

Westdale Secondary School Council Meeting Nov 29th, 2022

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by the chair Dave Penton at 6.25 pm, followed by reading of the land acknowledgement.

The roll call ensued with 6 voting members in attendance including Kristi Gringhuis, Clare Rivlin, Catherine Roberts, David Penton, Anita Bane and Erin Lepischak, and Principal Goodram also attended.

The prior meeting minutes for Oct 25th were approved with minor edits, the motion to approved was put forward by Clare and approved by Catherine.

The student council report was deferred.

The teacher's report was given by Erin; the grade 8 introductory night was held on Oct 24th and well attended. The students are busy preparing for the school musical 'Footloose'. There will be a holiday market and food drive at the intermission of the musical.

The principal's report was delivered by Brian Goodram who discussed the grade 8 introductory night. The families and prospective students gathered initially in the auditorium where they were entertained by the repertoire band and scenes from the student musical prior to being divided into groups and brought around the school by the student chaperons. There will be a follow-up event in the new year with information about course offerings.

In an ongoing effort to 'beautify' the school premises the auditorium stage lights have been replaced and a new mural and additional signage has been added to the school.

The mid term report/progress cards have been shared with students and families. Going forward the school board is recommending no exams for grade 9-11, and exams for grade 12 should not exceed 20% of the subject final mark. A lively discussion ensued about the pros and cons of exposing students to the exam process through out their high school experience.

Some parents expressed an interest in 'Clothespin Ninja' being allowed to continue in the schools however the school administration has decided to not allow it this year due to concerns for student safety and wellbeing and to prevent disruption to classroom learning.

Canadian Parents for French; Claire gave an update on behalf of Canadian Parents for French. The winter program will be commencing in January, after review of the success of the fall programme CPF have decided not to offer programs for grade 11 & 12 students.

Report from the Chair: Dave discussed PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) the objectives of which are to take the parents/families voices back to the school board and to act as a resource for school councils. It was discussed that this may be an opportunity for parents to lobby for a change to the bell times at HWDSB secondary schools. Many parents acknowledged the difficulties of getting teenage students to school for 8 am and their preference for a latter start (and finish) to the school day.

In addition, ideas for the ProGrant were discussed including have a speaker (preferably live or hybrid live/virtual) to speak on an important topic such as Self- regulation, Fake News, Equality and diversity. The

grant offers \$1000 dollars to fund such an event and the due date for submission is January 27th. To be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.46pm. Next meeting Dec 20th 2022.