid lockdowns. Student wellness is closely tied to learning ability. Gr 12 students were in gr 8/9. Gr 11 students were in gr 7/8. Gr 10 students were in gr 6/7. Gr 9 students were in gr 5/6.
- Gr 9 math curriculum just been re-written.
- Zoey asked the question: - Do teachers feel supported, if they notice someone is struggling and want to help, are there resources available? Jen said there is a social worker in the school 2 days a week to support students, she puts them in contact with extra resources after she has assessed the individual's situation. To advocate for her to be in the school more often, parents are encouraged to write to the school board.

5. Principal's Report (By Dian Alexandre)

- Grade 12 Info Session was held in Cafeteria yesterday; shared info about Valedictorian process, what to expect at Commencement, Prom, etc.
- April 18th - Novice Girls Basketball Tournament held at DVSS (all day, both gyms)
- April 22nd & 23rd - The Haunting of Graves Manor Play rehearsals during lunch and after school in the new Black Box Theatre
- April 24th - OFSAA Day in afternoon at DVSS; The Haunting of Graves Manor Play performances in the Black Box Theatre during timeframe 3 and evening at 6:30 PM (ticket info TBD at this time; max audience capacity is 50), also performing on 25th April. HWDSB superintendent is attending.
- April 26th - Mid Term Report Cards sent home via Digital Document Delivery (secure email); The Haunting of Graves Manor Play final performance in the evening at 6:30 PM (ticket info TBD at this time; max audience capacity is 50)

- April 28th – May 4th is Education Week & Mental Health Week
- May 1st - Arts Department Multiple Field Trips: Les Miserable/ROM in Toronto; Beautiful Scars and Workshop at Theatre Aquarius; Art Gallery of Hamilton Curation Workshop
- May 6th - Semester 2 Full Disclosure Day; Music Monday
- May 14th - Commencement Breakfast & Valedictorian Nominee Speeches
- May 16th - Prom at Liuna Station (King George Ballroom) from 5:30 to 10:00 PM
- May 30th - Spring Concert in West Circle Gym from 6:30-8:00 (ticket info TBD)-
- Global Connect Synopsis:
 - Leadership focused on the school community while connecting to the broader community, and incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals (UN initiative – artwork in main foyer under Awards of Excellence)
 - Skill sets acquired from participating in this course aims to include:
 - o Have students develop an understanding of what type of leader they may be.
 - o Learn to work within a group dynamic.
 - o Develop their communication skills.
 - o Make action plans and learn how to best follow through on them.
 - o Support with planning school events
 - o Collect student voice data and disseminate this information.
 - o Make an impact (ie the Leadership Summit they did with SWO Gr 8 students last semester)
 - o Support Grade 8 succession to DVSS
 - o Fundraise to a charitable organization the class votes on
 - o Host clothing drives to support the community in need.

6. By-Law review update

- A few minor adjustments have been made, mostly to be more current as the last by-laws were updated in 2015. Changes made to accommodate Hybrid meetings/voting processes etc. Dian questioned the number of meetings stated per year, we usually have 7, but Dian said it needs to be in line with ministry HWDSB by-laws which states minimum is 4. Wording will be adjusted once we get Dian's full review of changes/ suggestions, so that the document can be updated at the same time. The final draft will be sent to council members by 7th May so that it can be voted on at the 21st May meeting – if member quorum is met.

7. Other Business. Feminine Hygiene products availability. Currently they are only available from the office, they would be more effective and used if placed in the girls' washrooms. Dian has put a request in for the dispensers to be installed.

Next meeting 21 May, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Adjourned @ 7:36 pm