

Minutes from WDHS School Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 20, 2018

In Attendance: Sophie Boers (Co-chair); Karin Lang (Co-chair); Janice Ramolla (Secretary); Gail Cipriani (Acting Principal); Alison Smoke (Student Rep); Dave Delville (Teacher Rep); Jennifer Clarke-Brophy; Lianne Broughton; Michael Collette (Rotary rep); Marsha Ter Steege; Penny Deathe (Trustee); Carl Galloway; Jennifer Vince; Tracy Smoke; Jose Vanderkamp; Brenda Marriott.

Absent/Regrets: Wanda Bielak (Principal); Ginessa Cetra-McColl; Brenda Folk; Louise Hooper.

Agenda Item

1. Welcome & Introduction

- All council members welcomed.

2. Approve Minutes of the prior meeting

- Motion passed to approve the Minutes of the prior Council Meeting of November 21 2017 (Motion by Jennifer/Michael).
- Mr. Delville confirmed that he will be the teacher rep on council and not Ms. Kindree (she has left WDHS).

3. Community Representative – Michael Collette

- Provided an update on leadership programs/courses outlined by Kevin Smoke, Rotary member in charge of youth services, at the last council meeting in November
 - Adventures in Leadership
 - Travel to Ottawa, attend parliament, participate in “mock parliament”
 - Deadline this Friday (Feb. 23)
 - Youth Exchange Program
 - Have 2 grade 10 exchange students from WDHS so will be bringing in 2 exchange students and looking for host homes.
 - Slapshot
 - 15-18 year olds
 - Leadership training for 100 students in Ancaster over one weekend next April.
 - Still looking for 4 students from WDHS to attend.
 - RYLA – Rotary Youth Leadership Awards – programs for older youth (ages 19-25).
- Rotary Club is looking for support for “KIDSROCK” program
 - Part of Ribfest.
 - Musical youth to compete in a contest and winner will play at Ribfest
 - Open to anyone in high school
 - Support needed for organization, contest location etc.

- Michael agreed to resend the information on these programs to the Principal/ Council Chairs.
- Michael reported \$3000 was raised by Secret Santas
- In community, Rotary looking at building affordable housing – details will be released in an upcoming Flamborough Review article.
- Rotary Club is available to help with any students in need of financial help for the Grad.
 - Council Chairs to email Derek Zuccolo to relay this offer.

4. Encounters with Canada – Nicole Vince

- Nicole Vince is a student at WDHS and came to tonight’s meeting to communicate her experience taking part in a government run program called Encounters with Canada.
- Provided a handout giving some details of the program
- This program allows students age 14-17 to spend an adventure-filled week in Ottawa.
- Students can choose from 14 different theme weeks.
- Nicole chose “Canada Remembers” week which ended on Remembrance Day.
- Several hundred teachers from across Canada attend every year to help as teacher-monitors.
- Nicole wanted to share her experience because she had fun and learned so much that she wanted to make sure other students heard about this opportunity.
- Council Chairs to put a link to the website on the school facebook page. The link is <https://www.ewc-rdc.ca/pub/en>.

5. Student Parliament report – Alison Smoke

- In early stages of planning another dance.
- Would like to do something around mental health.
- Spirit Wear is primarily done – logo issues are resolved.
- Karin suggested that Student Council consider participating in the Prom Project again this year.
 - Alison agreed and will take that suggestion to Student Council.
- Tentative date for Prom is Friday May 11.

6. Principal’s Report – Gail Cipriani

- Ms. Cipriani is the new acting principal.
- Mr. Flossman recently won the Governor General’s Award
- Mr. Tidridge was recently awarded a Meritorious Service Medal for his work on Indigenous Peoples in Canada awareness and issues.
- WDHS has applied for a SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major) – Business program. Will be a 2 year program of courses, co op option etc for special recognition upon graduation.
- Reinstating a “Breakfast or Lunch of Champions” this year and recognizing learning skills improvement.
- WDHS has 56 “Year 5” students this year and 40 of the 56 have already achieved the required graduation credits – excellent result relative to other schools.

- Week of February 12 – Option sheets are being done with the guidance office.
- Courses for next year must be input to Student Portal/Career Cruising by March 2.
- March 9 – Preliminary reports will be sent home with students.
- March 22 – Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Board is looking for parent feedback on the draft Parent Engagement Policy by March 19. The link is https://hwdsb.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d6eEol2oDLJyqO1.
- Board is currently revising its mental health strategy including the training of a mental health rep in each school in April.
- Principal handed out the WDHS School Plan.
 - After giving the council a few minutes to review this document, Karin proposed tabling discussion of the document until the next meeting to give all members time to read this detailed document thoroughly.
 - A council member asked a question about school strategy around use of technology and a short discussion followed about digital citizenship, cyberbullying, and managing technology in the classroom.
 - Penny Deathe (Trustee) added that this issue is top of mind with the Board and is the topic of intense discussion around managing technology while preparing teens for post-secondary.
 - PA Day March 2 to reflect on where departments are on the school plan.
 - The Board has directed that School Councils are to be involved in the School Plan.

7. Teachers Report – David Delville

- Despite all the stress and disruption due to the administration uncertainty, the VP's, Admin team and teachers have been great.

8. Board/HC-HY update – Penny Deathe

- Penny is encouraging parents to fill out the Board's Parent Voice Survey and assures us that these surveys are used to help determine Board policy. The link is https://hwdsb.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3TKK1aKCPgO8e3j.
- Board has a communication team and has a new Director of Communication.
- City of Hamilton is developing a "Youth Strategy" to improve communication with youth and provide an infrastructure to support youth.
 - Waterdown/Flamborough community is now being included in this plan.
- HC-HY – Paint Challenge
 - Penny distributed a few flyers detailing the race scheduled for June 27, 2018
- HC-HY – Hub Concept to help students plan their future.
 - Handout distributed
 - HC-HY conducted recent focus groups with high school students and determined there was anxiety and uncertainty about their future.

- HC-HY surveys of teens determined low levels of certain of the Developmental Assets important for succeeding in the future.
- Hub concept will be a physical location and consist of members from the local community (school, businesses, social services) to provide mentoring, programs, resources, information, employment services, and supports to youth aged 12-24 and their families. The Hub will also host workshops and guest speakers to provide guidance on choosing careers, building resumes, building skills.

9. PIC Update – Lianne Broughton

- Further to last month’s PRO Grant suggestion to consider the idea of showing the movie “Screenagers” to our community through the use of the PRO Grant, Lianne and Sophie went to watch a screening at Sherwood Secondary School in November.
 - Lianne and Sophie found it useful, current, and thought provoking.
- PIC Meeting
 - Promoting Parent Portal
 - Putting “modules” on PIC website to help councils with various things such as conducting meetings, creating bi-laws etc.
 - Focus was primarily on programs for inner city elementary students.
 - Lianne to provide outline of programs to Karin and will be put on Facebook page.

10. What’s Your Path/PRO Grant Event

- Janice to email the subcommittee members to arrange the first meeting to plan this event.
- Principal mentioned an excellent speaker on the subject of digital responsibility, Jennifer Casa Todd.
- Discussion at first meeting to include the possibility of showing the Screenagers movie.

11. Hockey Fundraiser

- Despite significant marketing efforts, Parent Council was unable to sell any tickets to the hockey event detailed in the last council minutes.
 - Most likely reason for the lack of sales was the fact that the game was on the weekend in the middle of final exams.

12. Bake Sale

- Organizing subcommittee members (Brenda, Louise, Ginessa) were not able to attend tonight’s meeting.
- Bake sale will be on March 22 during Parent-Teacher interviews.
- Will need people to bake, to donate drinks (water, coffee, Gatorade, juice), and to help during the evening.
- Will ask Brenda to get the order form for drinks for the teachers delivered to Ms. Cipriani prior to the next PA day on March 2.

13. School Website

- Minutes of council meetings are not being posted on the school website.
- Janice to send copies of all council minutes to the principal and she will ensure they get posted.

14. Open Forum

- Year End BBQ will be around June 28
 - Prior year organizer is no longer on council so need a new coordinator.
 - Sophie has all the shopping lists
 - Yearbook is underway
 - \$44.95 for earlybird orders.
 - Girls Breakfast
 - Organized by the Girls Respect Group at WDHS and got a small grant.
 - Need help organizing, need speakers.
 - Michael Collette (Rotary Club) offered to provide financial help if needed.
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- **NEXT MEETING – TUESDAY MARCH 20, 2018 AT 6:30 PM**