

Westdale School Council Meeting
MINUTES
Tuesday, May 21, 2019 – 6:00 pm Library

APPROVALS: Agenda & Previous Minutes

INTRODUCTIONS/ATTENDANCE: Superintendent Dunlop, Trustee Bingham, Michelle Visca-Principal, Erin Lepischak– teacher rep, Joanne T, Laura R, Deborah O, Emma S, Denise M, Kristi G, Catherine R

REGRETS: Kyra P, Heather H, Dianne P, Tony V, Diane C, Ewa O, Jane B, Lynda B,

QUESTIONS FROM GOOGLE DOC: Superintendent Dunlop & Trustee Bingham
e-learning – 4 credits to graduate but need more information (perhaps will be grandfathered if student is in grade 11 or 12)

What is the success rate of students who take online courses? No differentiation

There is a consortium so that students can take courses offered by other boards.

Can be prep for college or university, can meet medical needs, etc.

Focus is always on kids and helping them be successful.

Moving towards an average class size of 28 in the next 4 years.

99 declared redundant, 12 recalled with retirements – due to decline in school enrolment and loss of funding outside of class size funding.

TDSB is going into a surplus instead of balancing the budget, why would HWDSB not do the same? Concern of government take over of HWDSB board – trustees make the decision on this. HWDSB went for a conservative budget – easier to add back than to take away.

Will know more after finance facilities meeting on May 23, hope to complete by June 30.

Westdale has had 4 staff declared redundant for next year.

*HWDSB will communicate to families once staffing is complete...

Individual students and parents will be contacted about any changes to student course selection

Many considerations for running courses – pathways, locally developed, SCHISMs, required courses, etc.

Westdale's timetable has 84% of students timetabled with no conflicts, 97% including alternates.

Not a lot of opportunities for switching courses but keeping wait lists.

Westdale's option sheets represent what students want to take – a survey was taken several years ago of student preferences to determine what is offered.

Clarify with students what is available or not – e.g., orchestra has been cancelled

Can the public make a donation through the Hamilton Foundation and ask that it go to the school team and receive a tax receipt – yes.

There is a field maintenance plan - weekly maintenance happening, and follow up is happening around seasonal maintenance. Field condition has been a concern with all of the wet weather.

Program department is looking at tech. Platform for e-learning is D2L. Students may have a choice as to whether to keep their iPad or not.

PRINCIPAL REPORT: Michelle Visca

Construction and plumbing concern

Clay pipes collapsed for plumbing system in spring

Storm water also drained into the same pipes so there was a water issue that has a temporary fix and will be permanently repaired this summer.

Science rooms as still under construction.

Some departments will move over the summer to a new location.

English / ESL will move to the first floor to be more accessible.

Special Education is a board priority and students have a program in which they can earn credits (programs to transition to Mohawk, etc.)

*Looking at a code of culture as opposed to conduct / behaviour

Students looking for teachers who care when you are struggling.

TEACHER REPORT: Erin Lepischak

No report

STUDENT REPORT: (Student Council Rep)

No report

CHAIR REPORT: Joanne Thompson & Emma Sharp

Dr. Jean Clinton - June 13 at 7PM at Westdale

Please share on social media

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

Constitution & By-laws

QUESTIONS OR OTHER BUSINESS?

None

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 at 6 PM