

Westdale School Council Meeting-Minutes

Tuesday, October 16, 2018 — 6:00 pm — Cafeteria

APPROVALS: Agenda & Previous Minutes

INTRODUCTIONS/ATTENDANCE: Tony Vieira, Dianne Plum, Kate F, Lane O'Hara C, Denise Minardi, Lynda Brewer, Deborah O'Donnell, Laura Rudolph, Catherine Roberts (FIAC), Kyra Patterson, Rachel Hillock (Brock student), Emma Sharp, Joanne Thompson, Wendall Gillis, Ewa Oleksiak, Jane Brander

STUDENT REPORT: (Student Council Rep)

Kate F and Lane O'Hara C – student reps (Triune) on parent council

Meet on Wednesdays after school – Ms Turner is the teacher rep

Externally elected: One president, 2 vices, 2 reps for each junior grade

3 reps for each senior grade

Internally appointed: 1 junior senator, 1 senior senator

Internally elected: 4 positive school climate committee members, 1 secretary, 1 treasurer, 1 assistant treasurer, 2 PTA reps, 1 WAC rep, Club reps

The rest are general members

Kate explained the student council structure

Lane O'Hara - Starting famous Westdale alumni photos again

Student council will run 5 days of Hallowe'en activities

-5 days of spirit week leading up to Hallowe'en; -day of: common lunch; -Halloween haunted house (wac); -carnival (triune); -mini games; -fundraiser for YWCA; -best dressed; -pumpkin carving

WAC (Westdale Athletic Council) – haunted house

YWCA fundraiser through clothing donation

PRINCIPAL REPORT: Wendall Gillis

Projected numbers were accurate, behaviour has not been an issue this year

4 expulsions last year

EQAO – literacy test OSSLT 88% up 2% from 2017

Math Applied – up 1%; Academic – up 2% from 2017

PD direction in 2017-2018 - trying to build empathy and understanding of students through the various cultures and identities they represent.

- School Climate Plan

Data from PD sessions – 'look fors' around inclusion and diversity from staff

Focus this year 'Students learn better and engage more when they see themselves in their learning'

Directions Team of 15 staff to help guide this focus – e.g., in literature, images are diverse

Construction is going well – learning commons has been updated. There is more technology and the focus is on the higher order thinking and critical analyzing as well as a place to socialize. There is a maker's space in the new LC. There are spaces and furniture to make this a focal point in the school. Hope to open by the end of October.

Science labs should be opening in the next few weeks as part of phase 1

Phase 2 of 4 science lab renovation to be completed in the spring
Field seems to be established – minor drainage concerns
Maintenance plan has to be considered – 3 year plan in place now
Concerns about student use during PE classes – but most classes take place on school grounds
Churchill Park has been used for larger events such as cross-country

Smoking not as much of a concern as vaping
Public Health – smoke is smoke campaign – vaping is not healthy
Cannabis – will be dealt with a suspension as would alcohol or smoking

Bernie Custis new school opening and Transition
Transitions are being planned – administrators have meet from schools
About 20 students from Bennetto catchment at Westdale this year.

Parent teacher interviews on October 18 – online sign-up
Guidance counsellors will be onsite

Parent portal – is it working?
Wendall will look into it and send out a synervoice

Midterm marks will be out the third week of November
There will be a class average on this report

Announcements are online and go to web page and Twitter feed
They need to be updated in a more timely manner – **Wendall** to follow up

GUEST PRESENTER:

Suggestions include IB, EQAO math, FI language concern in grade 11 & 12, mental health & supports (PRO grant application for 2018), parent portal / The Hub,

BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

CHAIR REPORT: Joanne Thompson & Emma Sharp

- New Parent Welcome Grade 8 night Tuesday, November 20
- Bennetto and Hess Street parent outreach on this evening
- Tips for starting grade 9; student voice; snacks; Q&A;
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- Preparing our students for college & university
- Guidance has parent presentation
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- Bernie Custis Transition Committee Rep
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TEACHER REPORT: Erin Lepischak – unable to attend

QUESTIONS OR OTHER BUSINESS

Bylaws

Next Meeting Tuesday November 20 @ 6:00 pm