

Minutes from WDHS School Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2016.

In Attendance: Sophie Boers (Co-chair); Karin Lang (Co-chair); Michelle Visca (Principal); Janice Ramolla (Secretary); Jose Vanderkamp; Nicoleta Baciou (Teacher Rep); Alison Morris; Pam Leenders; Dee Shea; Kathy Ness; Andrea Hawkins; Linda Alger; Coreen Heary; Cindy Myers; Michael Collette.

Absent/Regrets: Devyn Kelly (Student Rep); Penny Deathe (Trustee); Dany Paterson; Janice Kwasney; Louise Hooper; Jennifer Clarke-Brophy; Sue Collette

Agenda Item

1. Welcome & Introduction

- All council members welcomed and attendance sheet circulated.

2. Approve Minutes of the prior meeting

- Motion passed to approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting of November 17, 2015.

3. Guest speaker – Mr. Gregoriou speaking about DECA

- Mr. Gregoriou has been on the Board of Directors of DECA (Extra-curricular Business group) for 18 years – volunteer
- He discussed DECA's mission statement including the attaining of "soft skills" transferrable outside business careers.
- 260 Ontario schools involved and about 12000 members
- 23 WDHS students in the group this year
- Ontario students do very well in accounting category
- Broken down into 4 Entrepreneurship categories.
- Involves both written testing and presenting case studies after limited time to prepare (ie individual competitors get 10 minutes to plan then present for 10 minutes in front of judges)
- Any student can be in DECA
- Often the students who join DECA are those that are involved in everything or those that are involved in nothing.
- DECA holds Leadership Training workshops that student have the option of attending
- Planning to take a few students from the group over to AA Greenleaf to do a mini-competition to show grade 8's the DECA group.
- Can be involved in DECA right through University
- Discussed how to reach more students and especially grade 9 and 10 students
 - Possibly visit all feeder schools
 - Will do presentation at August grade 9 orientation day.
- Cost to be in DECA
 - registration is \$45 (includes regional competition)
 - Provincial competition in Toronto \$180 (2 nights at Sheraton)
 - International competition in Texas \$1100 (if qualify)
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4. Student Parliament report – Devyn Kelly

- Devyn was not feeling well and was unable to attend but reported to Sophie by phone that student council is working on Mayday activities, a Spring Dance and a Mental Health focus.

5. Principal's Report – Michelle Visca

- Michelle Visca brought the written Assessment, Evaluation & Reporting document as requested at a previous meeting.
 - Outlines how student grades are determined, penalties for late submission of assignments, punishments for academic dishonesty and plagiarism.
 - Also grades are determined 70% on curriculum learning and 30% on exam or project or some combination of both.
 - Marking assessment is based on “conversation, observation and product”.
 - Academic Dishonesty – can get 0% but might give the student other means to make it up.
- SPARK phys ed program – Initial data from testing is very positive showing increases in working memory, focus, positive behaviours, reading and math fluency.
 - Have decided that all Grade 9's will take the SPARK phys ed next year.
- Will be offering a “Bridge Math” next year for grade 9's that are lagging in certain math skills – They take this in semester 1 and then take applied math in semester 2.

6. Teacher's report – Nicoleta Baci

- Last week option sheet presentations were made to classes – students fill them in on line.
 - Option sheets and activity fee of \$20 are due March 1.
 - Parents must sign a hard copy of the Option Sheet.
- Literacy test for Grade 10 on March 31.
 - Ms. Morisson is going into classes to discuss questions/strategy.
 - Lunch hour sessions to help prepare students are being offered Feb. 29, Mar 1, 2, 3 and can sign up online.
 - **Action Item: Karin/Sophie will post on FB page**
 - **Action Item: Karin offered help with hall monitors on literacy testing day.**
 - Plan is to take a SPARK approach to literacy test by providing students with physical activity and nutrition during the test.
- HWDSB is doing an online survey concerning Community Hours and parents can go on website and fill out until March 2.
- Feb 19 – Mr. Robson is taking the school bands to the Golden Horseshoe Festival at Redeemer College in Ancaster.
- Week of Feb 15 – Outbound students at Wanakita Camp.
- Feb 29 and March 1 – Alpine competition at Blue Mountain.
- Feb 18 – Boys Hockey championship game at 1 pm at Mountain Arena (WDHS vs. Sherwood) Students allowed to pay \$2 for a “buyout” to take a bus to the arena and cheer on the team.
- Next 2 weekends, 5 students from grade 11 Biology are going to McMaster University to learn about the medical program.

7. Parent Engagement – Speaker Program

- Sub-committee will be meeting after this meeting to finalize plans for the evening.
- Will consider using the Parent Engagement grant of \$500 to supplement the funds granted to the Parent Information Evening if needed.

8. Teacher Appreciation – Fundraising opportunities – Silent Auction

- **Action Item – Karin/Sophie to put a request for auction items on FB page.**
- Discussed possibility of each council member donating a bottle of wine to put together a few “wine” gift baskets for the auction.

9. Update on kids crossing Parkside

- A high functioning cross walk is planned for Cole St. and Parkside.

10. Open Forum

- PIC Report (Jose Vanderkamp – WDHS rep)
 - Oct. meeting
 - Discussed the new Health and Phys Ed curriculum
 - Replaced a very old curriculum
 - Generally agreed that rather than parents opting to exclude their children from the curriculum (which parents are permitted to do but student would need to do something else in lieu) it would be better for parents to discuss concepts with children BEFORE they are taught at the school.
 - Dec. meeting
 - Discussed tools to deal with the digital age.
 - Computers, websites
 - Updated Career Cruising
 - HUB – students get homework and submit assignments online.
 - Old Parent Assist – does not work with the new Student Info System.
 - Mental Health – will be a new part of the HWDSB website but not live yet.
 - Jose unable to attend any more meetings due to job conflict.
 - Cindy Myers will try to attend these meetings which are the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30.
- Michael Collette from the Rotary Club attended our meeting as a Community Rep and is looking for a deserving student to send to Ottawa for a short trip to learn about government.
 - He will send a blurb to Michelle who will do an announcement and give a link to the online application
 - **Action Item – Karin will put on FB page.**
- Career Cruising – IPP (Individual Pathway Plan) is done by students online
 - Mr. Zucholo may be available during Parent/Teacher interviews to do IPP’s with Grade 11’s and parents.
- **NEXT MEETING – MARCH 22, 2016 AT 6:30 PM**