

## Westdale Secondary School Council Meeting December 20, 2022

### Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the Chair Dave Penton at 6:30pm, followed by the reading of the HWDSB Land Acknowledgement.

The roll call ensued with 3 voting members, David Penton, Kristi Gringhuis, and Erin Lepischak in attendance. Quorum was not achieved. Student Council (Triune) representative Andrew Wright and Principal Brian Goodram were also in attendance.

Prior meeting minutes for November 29<sup>th</sup> were reviewed. As quorum was not achieved, the minutes could not be approved and will be deferred for approval at the next meeting in January.

Andrew Wright, School Council (Triune) president shared a brief description of Triune's mission – to provide an inclusive and enjoyable high school experience for all Westdale students with a goal to make Westdale more than just classes. In working with school administration, the focus is on providing equitable opportunities for all students to get involved in school life.

Andrew outlined school events so far this year, including, but not limited to the following: school assemblies (with 25+ clubs currently running), school council elections, Triune "Bounty Hunt" to familiarize students with the school council members, Homecoming event, Food Drive, Holiday Market, Intramurals (run by Westdale Athletic Council – WAC), Chess Tournament, "Chili and Chill" (mental health event run by the Wellness Club with the Public Health Nurse), running daily school announcements.

For the remainder of the year, Andrew shared additional proposed events, including: Talent Show, Winter Formal, "Flowergrams", Athletic Banquet, Prom, Spring Homecoming, Iftar Dinner (run by Muslim Student Association), World Fair. Student Council is working on developing a year long calendar of events.

Ms. Lepishak provided the Teacher's Report and the current focus on reviewing student gaps from mid-term data to support all students in being successful in their respective courses. Ms. Lepishak shared that January will be busy developing and communicating success plans with students. When asked if there has been an increase in absenteeism of late, Ms. Lepishak said that anecdotally, attendance has remained consistent throughout the school year.

Mr. Goodram provided the Principal's Report and reiterated the recent Temporary Universal Masking Requirement that was approved by Trustees. Westdale continues to implement direction from the Board regarding implementation of this requirement.

Mr. Goodram shared that the commencement date is booked for Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup> at First Ontario Concert Hall. Clarification was provided to the group about a commencement (celebration of all students in a cohort) compared to graduation. This change in structure (Board wide) began last year and will continue again this year. Mr. Goodram

will work with the Commencement committee to gather parent voice on how to best operationalize and communicate the event on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ms. Claire Rivlin was not in attendance but shared an update from the Canadian Parents for French update through email: registration is starting now for the CPF after school virtual programs for reading, conversation, homework help and more, for all students of French from K-12. Programs will begin in mid-January.

Mr. David Penton provided the Chair's Report and provided information about the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and their help improve communication at the school level with a focus on timely access to information. PIC is sharing information to school councils through monthly communication called the "PIC Connection".

Mr. Penton provided an outline of the PROGrant application process and outlined the Board criteria as previously shared. These objectives of the grant include social inclusion, anti-racism, safe/welcoming environments, demonstrated respect for parents/guardians, enhancing communication with teachers/staff, Ontario curriculum and resources. The max amount granted is \$1,000. Ideas for PROGrant applications for the Westdale community were discussed including supporting mental health and well-being, social media / digital footprint awareness and safety. Mr. Penton will connect with PIC Chair (Mike Palma) for ideas and suggestions. Additionally, Mr. Penton will poll the School Council group for additional ideas due to absenteeism at the meeting. The deadline for PROGrant proposal is in January.

There were no additional items of business to discuss and the meeting ended at 7:35pm.