

**WATERDOWN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL  
PARENT COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes—October 24, 2023, 6:30

**1. Welcome:**

- In attendance: Lianne Broughton (Co-Chair), Alison Morris (Co-Chair), Greg Clark (Principal), Kate Holden (Guest Speaker), Penny Deathe (Healthy Youth Network), Erica Kirkland (Community Representative), MaryAnn Slagter, Rebecca Hessels, Jackie Parry, Tracy Segal, Suzie Larochelle (recorded minutes), Chantal Verrier, Lindsay Jack, Stella Duncan (student rep), Muyikwa Thomas, Marlene Thomas
- Regrets: Tim Louks, Dave Delville, Jen McGilchrist, Gina Allen

**2. Student's Report—Stella Duncan:**

- Dance on: October 25, 2023 from 6-9; tickets sold through School Cash Online or in person; ID at door with list and stamp
- Student Parliament still looking for Grade 9 representatives; any other students can sit in on a meeting

**3. Approval of September 2023 Minutes:**

- Jackie approves; Lianne seconds

**4. Community Representative's Report—Erica Kirkland**

- Rotary still looking for host families for their International High School Students Program Exchange: for 2024-25; 3-month commitment; monthly stipends; student may lose a credit or so going abroad; Rotary holds events for students

**5. Council Elections:**

- Alison and Lianne will be co-chairs for the year with possibly 2 members shadowing them; secretary position not filled: Chantal volunteered to help out and there will be a rotation among members

**6. Members Voting/Non-Voting and Set Quorum:**

- 10 voting members; quorum is 6

**7. Guest Speaker – Kate Holden/Head of Humanities Department:**

- Business and family studies part of department
- SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major): allows students to get credits while focussing on a specific field; SHSM seal on diploma after completing requirements (i.e., Coop credits, etc.); offered to grades 11 and 12
- Package of courses with Coop: Humanities non-profit and business, etc.
- Fashion Program: up and running for 2 years
- Department offering help to high-needs students; looking at IEPs
- Grade 9 help: skills to overcome hurdles; exploring family studies with social worker; offering skills for everyday stressors
- More information on SHSMs on Board website - <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/secondary/programs/shsm/>

### **8. WDHS Communications Team—Jen McGilchrist, VP**

- Gathering of voice last year; goal to be better at communicating; survey link emailed by Alison
- The team: strategies to ensure all informed; enhancing website; looking into using the TVs in the school for announcements

### **9. Principal's Report—Gregory Clark:**

- Oct. 4: Post-Secondary Fair; over 20 institutions; open to all
- Oct. 10: Safe School Drill; Hold & Secure; done when danger in community; one per semester
- Oct. 17: Feeder schools Principals and VPs had lunch with Greg, Ms.McGilchrist, Mr. Schinkel and guidance; discussed what is helping grade 8s in their transition and strategies to enhance student experience
- Oct. 21: PA Day; how to enhance programming; preliminary reports out week of Oct. 23
- ithink: organization that helps set multi-year direction for board; transition from grade 8 to 9; 5 teachers and Mr. Schinkel with a diversified group of students

### **10.No Teacher's Report**

### **11.Bake/Pizza Sale:**

- Some donated and/or discounted items; still need adult and student volunteers

### **12.No PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) Report**

### **13.Health Youth Network update – Penny Deathe:**

- Recruiting for student-led Heart team (healthy relationships); 15 students now (get fed at meetings); volunteer hours possible
- Boohavior: games on Oct. 27, periods 3 and 4, in Learning Commons
- 16 days of activism: Nov and Dec

- What's your Path Portal: 30-35 speakers available; some have been booked; fall campaign on portal; specialized career fairs
- More information on What's Your Path - <https://whatsyourpath.ca/>  
<https://healthyouthnetwork.ca/live-the-life-you-deserve/whats-your-path/>

#### **14. Open Forum:**

- Cafeteria still closed: under contract; can't find staff; trustee could have some pull

#### **15. Next Meeting:**

- Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 6:30