

School Council – January 30, 2024

In Attendance – Brian Goodram (Principal), Kim PH (Teacher Rep), Jerome, Claire, Danielle, Louai, Catherine, Shannon, Kristi, Susan, Len (Triune Rep), Nicole

Regrets – Jan

Minutes

Meeting began at 6:20 pm

Land Acknowledgement

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes from December Meeting

- Minutes approved; motioned by Catherine , approved by Susan

Student Council Report

- Only 2 meetings this month due to Quiet Week and Winter Break
- Semi formal date is April 18
- Still deciding on theme
- Post exam events – free hot chocolate in the caf to celebrate exams being finished
- Starting to plan end of year events – ideas include: sports day (could involve class time), movie night on field, soccer homecoming event, talent show, “leave your mark” for graduating students (lock, ribbon, etc. on fence of field), considering Valentine’s Day events
- Triune is wondering if Valentine’s Day events are appropriate? Consensus from group seemed to indicate that it is; consider romantic vs friendship; Galentine’s etc.
- Other Valentine’s ideas: pen pals, matching questionnaire (trios rather than duos)
- Question from Catherine: has event with animals been quashed by Teacher Advisor? This type of event has occurred at Westdale in the past.
- Black History Month – trivia night; collaborate with Grad Coach

Teacher Report

- Since last meeting Student Services hosted a very successful Grade 8 Option Night for parents on Jan 17
- Guidance/Student Success has visited all associate schools to review option selections with Grade 8’s
- Guidance/Student Success/LRT/MLL staff did evening presentations at Hess, Bennetto and Kanetskare (tomorrow night)
- Selected the school nomination for the Schulich Leader Scholarship

Principal’s Report

- Follow up on Nick’s visit from Corporate – translation feature not available on individual school sites; only on HWDSB main site; Brian brought information to Nick
- Vaccination Clinic in Feb for students with overdue vaccinations; clinic completed and then Public Health informs school which students still need vaccines; reached out to City of Hamilton to translate letters into 7 languages to support MLL learners
- Evaluations days almost complete; PA Day on Friday, Feb 2
- Sem 2 starts Monday, Feb 5
- Quite a few LTO teachers to hire – 14 positions being offered Jan 31
- Multi Year Strategic Plan shared earlier in January by Director; Westdale student Sarah H did a spoken word piece at the event

- Continue to revise targets for increased outcomes for students

Chair's Report

- Thanked everyone for coming
- Been working hard to get things going for PRO Grant
- 2 big concerns for the year – Bell Times and PRO Grant are continuing
- Catherine on FASL Advisory Committee; been to one meeting; next meeting Feb 7

Canadian Parents for French

- Had virtual baking class last Sunday; well attended
- Chapter meeting next week
- Executive working hard on coming up for events for a variety of age groups
- New group of FI teachers as a support group for all FSL teachers to support all teachers

Bell Time Data/Student Voice

- Review: SO Lee visited last meeting and informed that things were moving but slowly; more factors to consider than initially realized (HWCD SB coordination)
- Question from Group: what are the “ins and outs” of this type of decision?
- Ask: can someone from Transportation attend a meeting so questions can be asked?
- Question from Group: how many students are actually bused to school on a school bus?
- Follow up: understanding that the bell time was changed to support students brought in on a school bus
- Question: what are kids doing during exams who take the bus? Directed to caf before and after exams
- Question: is there someone at the board, and if so, who, to advocate with to change our bell time?
- Share: parents noted that getting up for a 9:00 exam is a huge difference than 8:00 for school
- Data from Brian:
 - o Student Voice – more powerful and carry more weight
 - o Part of student conversation in CHG381 was gender violence; discussion involved travelling to and from school and safety; Brian invited to sit into class and listen; information shared with SO Nicole and Transportation
 - o Brian shared data and quotes with permission of the students
- Late Data
 - o Sept – Jan 25
 - o Late vs LA (Late Absent)
 - o Period 1: 11, 591 L/LA in Semester 1
 - o Next closest is Period 5 with approximately 5000
- Question: how many students take HSR, get transportation provided
- Students who live more than 3.2 km from the school but live in catchment receive a bus pass or some form of transportation
- Triune planning a survey in Semester 2 to gather HSR data and student experiences; students who live further from the school are more impacted by earlier start and HSR use
- Group: can students sign petitions? Some discussion about if there is a minimum age limit
- Question: can council write to SO Lee directly? Yes; can also reach out to Trustee
- Question: what can be shared if the change.org petition is revisited? Catherine asks if Brian can vet something that she puts together
- Question: what weight does the petition carry? Difficult to say
- Question: can we invite Trustee Wong and someone from Transportation to next meeting?
- Question: can we write a letter and sign it on behalf of Council outlining concerns? Catherine and Claire to draft
- Question: is there data that shows achievement across the various periods? Brian to gather
- Question: is this a story to bring to the press?

PRO Grant Suggested Topics

- Jerome put the group in touch with Sheryl Boswell from YMHC
- Proposal has been submitted
- Sheryl's proposal was a workshop for 15 families; council prefers a lecture/auditorium presentation to reach more families
- Sheryl wanted it to be more interactive, but then group needs to be smaller; council would like to reach a wider audience with more informational/strategies shared that are appropriate for teenagers
- Consideration for the group: can use PPT live to allow families to use translate feature
- Brian noted that there have not been a lot of proposals submitted yet system-wide

Further Business

- Kim – forgot to mention in Teacher Report that Student Services is hosting a Course Option Night for current families on Feb 22
- Question: can there be more clarity around sharing exam/evaluation information?
- Question: can parents be better informed about culminating activities vs exams and when each is happening
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Meeting Adjourned 7:35 pm