

## **Minutes from WDHS School Council Meeting: Wednesday, March 30, 2016.**

**In Attendance:** Sophie Boers (Co-chair); Karin Lang (Co-chair); Michelle Visca (Principal); Janice Ramolla (Secretary); Devyn Kelly (Student Rep); Alison Morris; Penny Deathe (Trustee); Jennifer Clarke-Brophy; Kathy Ness; Janice Kwasney; Marsha Terstegee; Sue Collette; Louise Hooper; Ian Macleod; Michael Collette; Evan Smith (ConneXions teacher).

**Absent/Regrets:** Nicoleta Baciu (Teacher Rep); Pam Leenders

### **Agenda Item**

#### **1. Welcome & Introduction**

- All council members welcomed and attendance sheet circulated.

#### **2. Approve Minutes of the prior meeting**

- Motion passed (Kathy Ness, Jennifer Clarke-Brophy) to approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting of February 16, 2016.

#### **3. Guest speaker – Mr. Evan Smith speaking about ConneXions**

- Mr. Smith used to teach in the oil patch in Venezuela where he learned Spanish and became very interested in the culture.
- Then came to HWDSB and was involved in international trips to Peru (teacher based) and became very interested in social justice issues.
- ConneXions is a 3 credit grade 12 program (English, Geography, Interdisciplinary Studies)
- Need about 16-20 students to run the program.
- Students complete a major project – write a book for elementary level students involving social justice issues.
- Students do a “spoken word” speech to improve presentation skills.
- Students go to Costa Rica and billet with a local family for 8 days.
  - Host family shares their culture
  - Students “beautify” the community while they are there (ie gardening, painting)
- Were unable to run the program last year as didn’t have enough applicants.
- More girls than boys tend to be interested in the program
- Difficult to fit into grade 12 if student needs sciences for post secondary plans but can be done if plan early.
- Discussed making students in grades 9 and 10 aware of the program so interested students can carefully plan courses to make ConneXions possible.

#### **4. Community Representative – Michael Collette – Rotary Club**

- Discussed Rotary Club’s Slapshot program.
  - Student Leadership Awards Program for Students High on Training.
  - A weekend of personal and leadership development activities for high school student leaders 15-18 years old.
  - Each Rotary Club can register up to 5 students.

- Rotary Club (organizers of the Waterdown Ribfest) will be allowing groups/teams to make \$ during Ribfest by having 2 adults from groups/teams work a 5 hour shift in parking area for \$250 (ie baseball coaches)
- Discussed bringing these student opportunities (Youth Exchange Program, Slapshot Program etc.) to council earlier so there is more lead time for students to apply/register for these opportunities.
- Discussed using local newspaper to communicate these opportunities but Rotary Club feels sending information to the schools works better.

## 5. Student Parliament report – Devyn Kelly

- April 21 - Spring formal (dance for all grades) – proceeds from the formal to May Day events on May 13.
- April 25-29 – Spirit Week
  - Tacky tourist day
  - Jersey day
  - Twin day
  - Tie dye day
  - Soccer tournament against German exchange students.
- May 13 - May Day – inflatables, popcorn/cotton candy/ice cream truck/soccer & baseball tournaments/dodgeball tournament.
- May 20 – Prom Night
  - Theme this year “Midnight in Manhattan” – building a cityscape
  - Requested volunteers from Council to help set up on day of prom
    - Council agreed to help and requested Devyn send an email closer to the date.

## 6. Principal’s Report – Michelle Visca

- March 31 – Literacy test for grade 10’s – test conducted in the morning and then full set of shortened classes to complete the full day.
- Vaccine letters are being mailed from Public Health (not from the school) to those homes where the medical records indicate vaccination is required.
  - As of April 1, any student without proof of up to date vaccines is automatically suspended.
- April 15 will be a new PA Day – as a result of recent contract negotiations.
  - Teachers will be spending time discussing Grade 9 ipad rollout and enquiry based learning.
- Staffing next year
  - All department heads positions expire this year and will be reducing the number of department heads.
    - Currently principals are interviewing for these positions.
  - Changes in department heads will affect staffing.
  - Enrollment is down for next year to 1126 (from 1174 last year)
  - Enrollment in grade 9 from feeder schools for next year is 195 (from 285 last year)
- Summer school requirements have been changed by the Board.

- Have removed the 2 week (55 hour) upgrade option.
- Will only have the 4 week (110 hour) full course repeat option.

#### **7. Teacher's report – Nicoleta Baci**

- Please refer to Attachment 1 for the Teacher's Report.

#### **8. Parent Engagement – Speaker Program – debriefing**

- Disappointing attendance
- Feedback from those that attended was very positive
- Suggestion made that attendance may grow over the years as parents become aware of this evening.
- Suggestions for future years
  - offer dinner
  - hold event at a pub
  - offer breakfast sessions
- Discussed how to spend the annual automatic \$500 Parent Involvement grant
  - Decided to bring Cheryl Bradshaw, a councillor at Guelph University and author, to discuss with parents the topic “Preparing your Child Mentally for Post Secondary”
  - Penny Deathe to make contact and find out her availability.
  - Janice Ramolla to speak to Izzy's restaurant in Waterdown about using their premises to hold this event on a Monday in May.

#### **9. Silent Auction – Sophie/Kathy**

- Made \$515.00 from the Silent Auction held at the Parent Information Evening to be used for the Teacher Appreciation Luncheon.

#### **10. Teacher Appreciation – Volunteers needed**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> annual teacher appreciation luncheon
- Will be held on Tuesday June 28 at 11:30 after the last exam.

#### **11. Pro Grant Update**

- Alison Morris to writeup application for Pro Grant to get funding to hold another Parent Information Evening.
- Application must be submitted by May 29.

#### **12. Open Forum**

- Karin, Sophie met with Office Administrator and a teacher about changes to the school website.
  - Karin and Sophie want council members to go on the website in a few weeks and see if it is easy to use and find things.
  - Sophie will send an email when the website is ready to be tested.
  - One suggestion was to include a school specific calendar as a link.
- Penny is going to a “Family of Schools Ward Information Night”
  - All school in the ward and their council reps meet with the Board for discussions

- Penny asked that each school come up with 3 topics of concern
  - Discussed the following topics
    - Drugs and Alcohol
    - Parent Engagement
    - Mental Health
    - New technology focus of the school
    - Inclement Weather policy
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- **NEXT MEETING – APRIL 19, 2016 AT 6:30 PM**

## Attachment 1 - Teacher's Report

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The junior and senior bands performed at the Golden Horseshoe Music Festival in Ancaster recently. They performed very challenging music and came back with silver (junior) and bronze (senior).
- Snowboarding & alpine skiing team went to OFSAA - at Beaver Valley From the OFSAA alpine event.

Our boys team placed 6/15 slalom and 7/15 Giant slalom with Alex Wylie having a 11th place finish. Our ladies didn't fair as well placing 10/13 in Giant slalom.

Our hopeful Bella Wylie wiped out on her second run and was in 6th before the wipeout. The heroic part of the story is our 4th skier, Jenny Fu, who has a fractured shoulder and just had to get down the hill for us to have a chance - she did it!

Our best place for the women was Ali Nagatakiya in 30th/72 –

Our girls hockey team won the Division 1 City Championship for the first time in 5 years.

- A successful Parent – Teacher night as well
- Preliminary reports were sent home with students on Monday March 7 (distributed during period 5). Anyone without a period 5 class should have received their reports on March 8<sup>th</sup> during period 1.
- Music department fundraised for their upcoming Chicago trip (sold brownies).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 9 – 18** - Student exchange trip to Germany (contact: Mrs. Popovich). 11 of our students gonig to Germany . The German students will be coming to Canada in April and stay with the families they hosted in Germany.

***Question from Mrs. Anita Bates: If any council members would would like to contribute anything Canadian for our visitors in April please let us know.***

**March 22** - The M.A.D.D. assembly is being sponsored this year by the L.C.B.O. and we are inviting our grade 11 & 12 period 5 classes down to see it. (contact: Mrs. Morrison)

**March 22** - A O.V.A. beach clinic will run after school. Coaches from the Ontario Volleyball Association Beach High Performance facility are coming into Waterdown to run 4 after school training camps

starting March 22. Students will learn physical literacy and beach skills, but playing indoors. (contact: Mr. M. Ongley)

**March 24** - Snowboarding OFSAA - Blue Mountain - (contact: Mrs. J. Maclsaac)

**March 31** – grade 10 OSSLT – 8:30-11:30. (main contact: Mrs. Morrison)

The following individuals volunteered so far to help supervise the hallways/breakfast so far: Dany Paterson, Karin Lang, Janice Ramolla and Penny Deathe. Thank you for your support! Please report to the main office upon arrival and you will be directed to correct location.

**April 1** - The senior band will be performing at the HWDSB band festival in the morning.

**April 5** – The Outbound students are participating in a 3-day Wilderness First Aid course delivered by the professionals, instructed by WILDERNESS MEDICAL ASSOCIATES CANADA (WMA Canada Limited). This is an excellent certification for our students to acquire for their future and also secures safe travels throughout our many experiential outings. (contact: Jan Pearson)

**April 12** – Dance Competition will be an all-day event. (contact: Mrs. Richardson)

**April 21 – 28** – DECA internationals going to Nashville, TN. (contact: Mr. Gregoriou)

**April 26** – The Outbound class is doing a Creek Testing. Outbound Program investigates the health of three local aquatic ecosystems at different sites: Grindstone Creek, Spencer Creek, Red Hill Creek. They test for chemical parameters such as levels of CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, Chlorides, Alkalinity, Hardness and other nutrients. They also examine biotic indexes found within the creek like insects & fish. All of this data allows students to analyze and interpret the health of our local aquatic ecosystems. If any community members are interested in viewing our recent winter trip photos from Camp Wanakita, please ask Mr. Jan Pearson to share through his google account: [jpearson@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:jpearson@hwdsb.on.ca)

**March and April** – numerous hockey, volleyball, Water Polo, badminton games and tournaments

**May 6** - Spring Concert is scheduled for the evening.

**May 13** – Bands going to Chicago.