

Dundas Valley Secondary School Council Minutes
Tuesday November 5, 2024 - 6:30pm
Hybrid Meeting

Present Online: Nancy Nemeth, Tamara Navarro, Silvano Zelaya

Present In Person: Zoey Heeney, Cathy Veldman, Crystal Dumitru (DVSS), Jennie Feijer, Kait Hunt, Rebecca Hoo, Adelaide Sadler (student council)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting called to order at 6:31pm. Land Acknowledgement: By Zoey Heeney

2. President's Report (moved to item # 2 as president had dance class) – Adelaide Sadler

- She has been part of various student councils for 5 years and wants to create more leadership opportunities for students. She has formalized a secretary, treasurer and publication team positions.
- Just had events for Halloween, it went well.
- received 60 flower orders - fundraising.
- Started doing spirit weeks. Also have weekday themes e.g. PJ Day

- Upcoming events are winter formal and spring semi formal
- Will do talent show earlier than usual next year to allow more people to participate.
- Planning more senior events, creating a subcommittee to plan these
- Council meets every Wednesday at lunch, has large membership this year

3. Approval of Minutes and Agenda – Process Update:

Previously, minutes were approved at the following meeting, but there are only 4 meetings per year now and minutes need to be posted on the website before the next meeting. It was proposed that Cathy does the minutes and sends them to the executive council and the principal, who will all check accuracy before minutes are sent to council members to approve via email. Once approved Cathy will add who approved the minutes before sending final document to Nancy to post on the school website. Ideally, Cathy will send minutes to the council within 7 days, council to approve within another 7 days.

4. Teacher's Report – Crystal Dumitru (Head of Art & Culture SHSM)

With recent death of Calvin Murray Sinclair, flag was at half-mast at DVSS. He was a Canadian politician who was a member of the Senate, and a First Nations lawyer who served as chairman of the Indian Residential Schools Truth and Reconciliation Commission from 2009 to 2015. We need to ask what is being done at DVSS to participate and be aware of our indigenous heritage. In this light, parents should know there are 3 areas that reflect DVSS participation: Front office has new artwork and displays a dish-with-one-spoon wampum belt, which is easily accessible to touch etc. The anchor chart cabinet is now a truth and reconciliation cabinet. One of the school's 5 vision statements is about truth & reconciliation. It is Treaties week now, currently there is a deep learning happening at school about this. The student achievement wall has areas for Arts, Academics, Athletics & Altruism – option to open opportunities for entire graduating grade to leave something to commemorate their year. The offer was made to parents to give feedback on any subjects they want to hear about from the teacher report going forward.

5. Principal's Report – Kim Collier

Recent PA Day covered the following:

- Anti-racism training
- Scaffolding learning to make it accessible for students with diverse needs including executive functioning challenges.

Overview of our School Annual Plan for DVSS (as it aligns with the Boards' Multi-Year Strategic Plan)

Strategic Directions

- a) Upholding Human Rights, Safety & Well-Being.** We will support all students and staff to feel safe and secure in our classrooms and school communities.

- Tracking and upholding IEP student needs / identifications
- Build staff capacity understanding student cognitive portraits and classroom landscapes
- Implementation of HIIP (High Impact Instructional Practices) that support our neurodiverse students and students with complex learning needs.

- b) Providing Equitable Quality Education.** We will offer equitable quality educational opportunities to improve student engagement, learning and achievement for future-readiness.

- Build staff capacity with CRRP practices for instruction and assessments (high expectations for every student, cultural competence/humility, and critical consciousness)
- Continue to build awareness of personal bias and the impact on our classroom practices and relationships

- c) Collaborating with Students, Families and Communities.** We will build reciprocal relationships and partnerships to enhance access and engagement for students, families, and communities.

- Continue to improve communications with families/caregivers outside of reporting periods which may include gathering community voice for preferred method of communication

- d) Building a Sustainable Education System.** We will adapt to a rapidly changing world through responsible fiscal management, investing equitably in accessible and sustainable facilities, and supporting a robust workforce.

- Allocating budget and facilities projects to create opportunities for every student

- e) Reinforcing Indigenous Educational Wellness and Reconciliation.** We will honour our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation by nurturing respectful and reciprocal relationships among Indigenous Peoples and Treaty Partners, and by cultivating intergenerational healing and wellness in a restorative education system.

- Engage in a Book Club to build staff capacity to create reconciliACTION goals within our school and our classrooms. [*21 Things You Didn't Know About "The Indian Act"* ~ By: Bob Joseph]

Past Events at DVSS include Eco summit, reach for the top, circle square ranch, field trips. Some sports events are wrapping up (cross county etc.)

Sport starting up is snr boys' water polo

Upcoming events – 6 Nov – take your kid to work day – gr 9's only
11 Nov – Remembrance Day assembly
13 Nov – 3 local Dominoes stores–fundraiser to support dance team
20 Nov – Mid-term reports go home
21 Nov – gr 7,8 incoming students open house information session
22 Nov – PA Day
3 Dec – Winter formal
23-29 Jan – Exams
31 Jan – 2nd semester begins

Zoey asked Kim if council can get a list of club activities and fundraisers coming up, so that we know what is happening and can encourage our kids to participate and or/support this.

Zoey stated she knows it can't be posted on schools Instagram but asked if it can be posted in the parent's section/school council page. Nancy and Kim said they can do this, and Zoey said that council will encourage parents to use the website to see this info.

6. PRO Grant

Zoey stated that this is Ministry funding to encourage parent engagement, it's for \$1000. This can be used as a resource for parents and some previous topics covered were teen addiction, mental health (Lindsay George), Woodland Cultural center etc. Applications close 22 Nov 2024. DVSS council suggested focus this year to be on teens and social media/ internet safety.

This year Westdale High and Osler are open to collaborating with DVSS, to combine our resources to get a more sought after/expensive speaker. Possible topics are mental health or internet safety. The PIC (parent involvement committee) approves the applications. One suggestion is online safety from a parent's perspective.

Rebecca said that we are thankful that Westdale Secondary School has graciously offered their venue to host this initiative. Below are some suggestions of speakers researched by Westdale School Council -

- McMaster Professor who speaks about teen mental health (Dr. Jean Clinton <https://drjeanclinton.com/>)
- **Tara McAuley**, UWaterloo prof with grad students in UWaterloo's clinical and psychology program who are eager to put on a free presentation on mental health, tmcauley@uwaterloo.ca
- **Maria Orrego** from Restoration Mental Health & EK parent
- **Dr. Bruce Ferguson** - he speaks about kids/teens internet safety and impact on mental health

- [Mike Shoreman](#), motivational speaker & Westdale grad who is also the subject of the documentary film, [When Hope Breaks Through](#).
- [HOME | Hello Hope Canada](#) – **Aubrey Noronha** – Safe Schools, Mental Health and anti-racism – cost was under \$1,000
- South Meadow had a guest speaker talk about the “invisible load”. Navigating the stress of modern parenthood.
- Any speaker(s) suggestion is welcome, please provide the biography, cost, topic and availability sometime spring as soon as possible to be submitted as a viable option for consideration.

8. Other Business

Rebecca asked about any progress on the restoration of DVSS tennis courts. They are city controlled but a community group is trying to work with school trustees to get it done. There are ongoing meetings regarding this.

Next meeting January 21st, 2025, at 6:30pm

Meeting Adjourned - 7:48 pm