

School Council – February 27, 2024

In Attendance – Brian Goodram (Principal), Kim PH (Teacher Rep), Jerome G, Nicole C, Anita B, Danielle S, Shannon B, Lesley Y, Len L (Triune Rep), Catherine R, Mark D, Louai M, Kristi G

Regrets – Susan, Claire, Jan

Minutes

Meeting began at 6:20 pm

Land Acknowledgement

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes from January Meeting

- Minutes approved; motioned by Danielle, approved by Catherine

Student Council Report

- Organized free hot chocolate event on PJ/comfy day
- Feedback received about nutrition program in the morning being cancelled
- Grade 12+ grad rep added to Triune
- Upcoming events: ping pong tournament, talent show, secular egg decorating contest
- Semi formal coming up quickly; need teachers to chaperone; timing isn't great as it's currently scheduled the day midterm marks are due
- Perhaps a video to HWDSB to persuade bell changes, nutrition program
 - o Brian updated group about funding for nutrition program

Teacher Report

- Successful Semester 2 startup; timetable changes completed by Feb 9
- Week of Feb 12 teachers visited Grade 9, 10 and 11 classes to discuss option selections for next year
- Week of Feb 19 Grade 12 classes were visited to discuss options and commencement
- Successful parent presentation on Feb 22; had about 60 attendees
- Counsellors and SST have visited all associate schools to do option entry with Grade 8 students
- Options are due in Xello by this Friday, March 1
- Warriors for Wellness is planning a pasta and cereal drive next week
- Commencement
 - o June 26, FOCH, 3 pm start
 - o Students to arrive one hour prior
 - o \$80 fee includes awards, venue costs, 4 tickets, gown/cap/stole and grad lunch
 - o Payment available now on SCO
 - o Extra ticket process will be communicated in April
 - o Commencement/prom committee will be meeting to capture student voice
 - o Mid April Grade 12 assembly to discuss prom/commencement details
 - o In The Hub there is a QR code which links to an online form to gather:
 - Preferred name
 - Gown size
 - Commencement statement to be read while crossing the stage
- Question about old award assemblies came up; recognition of student achievement is important; can we do something different that isn't an assembly; make info accessible to parents

Principal's Report

- John C Holland Awards; 6 students nominated and 3 won awards
- Jr Girls Volleyball competed at SOSSA and made the finals; Jr Boys Basketball won SOSSA today
- OFSAA Alpine and Snowboarding this week as well
- 500 + students needed vaccination updates; hosted clinic Feb 26; impacted by cyber-security issue at City of Hamilton yesterday; able to vaccinate over 300 students; working to get the remaining students vaccinated before March 6 suspension deadline
- School beautification; Brian working on investment from school board; auditorium seats will be repaired as well as adding accessible seating, some painting happening, light replacement; front doors being repaired in the summer; closing off middle hall lockers permanently and refreshing paint on them; accessibility changes to building at Longwood entrance for "kiss and drop" to centre door; AODA making changes to ramp door functionality

Chair's Report

- Catherine attended FASL meeting; nothing noteworthy to report

Canadian Parents for French

- No update this month

Bell Time Data/Student Voice

- Chairs working on letter to board
- Shannon emailed trustee and trustee said email would be brought to the board
- Student survey
 - o Instagram post pushed to each school group club/team; Instagram reel; posters in multiple languages;
 - o Offered in multiple languages
 - o 475 responses (12 international students; 9 students switch houses often; 4 repertoire students)
 - o Good grade distribution in responses
 - o Most common travel time to school is 30 minutes
 - o on average students live 5.5 km from school
 - o most students walk, bus or have parent drive them
 - o many students take multiple buses to get to school
 - o most students are getting up between 6 and 6:30 to get to school
 - o many students have responsibilities in the morning before school
 - o 63% of students responded that the school starts too early; 21% responded to keep it as is
 - o Ideal day is 8:30 – 3:00, followed by 9 – 3:30
 - o Students say they'd have less shifts at jobs if school started later
- Discussion about when the bell times changed; and why; old article referenced that changing bell times would save costs and get everyone to school on time
- Brian update
 - o Transportation to School (about 150 students; 10% of population)
 - 2 large school buses
 - 5 mini buses
 - 14 taxis
 - o Transportation Services update
 - All buses are paired with other schools with later bell times; challenges routing if times changes
 - Students arrived 7:45 and leave 2:40
- Question: what schools are we paired with for transportation?
- Survey results to be incorporated with letter Catherine and Claire are working on

- Could Westdale have a unique/special bus arrangement because of multiple special programs? Perhaps more taxis and less buses?
- Next steps will be to continue working on the letter and using survey data presented by Triune

PRO Grant Suggested Topics

- Application approved
- Sheryl is going to present in auditorium to a larger group
- Grant must be used during this school year

Further Business

- Nutrition program update came about organically
 - o Brian noted that funding for the program was cut and that the types of food have been scaled back
 - o Students know that if they need some food to start the day there is a space they can access; lunch snacks provided daily
 - o Lots of questions about how the program runs, types of foods, sourcing food, etc.
 - o Perhaps invite Kleri V to next meeting to update program
 - o Are there groups that can be reached out to for support? Food 4 Kids?
 - o Using bursary funds as well to support student need through grocery cards
 - o Group feels this is an emergency situation
- Catherine motioned that if a decision needs to be made about this program before our next meeting, decisions can be made by email; motion passed
- Question: is this a dire situation or are the kids ok? Brian responded that we have been able to find food for anyone that needs it to this point
- Question: why isn't the cafeteria server being used to sell food? Brian noted that Aramark is short staffed so not all schools can have a servery. Brian has asked Aramark to remove their equipment so we can use the space instead
- Brian will gather data on nutrition program
- Semi Formal question: limited tickets available; are there not dances in the gym/caf anymore? Fire Code prevents size of gatherings

Meeting Adjourned 7:59