

Westdale Secondary School Council Meeting Minutes June 27th 2023

The meeting commences at 6.20pm, in attendance were Brian Goodram (Principal), Dave Penton (Chair), Ms. Lepischak (teacher representative), Anita Bane, Kristi Gringhuis, Catherine Roberts and Claire Rivlin.

The land acknowledgement was read by Dave.

Anita was appointed as secretary for the evening. The roll call confirmed quorum.

The minutes (with minor changes) from the previous meeting were approved. Motion forwarded by Kristi and seconded by Claire.

Student council report: None

Teachers report. Ms. Lepischak and colleagues have been busy completing final evaluations. Ms Lepischak thanked parents for the support they have given to their children over the year and particularly with culminating exams. Final report cards will be available electronically July 4th .

Principals report. Mr. Goodram confirmed that final report cards will be available digitally July 4th, any inquiries regarded grades can be made via the WSS website and the administrative staff will forward them to Mr. Goodram or the VPs.

Sandy Shaw (MPP) and Maria Felix-Miller (HWDSB Trustee) visited the school a couple of weeks ago and discussed the HWDSBs ongoing pandemic recovery plans which prioritizes learning needs, students mental health needs and social skills challenges.

The June 2nd commencement went well, due to its early date in June no awards were given out. The date for future commencement ceremonies will be determined in collaboration with the board.

June 29th is a PA day for WSS staff who will reflect on the success of various strategies employed during the past school year and how the more successful strategies may be leveraged for even greater success in the next academic year.

A number of staff will be leaving due to retirements and redeployments. Ms Gokhale (VP) will be returning to her prior school and in her place Ms. Schapp has been appointed. Ms. Schapp has a special interest in mathematics.

The projected enrollment for the fall is 100 less students than the current population, this may change as final numbers become available in August.

Following the last school council meeting Mr. Goodram reviewed the Triune constitution which is due an update and met with Triune representatives. Together they mapped out a structure for the Triune council for the next academic year. There will be 3 co-presidents, 2 elected grade representatives, a treasurer, secretary and social media and events co-ordinator and other general council members. Students must have participated in Triune meetings in the prior academic year to be part of the council. New teacher advisors will be sought in September. One of the priorities of next years council will be to review and update the Triune constitution.

Mr. Goodram thanked Ms. Lepischak, parents and teacher volunteers for their time and efforts over the year.

Report from the chair. Dave congratulated the school on an excellent commencement ceremony and thanked Mr. Goodram and all the teachers for their efforts.

Canadian Parents for French. Claire informed the group that the spring virtual after school French lessons were well attended and received and will be continuing in the summer and fall. These classes support students and also help teacher candidates.

Further business. A plea from Claire and other parents to keep the pressure up to change the bell times to a later start time was re-iterated. The science around adolescent sleep patterns and the positive correlation between sleep (duration and quality) and mental health was briefly discussed. Catherine indicated that Gerry Smith had informed her that there may be some changes to the transportation routes which may allow the bell times to be addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.30pm following an expression of thanks from the council members to Mr. Goodram, Ms Lepischak and all the amazing teachers at WSS. Next meeting September 26th at 6.15pm. Motion forwarded by Anita and seconded by Catherine