



# School Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday, October 19, 2016

**Time:** 7:00 pm – 9:00pm

**Location:** Off Site

Co-Chair	Diane Crawshaw	Principal	Michelle Visca
Co-Chair	Joanne Thompson	Secretary	Louise Adam
Triune President		Staff/Teacher Rep	Sarah Lindner
Guest		Community Rep	Kaywana Gargarello

Parents: Joanne Thompson, Louise Adam, Michelle Visca, Sarah Lindner, Grant Thomas, Kyra Paterson, Phyllis Connelly, Michelle Rodney-Bartalos, Laura Boorman, Kaywana, Gargarello

Regrets: Diane Crawshaw

## Opening and Approvals:

*Approval of Agenda for Wednesday, October 19, 2016 meeting*

Approved by Kyra Paterson & Seconded by Grant Thomas - ALL IN FAVOUR

*Approval of Minutes from Monday September 12, 2016 meeting*

Approved by Grant Thomas & Seconded by Kyra Paterson - ALL IN FAVOUR

## 1. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- Roll-out of iPad Program for Grade 9 students was smooth, teachers are being trained (will be trained off site), every new Grade 9 student will get the iPads annually
- Summa Cum Laude wall – Michelle mentioned that she is getting input from staff and would welcome the same from parents in terms of changing eligibility criteria (currently it is 85% from 12 senior classes)
- Kaywana asked if raised to 90% average, how many students would that eliminate and how does that affect coop students (4 credits or 1 for the course)
- Michelle mentioned putting the student handbook on the website
- Discussions re Westdale’s String Program - Michelle explained that all schools have different Tier 2 and 3 Programs (i.e. Westdale has IB and FI) – the programs are part of a Board approved strategy – they are unique and balanced by geographical areas – Strings as a tier 3 program is at Glendale however Westdale, like other schools, may still offers it if enough students select it on the option sheet. Kaywana asked if the Strings Programs at Westdale and Glendale could be monitored to ensure they are still viable at both schools. It was explained that there is no need to monitor a program that is housed at another school. Michelle explained that the Strings



Program at Glendale is a Tier 3 Program that is part of a program strategy designed by the Board (it was never a Tier 3 Program at Westdale so Westdale did not lose anything when the program strategy was implemented)

- Grant / Home and School Association President indicated that the H & S bank account is at \$310 which would pay for one more Grad Award
- Grant indicated there are approximately 6 members along with 1 associate member
- Michelle Rodney-Bartalos mentioned that feeder schools are sending money to contribute to the Westdale H & S Christmas Baskets

**Action: get parents' input re Summa Cum Laude wall criteria changes** (*Diane can you communicate with Michelle first*)

**Action: Grant will give a presentation on the Westdale Home and School Association at the next meeting to increase membership**

## **2. CHAIR REPORT – Joanne Thompson**

- Joanne mentioned having a roll-up banner specifically for the Westdale School Council might be a good investment and could be paid for by the Parent Engagement Fund

## **3. PRINCIPAL REPORT**

- Michelle mentioned to the council that the HWDSB has a new Volunteer Screening Process which requires all school volunteers to meet with administration to review policies and sign forms. They also require a vulnerable screening police check. The Board website link will be put on Westdale's website
- Michelle indicated that staff are being polled for the Awards Assembly (honour role students) – finding the assembly too long, cuts into class time, too many students yet so few students left sitting in class feeling devalued. Thoughts to change include sending a certificate home with a ribbon to all honours students; putting their name up on the wall during the assembly and posting the names in a display case in front of the Principal's office. Kaywana supports the letter so that students who don't get honoured are not left out at the assembly and questioned the need for an assembly. Michelle indicated an assembly will still take place for students with subject awards and top student in all grades.
- Kaywana mentioned that the live link to view the Grad was wonderful! (for people/families who couldn't be there)
- Time ran out so Michelle will share the school improvement plan next meeting.



#### **4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

- Moved to next meeting

#### **5. TEACHER REPORT**

- Joanne asked Sarah about the survey results from last year
- Kaywana mentioned that she likes teacher presentations on programs that pertain to Westdale
- Other parents found that the presentations were helpful as they provided information on items they weren't aware of
- Sarah indicated that the presentation subjects should come from the parents
- Sarah indicated that the iPad rollout went well and that the teachers have Apple TV which integrates well with the iPads
- Sarah advised that the morning announcements are no longer broadcasted as they were too long and cutting into class time (Oh Canada is played and then class starts)
- Teachers are being trained - Crisis Response Team for mental health strategies (i.e. NVCI: Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, Assist Training: Suicide First Aid Intervention)
- OSSLT Literacy Test was to take place online however due to technical difficulties throughout the province, the test has been postponed
- Sarah was asked about a coaches list for the upcoming winter sports to know what's being offered and coaching needs

#### **6. SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

- Westdale Field Update – Kaywana reported that McMaster is interested in partnering with Westdale – she will update the council at the next meeting
- North Transition – moved to next meeting
- PIC/EQAO – moved to next meeting
- FIAC meeting in November – Joanne is Westdale's representative at the meetings

#### **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

- Meeting dates:
  - o December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016
  - o February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017
  - o April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (Tuesday)
  - o May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 (Offsite)

**Meeting adjourned at 9pm**