

Parent Council – September 26, 2023

In Attendance – Brian Goodram (Principal), Kim PH (Teacher Rep), Shannon, Danielle, Claire, Katherine, Kristy, Louai, Sue, Jerome

Minutes

Meeting began at 6:10 pm.

Land Acknowledgement – read by Brian

- Becoming actionable to Land Acknowledgement
- Brian's priority is that all students feel safe, belonging and welcome
- Very low self-identification of indigenous students

Welcome and Introductions

- Brian (Principal)
- Kim PH (Teacher Rep)
- Shannon Boyle – yes voting member
- Danielle - undecided
- Claire – yes voting member
- Kristy- yes voting member
- Katherine – yes voting member
- Anita
- Louai – yes voting member
- Sue – yes voting member
- Jerome – yes voting member
- Brian notes that parents are the first and foremost teacher in their child's life; appreciation of the investment of once-a-month meetings
- Brian will create mailing list and bcc everyone on emails; Brian will share memos with Chair to share with group

Appointment of Secretary for Meeting

- KPH

Roll Call and Determination of Self-Nominated Applicants

Elections

- Members at large (if over 15 candidates)
- Executive positions
 - o Chair
 - Sets agenda
 - Sends out agenda
 - Nomination – Claire nominated Katherine; with permission of the group, Claire and Katherine will co-chair (Katherine Roberts and Claire Rivlin)
 - o Secretary
 - Volunteers?
 - Seeing none, role will rotate through the group each month

Minutes from June Meeting

- No questions; some minor corrections were made for typos and date errors
- Brian made motion to accept minutes; accepted by Claire; seconded and approved

Student Council Report

- Triune electing co-presidents currently
- Student council will attend future meetings to give report

Teacher Report

- Gave brief update on September start up; mentioned Grade 12 assembly that happened today; updated parents on Oct 26 parent session after Family-Teacher interviews

Principal's Report

- Top of list is projected enrollment; in March board provides projected enrollment; Brian determines school projection and shares with SO; board said 1380; Brian said 1480; board used their number for projected decreased enrollment; over the summer and through the fall our actual enrollment grew to over 1600 students
- Brian continued to advocate for more staff and lines; contractually must be in compliance by day 10
- We were out of compliance in a number of areas and were granted 4 ESL lines and 9 regular lines
- Last week Brian let families know that we were splitting classes and hiring new teachers; 9 permanent teachers hired
- Still a few more interviews to complete staffing
- Brian has been advocating that this has not been good for kids;
- New SO as of Sept 25; Nicole Lee is new SO and Brian will continue to share concerns with her
- Question about bathroom situation? Vandalism? Provincial trend with washroom vandalism. Currently two washrooms under repair (one on 3rd floor and one on 1st floor). Site supervisor was in yesterday and encouraged to get the repairs done in a timely fashion. Each floor has two male identifying and two female identifying plus a single occupancy
- Facility update; doors painted, new signage, multi language signage, renovated a second floor space for drama and daily prayer; 4th floor drama room became media arts room; school funds and facilities capital to make ongoing repairs (tech dust collectors and fire exit)
- Bell times question? Will this change anytime soon? Bell times are largely contingent on bus schedules (school bus not HSR). Bell times are set by Exec Council not at the school level. Brian concerned about student mental health, students taking younger siblings to school and students catching two buses in the dark to get here daily; Co-chairs are working on a petition (started a while ago) to central committee for transportation considerations; Brian will continue to advocate for bell time change; will invite School Trustee to attend a meeting again; trustees help direct Exec Council to make change; wondering about elementary schools starting earlier and secondary schools starting later

Greetings from Incoming Chair

- Delighted to see such a good turnout for first meeting; great to see new faces
- Happy to see people are interested in bell time issue
- Welcomed everyone to meeting and Parent Council

Future Meeting Dates

- Frequency is last Tuesday of the month;
- Proposed dates: Oct 24, Nov 28, Dec 19, Jan 30, Feb 27, Mar 26, April 30, May 28, June 18
- Meeting will start at 6:15

Further Business

- Claire – standing CPF item on the agenda
 - o First chapter meeting Oct 1 at Hanes Corn Maze
 - o Meetings conducted in English

- After school virtual programs (22/23) had over 300 HWDSB students participate
- CPF Ontario has changed funding structure; flat \$20 administrative fee for programming
- K-12 programming in reading, conversation, homework help
- Facilitators are teacher-candidates from York and Glendon
- Brian – Human Rights and Equity Advisory Committee looking for members; deadline is Oct 13 to indicate interest; can email Brian and information is posted on website
- KPH – IB 5 Year Review/Self Study
 - Updated group on status of 5 year review/self study
 - Submitted preliminary documentation on Sept 15
 - Self study and PDP due Dec 1
 - Site Visit occurring in March 2024
- Brian clarified three Westdale Tier 3 Programs for the group
 - ESL/ELL
 - French Immersion
 - IB
- Returned to bell time discussion
 - Group will look to “dust off” petition and gather interest again
 - Who makes decision? Combination of trustees and transportation consortium
 - Discussion ensued about bus driver shortage, bus driver wages,
 - a trustee noted that parents need to “get organized” and “make a racket”
- Question about Thursday
 - Terry Fox Walk Period 2
 - Kids can bring cash if they would like instead of SCO
 - Grade 9 Spirit Day Periods 3 and 5
 - Club Fair during both lunches
- Clothespin Ninja plea; Brian shared his view on close proximity to other students and the possibility that it goes wrong and it is disruptive