

WDHS School Council Meeting minutes
Tue. Jan. 28, 2025, 6:30-8:30 pm

Attendance: Sarah Barkwell (Co-Chair), Tracy Segal (Co-Chair), Susy Watson, Ty Watson (student parliament), Alex Sillett (guest speaker), Amy Richardson (teacher rep), Greg Clark (Principal), Penny Deathe (HYN), Ansuya Shell, Jeanette Szabo.

Regrets: Lindsay Jack, Rebecca Hessels, Tobi Graves-Hofer, Tim Louks

1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement (Tracy/Sarah)

2. Review and approval of the previous meeting minutes

- Approved – Jeanette, Second - Ansuya

3. **Principal's Report** – Greg Clark

- Safe schools drills continue – Sep.10 was shelter in place
- Dec. 12 – winter music concert
- Week before the break – art show displaying student work
- TVs are up and running now. Brightsign connects them.
- Rec leadership class – volleyball tournament “Block out Hunger”
- Holiday assembly – teacher “unknown singer” – pie in the face if identified
- Jan – grade 8/9 option sheet night
- Study skills sessions
- Thu – experience a day for grade 8s to get experience of being a student at WDHS. Thanks to the teachers for all their effort to make it successful.

Q: Are there designated quiet days (conflict between sports/fun activities and responsibilities of culminating tasks/projects) A: will take in to consideration and discuss for future

Q: Are the in class culminating tasks the same between the same subject classes with different teachers? A: many staff align but they don't need to, it is up to the individual teacher.

4. **Student Report** – Student Parliament Representative – Ty Watson

- Winter formal – 200ish attended – looking for ideas for other activities that might include more of the school population
- Feedback received is some think the price is too high
- Some ideas discussed – off site event, student trivia, talent show, using a student DJ to lower cost, poll Instagram for interest
- Feb dance postponed in order to plan a different event
- Money raised is used to better the school. Recently upgraded parts of the cafeteria (Warriors Den)

5. **Guest Speaker** – Alex Sillett (Head of Learning Resource)

- Learning Resource is welcoming to all students, not only the students with IEPs.
- Next week - starting a review of all IEPs to clean up and streamline them
- 341 total IEPs at WDHS. Review will start with “non exceptional” type
- Will meet with each student, look at their needs and strengths and suggest accommodations.
- Questionnaire sent to parents for input

6. **Teacher Representative** – Amy Richardson (Teacher Representative)

- Very busy time of year
- Semi annual health and safety walk about
- Monthly relations meetings with admin. have been positive and successful, concerns are addressed quickly (ex slippery tiles got carpets)

Q: will there be a time scheduled for students to get feedback on their exams and culminating tasks? A: Students can contact their teachers for that information if they would like to. No scheduled time for it this year but likely will be set in place for next year.

7. **Parents Reaching Out (PRO) - Sarah/Tracy**

- Grant Approved! \$900
- Top-up amount – we are able to use Parent Engagement funds

8. **Parent Survey Results:** Topics for PRO Event Night

1. Preparing for Post-Secondary Education & Financial Planning AND Choosing a Career
2. Promoting Mental and Physical Wellbeing
3. The Impact of AI on the World

Next Steps

- Choose the Name of Event
 - previous name was “Future Ready”, this year’s name TBD
- Choose Date of Event
 - tentative date: Wed. May 14, 2025
- Can we substitute an upcoming School Council meeting with a planning committee meeting to focus solely on the event?
 - plan to split the next two meetings – first half regular meeting, second half planning
- Event planning committee
 - Volunteers needed - last year was chairs, a few council members, HYN (Penny), and WDHS guidance (Derek)
 - Initial discussions: have Kyle back again and focus on financials, maybe have former students speak on budgeting and balancing social and academics, 40 assets as a booth, myBlueprint career guidance info

- Provide info to families at parent teacher interviews at the end of March.

9. **Healthy Youth Network-** Penny Deathe

- Looking at replacing the paint challenge with an alternate event
- City of Hamilton and school board - youth strategy - want to measure youth wellbeing
- "We all belong" – board
- 40 developmental assets - used so far (gr7-12) HYN for measurement – Penny will send out info
- More of these assets = greater success and happiness, less = higher risk
- Unicef report on Canadian child mental health and well being – could use this eval model to measure impact
- Developmental relationships framework – checklist for prog. to guide interactions

10. **Rotary** - regrets

11. **WDHS Comms Committee would like feedback on the website.**

- *Do you use the website as a resource?*
- *Can you find what you are looking for on our school website?*
- *What are we missing?*

- All to take away, think about it and provide feedback

IMPORTANT DATES:

School Council dates: 2025- Feb. 25*, March 25*, Apr. 29, May 27
Parents Reaching Out (PRO) event: May 14, 2025