

## School Council – March 26, 2024

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**In Attendance** – Brian Goodram (Principal), Kim PH (Teacher Rep), Danielle S, Kristi G, Susan M, Shannon B, Lesley Y, Jan S, Nicole C, Jerome G, Hannah H, Tinike O, Tomi O, Catherine R, Claire R

**Regrets** – Louai

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### Minutes

Meeting began at 6:20

### Land Acknowledgement

### Roll Call

### Approval of Minutes from January Meeting

- Minutes approved; motioned by Claire, approved by Shannon

### School Public Health Nurse

- What is role? School is the patient as a whole; not individual students
- At school on Tuesdays
- Measures of healthy school – student voice/leadership,
- Walmart grant \$1000
- Focus on upcoming mental health week
- Talent show in June
- Working with CCC (Courtyard Cleanup Crew)
- Visits classrooms for presentations – vaping,
- Working with staff to achieve Healthy School certification
- Worked with school on vaccine catch up clinic
- 6 areas for Healthy Schools
- Question – in light of cutbacks to nutrition grant, how can we support the program? Where is there grant money and for what? Hannah – lots of eco-grants right now; nutritionist on staff who helps source pockets of funding
- Many grants closed now and will reopen in the summer for next year
- Problems not unique to Westdale – many high needs schools have been left in lurch with funding
- Rethinking ways to collect food/bring food into the school

### School Nutrition Program

- Student Tomi O – Warriors for Wellness
- Raise awareness and support for breakfast program – Bring Back Breakfast
- Accessible space free from stigma to access resources for all
- School should be safe haven and food program act as buffer for students
- Need greater prioritization of program
- Nutrition a major factor in health and well being
- Average of 200 meals served daily; almost 50,000 meals served last year at school
- Compelling student voice narratives
- Support
  - o Sign the petition, share the petition
  - o Garner community support
  - o Fundraising
  - o Use voice at town hall/city council meetings
  - o Reach out to local government representatives

- Question – how is a school defined as high need and is Westdale high need? Answer – depends on a number of factors when it is a ministry program; in terms of PH Westdale is a target school (look at Urban Health Atlas)
- Question – sub committee as part of group to do groundwork to work on donations/funding? Can we send letters to “do something about it”?
- Donations can be made to Hamilton Foundation for Student Success earmarked for Westdale Nutrition Program; Brian will follow up with Amy LC at board
- Question – is there Home and School at Westdale who can fundraise? No
- Question – are there rules for serving the food? Eg, can a bakery donate “day olds” (yes – Oakrun Bakery is currently doing that)
- Question – is there a list of groups that we are receiving support from currently? Oakrun Bakery, Bulldogs Foundation, Tastebuds

### **Student Council Report**

- No report tonight

### **Teacher Report**

- Option selection completed Friday before March break; still chasing a few students
- Will be heading into timetabling shortly so there will be a pause on changes for next year at that point
- Preliminary reports went home this week
- Family teacher interviews next week, April 4 from 5-7; instructions to sign up for interviews is on the school website
- Midterm reports will come home April 26
- Guidance hosting a session for families with students currently in Grade 11 called “Preparing Your Student (and you!) for Grade 12” – April 9 at 6:30
- IB evaluation last week was very successful; great opportunity to showcase the programme and the great work that our teachers are doing with the students

### **Principal’s Report**

- Good news – created accessible seating area in aud and used parts to fix other chairs; lights refocused for stage presentations
- Hosting NTS Drama Fest regionals and Westdale has a play in the competition
- Iftar dinner March 27 for students observing Ramadan to break fast together; about 130 students and 20 staff participating
- Ask from Board – principals to share disproportionality data with SC
  - o We All Count census data
  - o Last administered in 2021-2022; participation rate 48%
  - o Grow dataset by administering yearly in Careers and Civics classes
  - o Disproportionality – when we see students in a particular group being disproportionately represented in certain outcomes
  - o disproportionality represented in achievement, attendance, well-being and suspensions
  - o [Disproportionality Data Report | Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board \(hwdsb.on.ca\)](https://www.hwdsb.on.ca)

### **Chair’s Report**

- Catherine emailed Hamilton Community Foundation about nutrition program
- Letter drafted to trustees about bell times
- Catherine will attend FSL meeting tomorrow and report back

### **Canadian Parents for French**

- Online programs continuing

- CPF Hamilton has Facebook page with lots of great information

### **Bell Time Update**

- Data suggests more than kids being tired; safety issues are upsetting; now with nutrition cut it adds more
- Complex issues
- If bell time was 8:30 would kids have to be supervised between bus arrival and start time? Answer – no, supervision needed at secondary
- Group feels a 9:00 start time would be the best and 8:30 would be a second choice
- Students entering class late also disrupt the class that has started
- Even if school starts later, students wouldn't have to spend as much time getting to/from school in the dark

### **PRO Grant Update**

- Jerome spoke with Cheryl and noted she is ready to present when we are
- Needs laptop and projector setup
- Aiming for mid-May presentation
- Can we leverage Warriors for Wellness and PHN to have donation bins at the presentation?

### **Further Business**

- When is semi formal? April 25
- Tickets on sale?
- Can parents chaperone? They can if they have appropriate paperwork, and if needed beyond teacher chaperones
- How tickets will be sold will be revisited by Brian

### **Meeting Adjourned 7:28**