

**Waterdown District High School
Parent Council**

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, May 28, 2024 - 6:30pm

1. WELCOME

In attendance: Alison Morris (co-chair), Tracy Segal, Karen Matthews (Rotary rep), Chantal Verrier (recorded minutes), Sarah Barkwell, Mackenzie Boers (HYN), Stella Duncan (student rep), Greg Clark (Principal), Rebecca Hessels, Erin Jeppensen (Head of Arts WDHS), Lindsay Brewer.

Regrets: Penny Deathe, Tim Louks, Erica Kirkland, Dave Delville, Jackie Parry, Lianne Broughton

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING:

Rebecca approves. Alison seconds.

3. COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE – Karen Matthews in for Erika as she has stepped down from Rotary.

Ribfest portal is open to sign up volunteer

Committee said yes to donate towards Staff Luncheon, unsure amount at this time.

Exchange student housing – unsure if that will happen, still need families to volunteer housing

Talked about volunteer opportunities. Portal open on webpage
Citizenship program

We supported 8 Lilicroft awards this year so hopefully more applicants than last year.

We gave out 8 last year, 12 – 14 applicants

Its to help students in post secondary endeavours.

Apply their final year. Due tomorrow

Presented at convocation

Alison last meeting – Karen will communicate with someone for next year Rotary representation.

4. GUEST SPEAKER – Erin Jeppesen, Head of Arts

Art show coming up Monday June 3

All students participate in Atrium

All day then that evening art show 5-7 for friends and family

Local artists coming in to discuss with parents and student's pathways and opportunities
Make deeper connection with our students and their passions and at the same time help parents support a career in the arts

June 5 - Night of the Arts on Wednesday at 6pm – drama and music based
Students and staff
Tickets \$10

New VP very involved with drama community, Ancaster theatre

Lots of new art and drama initiatives happening

Last year started new crafts course for grade 9.
Arts electives sometimes daunting for students, crafts course much more hands on.
Students enjoying it, thriving

Dept working on learning skills with students
Since Covid, learning skills are big concern with many
Using visual posters. learning skill charts in assignments to assess as they go

Simple thing but learning skills are foundational, without that responsibility they are unable to show us their best work.
Run some sessions for the staff
A lot of exciting courses in our dept.
Crafts, digital media drawing and painting, interior design, portfolio, photography

Seeing a lot more diversity and interest
Hoping to work with tech and drama more

Drama – 9-12 course options hoping to build that; also hoping to do a small play next year

5. STUDENT REPORT

Last few weeks probably the craziest time of the year both academics and extra curricular.

Lots of stress and tension

Concerts and banquets, Night of the arts

Band has been doing things and out and about

Athletics. Most things have wrapped up - still junior football

We do have athletic banquet next week – athletic council throws for all kids who

participated in sports this year, BBQ – give out awards to celebrate athletics in school

Tickets for banquet available today through Friday at lunch – ticket included in your fee for sports but student has to go pick it up

Parliament – election week this week for next year
Friday is the election - four parties are running
They have been campaigning last two weeks
We have a great parliament and Mr. Tidridge created this parliament system, I am proud of it

Running food drive next week – local food bank reached out. Bins in classrooms to collect donations – some incentive for the class that donates the most.

That will be my parliaments wrap up.

Quiet week starts on the 10th

We just finished up our funding project – put it back into the school and clubs
Had a few smaller clubs reach out, we were able to send healthcare club to Toronto for a conference, helped out Dungeons and Dragons club

More legacy based, bigger projects in the school – new speakers, work with Phys ed dept on Hall of Fame project
Money made through school dances – went to charities but nice to give back to the school

Hopefully we can pass this funding proposal on to the next parliament

6. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – GREG CLARK

May 6 - mental health wellness week – team of staff reps for mental health created whole school activities, friendship, gratitude tec.

Had a couple of tables at prayer breakfast at Liuna station

May 10 was prom at Liuna station

May 14 – concern brought forward about litter from community member
Brought to our geography team – May 14 provincial day of action against litter
Several of our classes went out and cleaned up areas.

Music – spring concert and showcase - Supt was at both events

Organization partners with the board to create strategic plan. Students worked with staff during year how do we enhance student belonging
Great ideas, many we implemented

They showcased what they done

8 represented Waterdown High

Revisioning social spaces in this building, no places to socialize – we reserved a sum of money to help build that

May 24 – empower breakfast – through HEART team and Heathy Youth Network

Two breakfasts bring students in and have guest speakers on gender-based violence and healthy relationships

Football team won the playoff game, beat Ancaster going on to Westdale.

Bringing in televisions into school to bring messaging to students

Peer to peer – hard to crack into a peer group when you come to start here in high school

How do we better integrate those students?

Started a group of staff to start ambassador program

Students sign up to become an ambassadors

Connect them purposefully to those students

Super excited about the 25 students who want to help

So you don't feel so alone

I see students by themselves so a strategy we will try

7. TEACHER'S REPORT – DAVID DELVILLE

Regrets, send email with updates:

Minister announced partial ban on cell phones

Ban on social media is good

Made two days after govt announced funding to next year and cuts to education

Retirements this year

Expect our collective agreement to be signed by end of summer

8. PRO GRANT / PARENT ENGAGEMENT GRANT DISCUSSION

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9. PIC PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE – TIM LOUKS

Regrets, no update

10. HEALTH YOUTH NETWORK UPDATE – Representative McKenzie, program coordinator for the breakfast in place of Penny Deathe.

200 students at breakfast
3rd year but this year we mixed genders
9 and 10... 11 and 12

Drama club came out do an engaging skit

Coming up is Flamborough paint challenge, this is our 6th year
registration is open, new obstacles, mini games, entertainment, have a DJ this year

volunteer opportunities at the paint challenge

also, part of Waterdown history museum committee, raised over 1000 at walk on the weekend

opening is second week of June – Red Friday is the final day
students will be presenting our project at the legion

Red Friday is June 14, open 7 or 8th

Can rotary help serve the breakfast next year? Yes, would be a nice help.

Art show, Penny has been pulling together speakers for the art career, art business owners.

Rotary giving out food during exams again? Yes, lots of great feedback from that

11. END OF YEAR STAFF BBQ DISCUSSION, PLANNING

Follow up on people we haven't heard back from and need to reach out to three more specific businesses

Sarah – Mr. sub and subway – veg and gluten free options
Walmart – gift card would be great to buy plate sand knives

Heard back from Rotary donations and Healthy Youth Network

Donations from sweet paradise – coffee cake
Fortinos cookies and cupcakes
Sobeys gift cards

Most of our food - getting from Costco
Still have to send an email to parent community and to student for volunteers

School cash online? Or is that a pain. Last year they e transferred me (Alison)

Donations instead through school cash online? Greg to investigate

Invitations for teachers, will email Greg

More donations best to help keep some in our kitty to start next year

Rebecca sent message to many local places; Sarah offered to contact local businesses

12. OPEN FORUM

When does Fall sports start? – football starts last week of August. How do they find out?

Connect with the two coaches when school opens in August, also announcements before end of year.

Or come to office to get directed

Grade 9 orientation in summer? – Wed Aug 28th

END