

## **School Council – September 24, 2024**

**In Attendance** – Cindy Stranak, Godfrey Zari Rukundo, Van Hansen, Ney Armando De Mello Meziat Filho, Gisela Ribeiro Rodrigues Meziat, Edith Rukundo, Kim Parkes-Hallmark, Brian Goodram, Kristi Gringhuis, Anita Bane, Nicole Crowder, Louai Moghrabi, Claire Rivlin, Catherine Roberts, Jan Sumner, Rachael Shay, Camille Blackwood, Wendy Huang, Shannon Boyle, Eishaam Ablukaraim, Fouziya Modlin.

**Regrets** – Danielle Schwalm, Jerome Galante

### **Minutes**

Meeting began at 6:20 pm

### **Land Acknowledgement**

### **Welcome and Introductions**

### **Appointment of Secretary for Meeting**

### **Roll Call and Determination of Self-Nominated Applicants**

### **Elections**

- Members at large (if over 15 candidates)
  - o Attend meetings
  - o Quorum is minimum 8 voting members to pass
  - o May be option to attend virtually
- Executive positions
  - o Chair
    - Sets agenda
    - Sends out agenda
    - Nomination – Claire and Catherine were nominated by Kristi and seconded by Shannon
    - Claire and Catherine elected co-chairs
  - o Secretary
    - KPH will continue to support in this role

### **Approval of Minutes from June 18, 2024 Meeting**

- Minutes approved; nominated by Catherine, seconded by Claire

### **Student Council Report**

- None this month; will begin at next meeting

### **Teacher Report**

- Last week in August – end of the second week of school completed new registrations and timetable changes
- Grade 12 Post Secondary Planning assembly on September 16
- Grade 12 Parents Post Secondary Planning Information Session is tomorrow, September 25 at 7:00 pm
- University visits started last week with McMaster. Many more scheduled through the beginning of November
- Ontario University Fair October 5-6 in Toronto
- OUAC Info Session at lunch on Oct 10
- OCAS Info Session at lunch TBD
- Out of Province applications info session at lunch on Oct 16
- Ontario College Fair Oct 16-17 in Toronto
- Atlantic Universities Fair Oct 22 in library

- College Fair Oct 24 in library
- HWDSB event – On My Way – Oct 24 at 5:30
- Preliminary Reports go home Oct 21
- Family/Teacher Interviews scheduled for Oct 29
- Loran and U of T Scholarship Info shared with students
- Queen's Major Admission Awards info session at lunch on Nov 8
- September quarterly publication of the Scholarship Report is posted in The Hub for students
- Weekly newsletter also posted in The Hub and on Westdale website for Grade 12's. Focus this week is resources for college and university research, job search resources, etc.
- Planning for TOKTWD and Grade 8 visits underway
- Grade 7/8 Open House scheduled for Nov 21
- Kudos from group to Krista G for the Grade 9 Orientation in August

### **Principal's Report**

- Facilities update
  - o New fire escape
  - o New external dust collectors
  - o Painting, room renos, flooring
  - o Working with HWDSB facilities management to revamp the front doors to maintain the historical look of the building
- Enrollment
  - o Projected at 1550, sitting around 1600 (approx.)
  - o Timetable settled
  - o Remain largest secondary school in the board
- Cell Phones/Vaping
  - o Board shared info to parents in August
  - o Westdale process has been to support and remind students not to have devices in sight during class time and then a paper bag is offered after multiple warnings
  - o Social media now blocked on all board networks (except YouTube); students must use data to access
  - o Grade 9 students seem to be adapting most easily; senior students having a bit more difficulty
- Successful grade assemblies during school start up
- Question from parent re: safety/walking safety
  - o Continue to advocate for bus provisions for students
- Monthly newsletter to parents starting in October
  - o Will focus on parking lot safety
  - o Drop off by fire escape for students to enter using center doors
- Flip model for morning classes going well; everyone is adjusting

### **Greetings from Incoming Chair**

- Co-chairs have been active for years as students have moved through HWDSB schools

### **Committee Updates (PIC, FASLAC, CPF)**

- PIC (Cindy)
  - o City wide committee; members from each ward, trustees, superintendents, HWDSB staff
  - o Review applications for PRO Grants
  - o To make approvals easier, due by Nov 22 this year
  - o MOE surveyed parents but many are unaware survey exists. Closes October 1. Has been posted on Westdale SC Facebook page for parents. Brian looking into making families aware of the opportunity
  - o School Council Start Up event Oct 15

- Translate button has been added to HWDSB website and school sites; PDF documents cannot be translated
- FASLAC (Catherine)
  - Group has not met yet this year
- CPF (Claire)
  - Canadian Parents for French
  - Free membership
  - Activities, events available

#### **Future Meeting Dates**

- October 22 (to accommodate Family/Teacher Interviews scheduled for Oct 29)
- Nov 26
- Dec 17
- Jan 28
- Feb 25
- Mar 25
- April 29
- May 27
- June 17

#### **Establish School Council Priorities (eg. Bell times, PRO Grant)**

- Bell time will be focus again this year
- PRO Grant – hoping to have a fall and spring speaker this year
  - Shannon has the names of 3 potential speakers
  - Question was raised about the credentials of the speaker used last year

#### **Further Business**

- Claire noted there is a new Westdale Parents Facebook Group that people can join

Meeting adjourned 7:23 pm