

## **MINUTES - PARENT COUNCIL MEETING - Tuesday, September 26th, 2023 - 6:30pm**

In attendance: Alison Morris (co-chair), Lianne Broughton (co-chair), MaryAnn Slagter (secretary for this meeting), Suzie Larochelle, Tracy Segal, Sarah Barkwell, Lindsay Jack, Jo Odell, Greg Clark (Principal), Tim Louks, Penny Deathe, Stella Duncan (Student Parliament PM), Carrie Kalata (Phys Ed teacher), Erica Kirkland (community representative, Rotary), Chantal Verrier, Kelly Kokerus, Shauna Hasselman, Richard Sommer.

Regrets: Jackie Parry, Dave Delville, Rebecca Hessels, Gina Allen

### 1) Welcome and Introductions

- \* Welcomed to the first Parent Council Meeting of 2023/2024 school year
- \* The 2 Co-Chairs introduced themselves, mentioned this is their last year and are looking to mentor someone to get to know the ropes of being next year's co-chairs of the parent council meetings
  - \* Introductions of who was sitting at the table
  - \* Voting of positions will take place at the next meeting, Tuesday, October 24th, 2023 at 6:30pm (Forms to self-nominate or nominate someone else were passed out and need to be returned at the next meeting)
    - (2 Co-Chairs, Secretary, no Treasurer)
  - \* There are 2 Parent/Teacher Interview nights coming up this year (1st night is Thursday, October 26th 5-7pm, volunteering is needed anywhere between 4-8pm on that night as well as baking or helping organize
    - (Looking to start a committee for anyone who can help with this)
  - \* End of the Year Staff BBQ (Will need someone new to help oversee as Suzie is leaving the Council in January)

### 2) Erica from the PM Rotary Club

- \* The Rotary Club can help students complete their volunteer hours (40 hours) - Helping at the Santa Claus Parade, Helping at the Ribfest
- \* Has an International Youth Exchange program
- \* Helps with Food for Kids
- \* Will help Student Parliament with any needs that they may have
- \* No request is too little

### 3) Carrie Kalata (PE and Science Teacher)

- \* There are a lot of options for students to choose from for PE classes at WDHS
- \* Terry Fox Run (Great Success - Donate and get a t-shirt, sold freezies, collecting money for the Terry Fox Run till Friday, September 29th)
  - (Goal of \$1500-2000 to raise this year for the Terry Fox Run)
- \* Grade 12 Leadership will be selling Spirit Wear (New Design coming out)
- \* A lot of Sports Teams to choose from (Soccer, Touch Football, Volleyball, Tennis, Basketball just to name a few)

- \* Grades 9 and 12 gym classes will be going to Dundas Conservation
- \* Rock climbing will be coming in again this year to the High School
- \* The Weight Room is open to students during their lunch period (Need a permission form)
- \* Tuesday, October 10th, 6-8 pm on Tuesday evenings, students can come to the school gym to play Badminton

#### 4) Stella Duncan (WDHS PM of Student Parliament)

- \* Majority Government this year, meetings happen once a week, goal/vision is to get people involved in the school again, working with clubs within the school
  - Possibly 3 School Dances this year (First Dance would be in the Fall), Flood light home opener for school football this Thursday, October 28th, 7pm with BBQ happening,
  - Looking for Grade 9 representatives (weekly commitment), Parliament meets Mondays after school in Mr. Tidridge's room

#### 5) Greg Clark (WDHS Principal)

- \* 1st PA day was about Health Safety, Anti Sex Trafficking Training, Student Well Being, An App called HWDSB Helps
- \* Strategies to help people at WDHS feel safe (THEME: COMMUNITY)
- \* Grade 9 (Get Involved), Older Grades (Mentor, be a role model for the younger students)
  - \* Assemblies for each grade took place in the Cafeteria
  - \* Grade 9 Day had 100 Grade 12 Mentors helping
  - \* This year's school student population is 1250, compared to last year's student population of 1100
  - \* WASHROOMS: Are being monitored by staff, new Washrooms and Changing rooms will be installed summer of 2024
  - \* Hoping for a new Cafeteria service to get up and running (supplier talks ongoing)

#### 6) Tim Louks (PIC) <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/elementary/get-involved/pic/>

- \* Meetings take place on Upper Wentworth, Sub Committees have started to meet all of the needs of the committee

- Tim reviewed the purpose/ role of the PIC committee:

PIC's role includes:

- Provide advice and feedback to the Board from a parent perspective
- Champion and demonstrate a commitment to parental engagement
- Contribute to productive meetings & participate in sub-committee work
- Represent broad parent interest in all committee activities
- Raise common parental issues of concern with the Board
- Provide assistance and support to parents as they navigate the various areas of the Board.
- Respond to requests for consultation on policy, programs and strategies
- Communicate with and support school councils

- Undertake activities to help parents support their children's learning at home and at school

#### 7) Healthy Youth Network

\* [www.healthyyouthnetwork.ca](http://www.healthyyouthnetwork.ca) , Kayla Thomas (Teacher Leader)

- Penny talked about the HEART (Healthy Education About Relationships Team) initiative
- they are looking for students to join this initiative (they can earn Volunteer hours and help create a positive impact at WDHS. Free food provided at every meeting.)
- They are building a speakers' bureau. The purpose is to provide information about careers from career professionals that allow high school students to learn the reality of the career they are interested in and make an informed decision on a career path. They are looking for professionals and businesses to sign up and share their career history. ([www.whatsyourpath.ca](http://www.whatsyourpath.ca)). They are also looking for volunteer speakers. Another way to help is providing places for grade 9 students that need placements on "Take our kids to work day."

8) NEXT PARENT COUNCIL MEETING: Tuesday, October 24th, 2023, 6:30pm