

**WATERDOWN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes – November 23, 2021, 6:00 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction

In attendance: Alison Morris (co-chair), Lianne Broughton (co-chair), Jonathan Schinkel (Vice-Principal), Mike McClymont (teacher Math), Jennifer Vince (secretary for the meeting), Tracey Hood, Ellie Millard, Cheryl Gaspar, Sudan Cashin

Regrets: Suzie Larochelle, Penny Deathe (Trustee) David Delville (Teacher Representative), Michael Colette (Community Representative), Don Pente (Acting Principal)

2. Approve minutes of prior meeting

Minutes were approved by Lianne Broughton (first) Tracey Hood

3. Elections – secretary

Tracey Hood has volunteered to be the secretary for the February 22nd meeting. Members are asked to consider stepping forward to share this role. We only have 3 remaining meetings in March, April and May. As it seems we might not find a permanent Secretary for the remainder of the 2021/2022 school year, we would very much appreciate if anyone who hasn't already done so could please volunteer to take the minutes for one or more of these meetings. Please reply to Lianne or Alison to confirm and indicate which month you will be able to take the minutes.

4. Community Representative – Michael Collette regrets –sent notes.

Food for Kids program is doing well with 19 kids now at elementary schools. 3 at the WDHS.

If students are in need consideration from funding can take a bit of time to be processed. Always happy to help students.

Drive through Santa this weekend – November 27-28th.

5. Guest Speaker – Mike McClymont – Math Dept Head.

Mr. McClymont talked about destreamed grade 9 math. During the first semester in September and October there was a wide range of students. New curriculum was introduced by the Province and they were not able to get through it all. Students wrote an EQAO test and over 70% achieved provincial standard.

In grade 9 Math at WDHS there is a total of 12 classes. Lower numbers of 24 to keep it smaller. The content is a mix of both academic and applied. The goal is success for everyone. Grade 9 math was taught differently this time with a spiral approach which uses 3 passes at all concepts. Mr. McClymont thinks it helped the weaker students. However, teachers found it

challenging to teach to one level especially in the quadmester. There is a good group of teachers who are doing this with the grade 9's.

Is there support for the weaker students:

- [tvomathify.com](https://www.tvomathify.com)
- [edu.gov.on .ca](https://www.edu.gov.on.ca) Tutoring program for students. Live homework service grade 7 need their OEN number Live chat room with a real teacher and the teacher will walk them through it.
- [ixl.ca](https://www.ixl.com) JK to grade 12. Go through 20 practice questions for every 24 hours. If you get it wrong they will give you the answer.
- <https://www.wolframalpha.com/> Wolframalpha digital computer showing the step by step. Paid program though -\$10.00 app.
- Support in the school – math office and the Resource room is also available. (In the past there were student tutors too but due to Covid it is not running this year.)

This year there was a difference in the EQUAO scores. There are several reasons for this. Sample size is smaller with only 24 kids. Usually 250 students. As well, the test is different than in the past. Now only 50 multiple choice questions and only 26 questions are marked.

Grade 10 Math – streamed but both curriculums will change to reflect the destreamed grade 9's next year. If students need help picking which class for next year please talk to guidance teacher or math teacher.

Grade 11 and 12 – taking out some parts of the curriculum are being dropped because it is too hard to get through all of the material during the quadmester. For example took out compound interest in grade 11 U because it isn't covered in grade 12.

A question was asked if any consideration for next year of timing of math classes with quadmesters. Answer: Teachers always back fill each course and review what was covered in the previous grade. As we see need teachers will slow down in some areas to make sure they get it.

Math contest U of Waterloo for grade 9/10/11/12. Another one in February for grade 9/10/11 and in the spring for grade 12.

Piggy backing Math – Having Math consistently throughout the year is a good idea but you have to have time in your timetable. (Taking an Applied course then an Academic course.)

6. Student Report

Solid representatives: Maha Bhat, Madison Stainton, and Claudia Lopez Diaz

Madison Stainton - Coat drive is being held now through the first week or so of December. The coats are going to Westley Urban Ministry. Someone from Solid will be at a chimney bin in the front atrium from 8 to 8:30. Each donation gets a raffle ticket with a 1 in 4 chance of winning a

gift basket. All donations sit in the basket for 3 days for Covid. Any coats or hoodies (child size too) not hats or mitts.

Question – has it been put on the announcements and on Facebook?

Claudia Lopez Diaz - Solid student in charge of organization for differences. They want to bring awareness to causes. In September they created posters for Every Child Matters. Looking into raising money for women in other countries. Mr. Smith is assisting with an art project for where there are flags of every country represented in the school put up.

Jump (Justice – Inspired) Anti bullying week November 21-27 advocating for understanding. May Mental health week.

STEM – Women in Science. Ms. Bullock

Maha Bhat – Asked student to send in countries that they are connected to and the school will buy that flag and put them up in the cafeteria. New club the Muslim Student Association. October was Islam heritage month – ask questions - win lunch. Friday prayer – dedicated room not just for Muslim to use. Maha said that she found it easy to make new friends and lots of opportunities and clubs.

7. Vice Principal's Report

- Principal's Council – accepting application until the end of November. Student leadership opportunity, rotating chairs , once monthly, diverse representation. Likely start up December or January
- SACHA Update – Miranda Juliage, is doing 2 or 3 presentations every morning. Around the topic consent including the definition of, what happens if something goes wrong and pathways of care. She spoke at the staff meeting as well and covered several topics. How do we support students around an incident? Digital areas for students to contribute and get help.
- PA Day Nov 26 – Mental Health and wellbeing. Antiracism and Anti – discrimination. IEP's – adjustments made to help teachers teach students. This includes ESL students – how to better serve them.
- Introduce New School Annual Planning – focus on underserved, identifying groups and how to plan for them. Get started on helping the underserved. Active strategies to help. Good chance to get together with staff.
- All grade 9 classes will be destreamed next year. Ministry will be writing new curriculum for all of these. Science 1W, English 1D, Geography 1D , French 1D (no applied classes). English 1L is still available for some students. Science 1W is academic. 10 French is for people who are new to Canada and don't have the hours of French to get the 1D.
- OSSLT Update – Grade 11's write November 23/24th. All wrote part 1. Completely digital. Grade 10's will write in the spring. The Ministry changed the test and part 1 is multiple choice and part 2 is short answer based on reading.

- Covid update. Morning screen verification no longer checked. Lockers will be available in Quad 2.
- Multiple lunch entry times. Go out and come back by 10:50 or 11:50. Otherwise have to be outside the school.
- Indoor spectators for playoff games ticketing system - allowing for play off games.
- Girls junior Basketball won for the city of Hamilton! Went to SOSSA and unfortunately, lost. Well done ladies!!!
- Semesters – still not announced by HWDSB but announced by the province.
- Bullying Awareness and Prevention week (November 21-27). During afternoon classes for 30 minutes students and teachers will discuss. What is power? What is Bullying? What to do if I am being bullied?
- School activities are up and running – look a bit different. The following clubs are running this fall. www.hwdsb.on.ca/waterdown

Athletic Council

DECA

Solid – Positive Space and Girls

Jump

Music Executive

Programming and Coding Club

Poetry club

Newspaper

All Bands

All Sports

Leanne asked about the year book committee and what could happen. Only one opportunity to get pictures of these moments in time. Mr. Schinkel will talk about at principal's council.

8. Teacher's Report

David Delville sends his regrets. Many of the teachers are stressed and hopeful of a full semester in February.

9. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) update

Talked about the board structure - represent rural / city and the advantages and disadvantages of each. Lianne Broughton provided update from the last meeting – main topic of discussion was the Pro Grant and looking at how funds will be disbursed this year. PIC members were able to give input, but no decision yet.

The School Board will be given the whole amount for every school in the board. Now the questions of how do we fairly distribute the money? If a school had a bigger function you might be able to get more money.

Before the next meeting we should make a decision about what we would like to do. Ideally make a decision before the February meeting if possible. Lianne also reported about an amazing presentation about sex trafficking.

10. Board update

Penny Deathe provided an update but sends her regrets. She is getting many questions about how soon can the cafeteria be opened. She is waiting to hear from public health.

On the news to provide a rapid Covid tests to take home over the holidays but there is no specific date yet before the last day of school. No tests have been given due to low numbers in the school. Penny says to please reach out at any time.

11. Academic Awards

A list was posted inside the school for students to check for the honour roll. With Mrs. Sgambato being off, it is hard to know what to do. 80% of students are on the honour roll. How do we celebrate student achievement that also acknowledges the issues of Covid? How to move forward appropriately, how do you publicly celebrate some student's achievements without upsetting others.

12. Open Forum

Sudan asked about clubs and activities at WDHS. Which clubs are still active and which are not? Who do students get in contact with the right teacher representative? Answer: Contact the office or the Guidance office. Top of the school website is a list of clubs and teachers. Teams and Clubs link on the school website has a list of all activities. Challenging to list teachers since they can change from year to year. Not all clubs/groups/sports run each year, but this gives a good indication of what is available for students. Announcements are up on the website. Updated all the time.

Meeting adjourned

Next meeting Tuesday, February 22, 2022 6pm via MS Teams

Future meeting dates: 2022: Mar. 22, Apr. 26, May 24