

Minutes from WDHS School Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 19, 2017

In Attendance: Sophie Boers (Co-chair); Karin Lang (Co-chair); Janice Ramolla (Secretary); Brent Monkley (Vice Principal); Derek Zuccolo; Alison Smoke (Student Rep), Aylissa Tom (Student Rep); Alyson Johnson; Tracy Smoke; Janice Kwasney; Emily Vella; Lianne Broughton; Leanne Barlow; Jennifer Clarke-Brophy; Michael Collette (Rotary rep); Marsha TerSteege; Kimi Hoefs; Brenda Folk; Louise Hooper; Penny Deathe (Trustee); Carl Galloway; Jennifer McPherson; GiNESSA Cetra-McColl; Jose Vanderkamp.

Absent/Regrets: Wanda Bielak (Principal); Linda Fleming.

Agenda Item

1. Welcome & Introduction

- All council members welcomed.
- Went around the table and each attendee introduced themselves and their children attending WDHS.

2. Approve Minutes of the prior meeting

- Motion passed to approve the Minutes of the prior Council Meeting of June 20, 2017 (Motion from Jennifer/Alison).

3. Elections

- Co-chairs Karin Lang and Sophie Boers were re-elected (acclaimed) for another year. (Motion from Louise/Brenda)
- Secretary Janice Ramolla was re-elected (acclaimed) for another year. (Motion from Louise/Lianne)

4. Community Representative – Michael Collette

- Food4Kids
 - Rotary Club is holding a **Brunch on September 23 9:30 am – 1:00 pm** to raise money for Food4Kids. (Handout)
 - Food4Kids is a Hamilton food program being introduced at Mary Hopkins Elementary School that provides food for students who have been identified as having limited or no arrangements for food on the weekends.
 - 15 students have been identified and food will be sent home with those students on Thursday.
 - Cost of this program for Mary Hopkins is about \$8000 for the year.
 - Hoping to raise approximately \$4000 with 2 brunches planned and the rest is raised at Ribfest and contributed by the other Rotary Club in the area.
- Rotary Club Leadership programs
 - Will bring more information on these programs to upcoming council meetings.

5. Student Parliament report – Alison Smoke

- Current focus is on Homecoming Week October 10-14
 - Tues – Warrior Day
 - Wed – Spirit Day
 - Thurs – Football Day
 - Fri – Dance
- Student council wants to get more involved in the community – beginning this effort this Thursday by picking weeds around the bleachers.
- Going to try to make the school mascot more visible.
- Will be doing a survey with students primarily to assess how students feel about student parliament and the events they organize.
- New structure of student parliament this year – more similar to the Canadian party system.
- One parent pointed out that grade 12's graduating should not be allowed to vote for student parliament since they won't be at the school the following year.

6. Principal's Report – Brent Monkley

- Wanda Bielak sent her regrets. She continues to be unable to attend due to the effects of a concussion.
- A retired principal, Virginia McCullough, is temporarily helping out for Ms. Bielak.
- Student population
 - Board estimate in spring - 1098
 - Current Actual – 1236
 - Have brought on board several more teachers and all students are now timetabled.
 - # of students doing a 5th year is similar to previous years.
- Held assemblies last week to communicate expectations, introduce Student Services staff etc.
- Going to deal with school and neighbourhood concerns with vaping/smoking in the stairs in the back of the school property.
- Terry Fox Fundraiser coming up. Goal is to raise \$2500 (approx. \$2 per student).
- Will try to improve the sound quality of the synervice messages.
- Gr 9 iPad rollout – maybe have someone come to future council meeting to explain iPads/sites/security.
- A parent asked about how students attendance is monitored. Teachers/staff/parents work together to ensure students attend classes.
- Road construction on Parkside is ongoing and will last several months.
- School continuing to focus on both student achievement and wellbeing.
 - Trying to improve EQAO scores – focus on Gr. 9 applied math where only 46% are at or above the provincial standard.
 - School has a social worker, Daryl Byers, at the school all day every Tuesday.
 - School has a public health nurse with 4 nursing students from Mac at the school all day every Tuesday.

- PA Day
 - Focus on student achievement.
 - Teachers to bring in data.
 - Forming strategies for at risk students.
- Department Improvement Plans and Fundraising Plans will be upcoming.
- Currently have 3 LTO's filling in for full time teachers taking time off.
- New Attendance person – Ms. Dubek.

- Protocol for student/parent addressing classroom concerns
 - 1st – go to teacher
 - 2nd – go to guidance/student services
 - 3rd – go to VP
 - 4th – go to Principal
- New procedures for field trips and athletics which makes it more complicated but necessary.
- Michael Collette (Rotary Club rep) stated that Rotary Club would likely be prepared to help out students in financial need for field trips and athletics.
- Parent Volunteering – must have a vulnerable sector police check completed. Even for those parents driving students to athletic events.
- Michael Collette (Rotary Club rep) asked what is being done to address bullying at the school.
 - Tip Off (anonymous reporting system) remains in place.
 - Efforts to communicate to students that they NEED to report cases of bullying.
 - Communicating to students the importance of respecting others.
- Michael Collette (Rotary Club rep) relayed that school should speak with him about Rotary Club bursaries when get to that point in the year.
- There is a football team this year and the first home game is this Thursday.

7. Teachers Report

- Clubs/Teams are up and running and include (among others)
 - Tennis
 - Jr. and Sr. Band
 - Improv
 - Baseball
 - Football
 - Spoken Word
 - DECA Sr. Basketball
 - Soccer
- Parent Interviews
 - will continue to look for ways to keep on time.
 - Maybe use a bell/timer and communicate it well.
- Grade 9's
 - Grade 9 Day – this Thursday at Christie.
 - Friendship Room (to be renamed) – for Gr. 9's every period 4.
 - iPad rollout for gr. 9's completed.

- IPP's (Individual Pathways Plan) set up for Gr. 9's.
- Sept 15 – posted all Gr. 12 info for those planning post secondary next year.
- Parent Portal is up and running
 - Ms. Kennedy can provide parents with username and password.
- Parent Council was asked to think about the best way to communicate with parents
 - Synervoice
 - Text – Remind app
 - Email
 - Website
- Volunteer hours can be reported digitally now.

8. School Trustee Report – Penny Deathe

- Bus transport (driver shortages) – still not resolved.
- Temporary closure of Parkside Dr. will further affect transport times.
 - For more information on the upgrades planned for Parkside, refer to Judy Partridge's (councilor) web page.
- Penny going to an Ontario-wide Board meeting to discuss the implications of the Cannabis Act and what to put into the school curriculum.
- HC-HY
 - Wellness HUB
 - Pilot project at WDHS has been approved by the Board and school will be working with Public Health
 - Intent is to look at relationships and how to reduce anxiety and depression.
 - Phase 1 is to form focus groups to brainstorm ideas with students, staff, parents.
 - HC-HY Flamborough Paint Challenge last June
 - Penny thanked all participants and volunteer for a very successful event
 - Raised \$2700 for the purchase of 500 backpacks for kids in need.
 - Plan to have a 2nd annual Paint Challenge but have yet to determine what organization to raise money for this year.

9. PIC Update – Jose

- PIC is Parent Involvement Committee which is an advisory group to the board and the trustees and is made up of representatives from each school's Parent Council across the Board.
- Meet every second Tuesday of the month.
- This year the committee has 2 student representatives (trustees).
- This is Jose's last year on council so is looking for someone to take over the PIC job.
 - Jose will need help attending meetings after December.
 - Lianne has agreed to discuss with Jose the possibility of helping out.
- Next PIC meeting is October 10.
- School representative on PIC is required to attend 8 of 10 meetings.

10. BBQ wrap-up

- Last June's Staff Appreciation BBQ was very successful.

11. Bake Sale – Parent Interview night – Parent Council Scholarship

- October 19 is parent interview night and will have a bake sale again to raise money for the Staff Appreciation BBQ.
- Last year only held bake sale during one of the interview nights so if have bake sale during both interview nights this year, Co-Chairs hoping to raise enough money to start offering a Parent Council Scholarship.

12. Gardening

- Gardens flanking the front doors of the school are badly in need of care.
- Proposal to put together a gardening committee to tend the garden.
- Will discuss with student council.
- Saturday September 30 is tentatively the first date to meet to begin the work
 - Jose will ask for donated mulch
 - Penny will talk to Wilf Arnott – a BIA member who has done a lot of area gardens.

13. Open Forum

- No items

- **NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY OCTOBER 17, 2017 AT 6:30 PM**