

WATERDOWN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2022, 6:00 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction:

- In attendance Alison Morris (chair), Lianne Broughton (chair), Greg Clark (Principal), David Delville (Teacher Representative), Michael McClymont (Guest Speaker), Michael Colette (Community Representative), Jennifer Vince, Lindsay Jack, Tim Louks, Kim Thompson, MaryAnn Slagter, Rebecca Hessels, Tracy Segal, Gina Allen, Jackie Parry, Suzie Laroche (recorded minutes)
- Regrets: Tracey Hood, Sudan Cashin

2-3. Council Overview, meeting time, discuss elections, etc./Voting and non-voting members, quorum

- From the HWDSB School Council Handbook, “What is a School Council?”
 - Purpose of School Councils - Under the Education Act Regulation 612, school boards in Ontario are required to establish a School Council for each school within the board. The purpose of the School Council is “through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents.”
 - The Role of School Council is to:
 - Advise the Principal and, where appropriate, the school board.
 - Place students’ interests first
 - Support school success planning goals
 - Encourage parent and community involvement
 - Promote positive attitudes towards public education
 - School Councils provide input to the Principal or the board on any matter. The Principal is ultimately responsible for activities related to the school and therefore is responsible for Council activities.
- Future meetings to be held at 6:30 pm
- Elections to take place and quorum to be decided on October 25, 2022
Nominations accepted by email to alisonmorris@cogeco.ca or in person on October 25; members of council can nominate themselves or someone else for a position as chair/co-chair, secretary or voting member.

4. Community Representative/ Michael Colette

- Member of Waterdown Rotary Club
- Money raised one year is given away the next one. Fundraising to be done.
- If money is needed to support students, club needs time to discuss and vote
- In 2021-22, about \$8000 in bursaries given out
- Fall 2022, \$1000 allocated to backpack program

- Wonderful Ribfest in June; WDHS football team and student volunteers helped out. Student volunteers always in high demand.
- No exchange students this year
- Food 4 kids program:
 - About 30 students part of the program this year
 - Every 2 weeks each student receives a \$20 cash card (Walmart)
- Battle of the Bands proposed. Winning band could play at RibFest.
- Looking for members at club. If interested, attend a meeting with no obligation.

5. Guest Speaker/Michael McClymont

- EQAO: Grade 9, 2 days, multiple choice, 5 days to prepare
- Math Contests: November for Grades 9-12; February for Grades 9-11; April for Grade 12 (participation needed if going to Waterloo)
- Destreaming in Math last year: focus on making it work for all students; Mr. McClymont is Grade 9 programming lead to support teachers with planning
- Mathify (<https://www.tvomathify.com/students>): great free tutoring service with live teachers, from 3-9 pm, for Grades 7-10 and workshops for Grade 11
- For other extra help: knock on Math department door and teachers can help during periods 3-4
- ixl.ca (<https://ca.ixl.com>): great website for Language and Math

6. Student Report: None this month

7. Principal's Report/Greg Clark:

- October 27, 5-7 pm: Parent-Teacher Interviews; appointments to be booked online shortly; Preliminary Reports October 21
- Grade 9 Orientation Day: took place before school year started and teachers helped out
- Early Sept. PA Day: focus on new students and students returning from pandemic
- Many sports teams and clubs
- No assembly in September: going to classes instead, more personal, talking about respect of all, stepping up and contributing
- Grade 9 Day: the Christie Lake event was canceled due to bad weather but is rescheduled for September 29 at WDHS (food, activities, fun)
- Excellence Award (every week): academic, athletics but also based on whole behavior (contributing to positive culture)
- Terry Fox (October 5): period 2 assembly; period 5 walk; donations can be made through schoolcash online
- Exams will be back: gentle reintroduction but giving students the skills needed; for many courses mix between culminating chunks throughout semester and final exam
- Principal Council for Students: to be created soon

8. Teacher's Report/David Delville:

- Main message: contact teachers early if you feel it is needed, do not let it snowball; teachers are very open to receiving emails to help students out

9. PIC (Parent Involvement Committee)/Lianne Broughton

- Looking for a representative to provide parent perspective/feedback on curriculum, how to improve communication, etc If interested, talk to Lianne

10. HC-HY update/Penny Deathe: none this month

11. Open Forum:

- Time of meetings: Unofficial vote to move to 6:30 accepted
- Starting in October: Hybrid meetings (might just be audio)
- Bake Sale, water, pizza for Parent-Teacher Interviews discussed: volunteers will be needed; Kim Thompson can get the water at Costco; Jennifer Vince can help; school might be able to help with the cost of pizza; can ask Healthy Youth Network to post need of volunteers

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at 6:30 (in-school or remotely)
Meeting adjourned at 7:27