

## **Westdale Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes**

**March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair (Dave Penton) at 6.15pm. Anita was appointed secretary for the evening and the roll call was undertaken; in attendance was Dave Penton (Chair), Brian Goodram (Principal), Anita Bane (Secretary), Catherine Roberts, Claire Rivlin, Kristi Gringhuis, Erin Lepischak (teachers representative), Len Lu (student representative) and Matt McRoy (observer).

The minutes of the Feb 28<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with minor edits (motion moved by Anita Bane and seconded by Catherine Roberts, none opposed).

Len Lu reported on the student council activities including talent show, plans for the prom, flowergram, Relay for Life, tennis tournament, a garbage pick-up day and a karaoke evening.

Erin Lepischak provided the teachers report. Many departments are undertaking a learning and improvement plan for their disciplines e.g. the science department is grappling with de-streaming in grade 9 and how to ensure that the entire class has the ability to work to their strengths and make progress.

Brian Goodram provided the principals report. The preliminary/interim reports were shared with parents in advance of the parent teacher interview evening scheduled for March 30<sup>th</sup> (5.30 to 7.30 pm). The latter will be followed for an information night for parents/caregivers and students in grade 10 and 11 interested in attending university. A new VP has been appointment to the school Ms. Gokhale who has a background in theatre and arts. The school is hosting the National Theatre School Dramafest – for the Hamilton region. The school continues to improve way finding in the school including multi-lingual signs. In addition, upgrading of school infrastructure to include maintenance to the main front doors is an ongoing project. The HWDSB is seeking feedback on the school calendar for the academic year 2023-24, the board is also evaluating the IB program.

Claire Rivlin provided an update on behalf of the Canadian Parents for French; the commencement of the spring sessions of the afterschool online French classes for K-12 will be announced shortly.

Dave Penton provided the report from the Chair. Some informal feed-back from the Pro-grant indicates that many schools including our own found the rules for application overly restrictive and the funding quite limiting. PIC meeting dates for Cootes Paradise April 4<sup>th</sup> 6.30-8.30pm. A request for a hybrid (on-line in person) meeting was discussed.

Other Business: Catherine Roberts raised concerns around damage to the boys washrooms limiting the number of rooms available for use. The petition for the bell time change has almost 1000 signatures and Catherine encouraged parents and students (if eligible) to sign.

Meeting was adjourned at 7.30 pm: Anita Bane, seconded Kristi Gringhuis