

**WATERDOWN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes – February 22, 2022, 6:00 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction

In attendance: Alison Morris (co-chair), Lianne Broughton (co-chair), Theresa Sgambato, Jennifer Vince, Suzie Larochelle, Michael Collette, Caleigh Sangster (HYN)

Regrets: Penny Deathe (Trustee), David Delville (Teacher Representative), Tracey Hood

2. Approve minutes of prior meeting

Minutes were approved by Jennifer Vince (first) and Alison Morris

3. Elections – secretary

Suzie Larochelle and Tracey Hood have volunteered to be the secretary for the March and April meetings. Members are asked to consider stepping forward to share this role. We only have 1 remaining meeting in May, and we would very much appreciate if anyone who hasn't already done so could please volunteer to take the minutes for the May meetings. Please reply to Lianne or Alison to confirm.

4. Community Representative – Michael Collette

Food for Kids program is doing well and now supporting 21 kids, with 3 at the WDHS.

Ribfest is being planned as a full in person event, July 1-3 – please promote this great event.

If students are in need, consideration from funding can take a bit of time to be processed. Always happy to help students. Theresa will remind guidance councillors of this as well.

Annual bursaries still be offered

5. Guest Speaker – Sophie Vivian, student

Sophie shared details and some slides about the Ally Program being run by Healthy Youth Network – details can be found on their website, <https://healthyyouthnetwork.ca/ally-program/>

This is a student led program to raise awareness of the topic and their goals, aimed at topic of gender-based violence. Currently the students meet about once per week and the ultimate goal is to find ways to end gender-based violence. There are currently about 7 members, all grade 12 students, so trying to expand to more people and other grades, including more male members.

Discussed the Be More than a Bystander initiative.

There is also a link on the HYN website to a Google form for volunteers – students can sign up and more information is available online.

A great fact sheet was prepared and shared with teachers – a good resource to share.

6. Principal's Report

- it has been a busy 2nd semester start-up, but great to see the kids all back in the school
- there are currently 2 science classes with no permanent teacher; Theresa is interviewing, so hopefully this will be resolved soon
- Principal's Council is up and running – an advisory group of students representing all grades. They are planning some spirit days.
- Solid is busy with Black History Month which is celebrating black artists. Each day a mini biography of an artist is shared, and there are weekly trivia questions with prizes of gift cards.
- Be more than a bystander program is also ongoing
- Some students participated in a virtual Mental Health presentation today from the TAMI series (Talk About Mental Illness); lots of resources and information that can be shared with school community
- Graduation update – the Board has received permission to plan an in person commencement, but it may be not the traditional graduation as in the past (pre-Covid.) The goal is to include all students (equity) with a focus on positivity and celebration. It will include the entire class of 2022, and more information is to come as planning moves forward.
- Tough to look at outside venues due to very high cancelation costs and the unknown, plus some have different vaccination policies, etc. that could exclude some students. The venues are on standby while the Board makes the final decisions. Could be very likely that the event is held at WDHS – was very well received last year, so hope to expand on that.
- Literacy test – more information and dates to come; format changed from past years
- SACHA presentations to continue at the school the week of May 9-13. Theresa has also spoken with the presenter (Miranda) who has agreed to be the guest speaker at the Apr. 26 Parent Council meeting. Also discussed Parent engagement grant evening – see more below.

7. Teacher's Report

No report this month; David Delville sends his regrets.

8. Parent engagement grant

SACHA (Miranda) has offered to participate in a virtual evening for parents, similar focus to presentations that students have been given. Aiming for May 10 from 6pm – 7:30pm, presentation followed by Q&A. SACHA does not charge a fee, but donations welcome.

Discussed making a donation and then possibly offering refreshments to parents (could the event be in person? If so could purchase refreshments. Otherwise, discussed nominal gift cards, e.g. Tim Hortons, for participants). Theresa also suggested some of \$500 grant budget could go towards printing resources if required.

Attendees at meeting thought this was a good idea an initiative – will need to send out for email vote to obtain a quorum, since attendance low at this meeting.

9. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) update

Not much directly to report from last PIC meeting, since discussion was around new Director role and seeking input.

Have discussed with another school the possibility of joining a small consortium of schools to offer an evening with Dr. Jean Clinton (cost is high, but intention is to apply for one PRO grant and include several schools.) Lianne to investigate to see if we can participate, but first to check that content would be suitable – i.e. aimed at both elementary and secondary students/parents.

10. Healthy Youth Network update

Penny Deathe sent her regrets, but Caleigh Sangster attended and provided an update.

What's your Path – an assessment tool is being created, including Penny as well as Derek Zuccolo (WDHS Guidance). Hoping to generate a business list from the community re: career paths.

Ally program – youth-led initiative. Discussing 'what is an ally' to begin with. Branding and marketing is underway. Also offering training for students, beginning with an older team, Youth Impact Team.

11. Open Forum

One question (passed on from Tracey Hood) about Prom, but Theresa already addressed this topic within the Principal's report.

Meeting adjourned.

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

Future meeting dates: Apr. 26, May 24