

**WATERDOWN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL  
SCHOOL COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, March 25, 2025, 6:30-8:30 pm, Library**

*6:30-7:50 - regular meeting*

*7:50-8:30 - event planning*

Attendance: KAREN MATTHEWS (ROTARY), TIM LOUKS, TOBI HOFER, TY WATSON, SUSY WATSON, PENNY DEATHE (HYN), GREG CLARK (PRINCIPAL), JEANETTE SZABO, REBECCA HESSELS, TRACY SEGAL (CO-CHAIR), AMY RICHARDSON (TEACH REP), SARAH BARKWELL (CO-CHAIR), ANSUYA SHELL  
Regrets: Jackie Parry, Lindsay Jack

**1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement - Tracy/Sarah**

- Meeting is being recorded with a new transcription system for minutes
- The system is expected to send an email with the transcription after the meeting concludes, which will allow the meeting secretary to edit the minutes to include additional details such as attendance and notes.

**2. Approval of the previous meeting minutes – Approved (Jeanette, Tracy)**

**3. Community representative - Karen Matthews (Rotary):**

- Karen from Rotary Club offered to take any requests back to Rotary
- Karen is willing to gather feedback and suggestions from the group to present to the Rotary Club.
- This initiative encourages collaboration between the school community and the Rotary Club for potential support.
- Requests could include resources, funding, or community service opportunities that benefit students and families.
- 70th anniversary - June 9 - we are looking for stories about rotary and experiences from past exchange students.
- If I had \$1000 campaign – in progress
- Ribfest – volunteers needed, sign up to go live May 1 (or earlier)
- 10 X \$ 1000 awards for graduating students for post secondary education approved by our board and club. Applications available at Student Services.

**4. Guest Speaker – Kate Holden, Head of Humanities**

- The Humanities Department focuses on individualized education plans (IEPs) to tailor teaching strategies for diverse learning needs.
- Research and inquiry are emphasized across all subjects, encouraging students to critically evaluate sources and information.
- A wellness room is being established to provide students with creative outlets and support for mental health and well-being.
- Humanities now include business, family studies, philosophy, anthropology, psychology, food, and sewing

- Humanities encompass a diverse range of subjects that promote critical thinking and creativity.
- The integration of business and family studies allows for a practical application of humanities concepts in real-world scenarios.
- Courses like philosophy, anthropology, and psychology encourage students to explore human behaviour and societal structures.
- Department focusing on IEPs and universal design for learning
- Working on research and inquiry skills, including evaluating credible sources
- Discussing AI use in education and how to incorporate it effectively
- Starting a wellness room with equipment for student activities during lunch hours
- Running two SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major) programs: Business and Child/Youth (formerly Nonprofit)
- Concerned about Grade 9 Family Studies enrollment as it's not a mandatory course

#### **5. Student Report – Student Parliament Representative – Ty Watson**

- Reported on the student-teacher basketball game on March 19<sup>th</sup>, sold approx. 170 tickets (just over \$300 raised) - Students won 56-26
- St. Patrick's Day theme with green accessories
- Planning a dance for April 4<sup>th</sup> - Need to secure two additional teacher chaperones to ensure adequate supervision for the dance. Efforts are being made to recruit volunteers and finalize arrangements for the event.
- Organizing Krispy Kreme Donut fundraiser for April 11<sup>th</sup>. The fundraiser will involve selling Krispy Kreme donuts to raise money for school activities.
- Mental Health Week activities planned for mid-May: The initiative aims to foster a supportive school environment by reminding students of the importance of mental health and self-care.
  - Service dogs will be present in the school for one designated period. Students will have the opportunity to interact with the service dogs during this time.
  - The session aims to raise awareness about the role and benefits of service dogs in supporting individuals with disabilities.
  - Positive message rubber ducks are organized as part of a mental health initiative to promote well-being among students.
  - Each rubber duck features an uplifting message or affirmation to encourage positivity and resilience.

#### **6. Principal's Report – Greg Clark**

- Mr. Clark discussed the recent Lunch and Learn sessions focused on IEPs, which saw about 25 staff members participating and engaging in discussions on supporting students with special learning needs.
- February 28<sup>th</sup> PA day included antisemitism training and sensory-friendly classroom training with guest speaker Max Adler.
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> Lunch and Learn focused on IEPs (Individualized Education Plans)
- March 6<sup>th</sup> Great Big Crunch nutrition event with Tastebuds
  - The Great Big Crunch event on March 6<sup>th</sup> focused on promoting nutrition among students.

- Tastebuds sponsored the event by providing fresh apples from Drummond Orchard.
- Classes participated in fun activities, including photo ops and skits, to celebrate healthy eating.
- March 7th Public Health vaccination enforcement began
  - Public Health vaccination enforcement began on March 7th, requiring students to be vaccinated or go through an exemption process.
  - Students who do not comply with vaccination requirements may face suspension from school for up to 20 days.
  - This enforcement aims to ensure student safety and public health compliance in schools across the district.
- Mr. Clark highlighted the successful student-teacher basketball game on March 19<sup>th</sup>, where students won 56 to 26 and raised just over \$300 from ticket sales.
- March 20th successful lockdown drill conducted, demonstrated effective preparedness among students and staff.
  - All students remained quiet and followed procedures, ensuring safety during the drill.
  - The administration conducted a thorough walkthrough to verify compliance with lockdown protocols.
- School climate survey being conducted with students
  - The school climate survey aims to gather student perceptions about their safety and overall school environment.
  - Participation in the survey is voluntary and is expected to take approximately 15 minutes to complete.
  - The collected data will be used to inform school improvement initiatives and enhance student support services.
- He mentioned the upcoming dance on April 4th, which requires two more teacher chaperones to proceed. (Parent volunteers welcome, and must have Vulnerable Sector Clearance).

## **7. Teacher's report – Amy Richardson**

- Amy reported on mid-semester challenges:
  - Students experiencing increased stress with multiple tests and assignments
  - Students may struggle with time management, leading to feelings of overwhelm as they juggle multiple deadlines.
  - Increased stress can negatively impact students' mental health, resulting in anxiety and decreased motivation.
  - Support systems, such as counselling and peer study groups, can help students cope with academic pressures effectively.

## **8. PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) – Tim Louks**

- The next PIC Event is scheduled for May 31, from 9 AM to 2 PM at Sherwood.
- Topics will include understanding addictive behaviours in youth, supporting mental health and well-being, enhancing school engagement and attendance, and promoting future success for children.

- An RSVP will be required for attendance, and details will be communicated through school council networks, school websites, and School Messenger.

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

- Healthy Youth Network focuses on building developmental assets and relationships in youth to promote positive mental health and reduce at-risk behaviours.
- The initiative aims to engage the community, including schools, businesses, and families, in supporting youth development.
- Plans include reintroducing training sessions for parents and community members on how to build these assets effectively.
- Refocusing on the developmental assets framework
- Working to declare Flamborough an asset-building community
- Mentioned decline in assets as students age through high school
- Planning to introduce more training and potentially conduct a new survey
- HEART club – April bake sale to support period poverty
- AGM – Apr. 14<sup>th</sup> via zoom

## **10. Bake sale planning**

- Volunteers needed for setup, monitoring table, and cleanup- Sarah, Suzie, Tracy
- Coffee for teachers: Sarah to request donation from Tim Hortons, Tim to pick up, William (student) to serve
- Discussion about cashless payment options
- Will check on what supplies are already available
- Need to create signs to remind parents to bring cash
- Sarah- Print flyers for the Thursday bake sale
- Rebecca, Jeanette, Sarah, Susy, Tracy, Tim, Tobi etc. donate baked goods

## **11. Parents Reaching Out (PRO) event planning**

- Reviewing draft flyer for upcoming event
- Discussing changes to make the flyer more effective:
- Updating text from "We'll get answers" to "We've got answers"
- Adding "Refreshments will be served"
- Considering redesign of graphic elements to distinguish from previous years
- Reviewing information stations and potential presenters:
  - Financial planning (Edward Jones)
  - Post-secondary preparation
  - OSAP information
  - My Blueprint career planning
  - SHSM and dual credit programs
  - Considering military recruiters, gap year programs
- Discussion of venue setup and catering plans
- Budget review
- Planning for alumni panel to answer questions

- Discussion about the floor plan and flow of attendees

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

##### **Tracy**

- Email the group with notes about proposed flyer changes for the Future Ready event
  - Include suggestions for simplifying the design by reducing the number of bubbles and focusing on key topics.
  - Highlight the importance of making the flyer visually distinct to attract repeat attendees and convey new information.
  - The flyer should highlight the main topics of the event, focusing on preparing for post-secondary education and financial planning.
  - Incorporate a clean design with fewer sections to avoid clutter and enhance readability.
  - Include a note about refreshments being served
- Consolidate responses and send to Sophie to update the flyer with the new design elements

##### **Penny**

- Contact Michelle from Gap Canada to see if she'll host an information table at the Future Ready event
- Reach out to military recruiters about participating in the Future Ready event
- Contact Flamborough Chamber of Commerce about participating

**Next meeting Tue. April 29, 2025 - 6:30pm**

#### **Important dates:**

Upcoming School Council meetings: April 29, May 27

Family/teacher interviews and bake sale: March 27

Parents Reaching Out (PRO) event: May 14, 2025