

**WATERDOWN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL  
PARENT COUNCIL**

Meeting Minutes–November 28, 2023, 6:30

**1. Welcome:**

- In attendance: Lianne Broughton (Co-Chair), Alison Morris (Co-Chair), Greg Clark (Principal), Beth Morrison (Guest Speaker), Rebecca Hessels, Jackie Parry, Tracy Segal, Tim Louks, Suzie Larochelle (recorded minutes), Gina Allen, Lindsay Jack, Muyiwa Thomas, Marlene Thomas
- Regrets: Dave Delville, Penny Deathe, Erica Kirkland, MaryAnn Slagter, Sarah Barkwell, Jo Odell, Kelly Kokerus, Stella Duncan

**2. Approval of October 2023 Minutes:**

- Tracy approves; Alison seconds

**3. Community Representative's Report–Erica Kirkland:**

- Regrets but . . . Families in need can contact the Rotary; Hess Street Elementary School looking for lunch food for kids and asked Allan A. Greenleaf for help; AAG will reach out to Rotary

**4. Guest Speaker–Beth Morrison/Student Success Lead:**

- Tends to student needs; Grade 8 day (this year . . . pizza, karaoke, dance, positive feedback, outside activities); Grade 8 student learning, organization and study skills, emotional support, credit recovery; Grade 9 transition/welcome with guidance; find support for students; career planning before meeting with guidance; prior learning assessment for at-risk students who are almost 18; working with Grade 10 students (i.e., OSSLT: direct support to get ready for test; can see the platform online beforehand); working on reengaging students when coming back to school

**5. No Student's Report**

## 6. **Principal's Report–Gregory Clark:**

- Oct 25 Dance amazing, great behavior, mainly juniors, about 500 students
- Oct 26 Parent-Teacher Interviews, great feedback
- Nov 7 Lock Down Drill (once a semester) threat in building, Vice-Principals and Principal walked the building to make sure it was all good, went well
- Nov 10 Remembrance Day Ceremony with Mr. Tidridge, veteran spoke, 2 assemblies, very respectful students
- Nov 11 Grand Opening of Museum of Hope at the Legion, now open to public
- Nov 15 Grade 8 families came over touring the school, talking to the teachers
- Nov 17 PA Day: students came in to talk about ithink (multi-year plan that creates structures to gather best thinking): pick students to answer a question (i.e., How do we ensure that students feel a strong sense of belonging?); Mr. Schinkel works with students; generating ideas together; ideas compiled and now acting on them; students can help implement them; app for Waterdown High resources for students: live map, how to connect to a mentor/senior students, better social spaces, cafeteria is sterile, etc.; focus of PA Day was CLIS (continuous learning improvement); each teacher has one; focuses on needs of students; implement strategies; then assess for effectiveness; teachers are working within departments; folders with all the CLIS for teachers to access
- Nov 20 Mid-Semester Reports
- Nov 21 Take our Kids to Work Day . . . many Grade 9s participated; Ms. Bachu invited some guest speakers for Grade 11s (exploring pathways)
- Music Concert Hamilton Philharmonics for feeder schools
- Dance Dec 21

## 7. **Teacher's Report–Dave Delville:**

- Regrets but message from Dave . . . more violence against teachers and adults in school, teachers took their concern to the principal; open conversation; also nice to see kids bouncing back after COVID

## 8. **Bake/Pizza Sale Report:** raised \$432.15; money carried over from last year + years before=\$1100; will discuss if need another fundraiser in the spring

## **9. Pro Grant/Parent Engagement Grant Discussion:**

- Pro Grant: Application by Jan 26, 2024; up to \$1000; last year with Penny Pathways after high school, etc.; great turnout; thinking of doing the same this year; maybe 2 speakers instead of 3; vote=7 yes
- List of ideas for Engagement Grant will be sent; \$500 to be used for parent engagement . . . maybe have volunteers join in??

## **10. PIC (Parent Involvement Committee)--Tim Louks:**

- Money for PRO Grant needs to be spent before the end of June; money can be combined among schools; board intends to do a large event maybe this year; will identify some pilot schools; no more details; in January invitation to the board to executives of school council to share what's happening at their school

## **11. Health Youth Network--Penny Deathe:**

- Regrets but update . . . looking for volunteers for Flamborough Paint Challenge to be part of the sponsorship team; will ask Penny for more details

## **12. Open Forum:**

- Event about Coop at Mohawk College: trades, etc. (was excellent)
- International Exchange Student program refuses grade 12s for full year exchanges; they would only do a summer one; grade 12s are considered graduates and are not eligible
- iPads being phased out is causing software problems; cannot have access to a few applications
- Reached out to trustee twice about the school's sports team bus and cafeteria situation: no response; Tim will bring it to PIC
- Side note: there will be a memory book for Grade 12s
- Thank you to Suzie for her years of volunteering; was her last meeting

## **13. Next Meeting:**

- Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:30