

School Council – February 25, 2025

In Attendance – Brian Goodram, KPH, Claire Rivlin, Shannon Boyle, Nicole Crowder, Kristi Gringhuis, Cindy Stranak, Rachael Shay, Catherine Roberts, Anita Bane

Regrets – Jan, Danielle

Minutes

Meeting began at 6:24 pm

Land Acknowledgement

Approval of Minutes from January 2025 Meeting

- Minutes approved; nominated by Kristi, seconded by Shannon

Student Council Report

- Planning second semiformal
- Successful hot chocolate day in early Feb
- Black-operated businesses visiting Westdale tomorrow for Black History Month
- Prom committee working on theme
- Question about running semiformal events for specific grades so that everyone has an opportunity to attend at least one (either fall or spring) – maybe update at next meeting

Teacher Report

- Next year options were due Feb 21 in myBlueprint; so far we have 90% of students who have entered options; spending the week chasing down the last 10% for Friday's deadline
- Parents will have an opportunity to approve course selections in Parent Portal beginning the week of March 3
- Semester start up and snow days thwarted our opportunity to host a parent info session for choosing courses; instead we sent home a message through school messenger with links to relevant presentations and resources
- Will host a session targeted for Grade 11 parents supporting their student with post-secondary planning
- Commencement reminder from Ms. O'Leary – commencement fee and grad gown purchase are both available for ordering/payment; information is posted on the school website and on the Hub; two separate payments – one to School Cash for commencement fee (\$55) and one to Jacor for the purchase of the gown package (\$22.50)
- OSAP presentation for students on March 27 during Period 2

Principal's Report

- PA Day Friday – morning focus is antisemitism training and then instructional/departments time in the afternoon
- Bit of a blip with network being down at the beginning
- Well-being focus – public health immunization program; next Friday suspensions begin; started at 500 students needing immunizations but down to 300; began to call groups of kids down to office today to provide information; families would have received a letter in the mail in January from public health if they need vaccinations

Chair's Report/PRO Grant Update/Planning

- In conversation with other two other School Council chairs for PRO Grant – April 2
- Dr. Jean Clinton at Westdale
- Danielle created beautiful poster; drafting message to share with other schools so same information goes out to all school populations
- Brian will put in March community newsletter

- Need to determine time – if one hour session then start at 7:00 but if two hour session then start at 6:00
- Suggestion to write note to Mike Shoreman to thank him for his interest and perhaps connect next year
- Should we have event registration? No. Group feels there is enough space in the auditorium.
- Should we ask people to bring something? Perhaps non-perishable item to donate to community fridges

Committee Updates (PIC, CPF)

- CPF
 - o No report this month
- PIC
 - o Transportation did not come to PIC meeting as planned
 - o Medical health supports information shared; working on amalgamating many policies
 - o System Navigator Farusz (?) (new role) addresses gaps for equity population; culturally responsive role bridging between families and schools; especially newcomer families are not setup for success at school
 - o Family wellness day in May, 9-2 at Sherwood; for kids K-12; workshops and events for all ages; participate as a family; will need to register to attend

Further Business

- **Cell Phones**
 - o Reminder to students in grade assemblies about cell phone usage during instructional time
 - o Admin popping into classes and reminding students about cell phone usage
 - o Also discussed during weekly relations meeting between admin and union reps
 - o Reminders in weekly memo from Brian to staff; reminders to model expectations (cell phones, bathroom breaks, connecting with home early and often)
 - o Revisiting staff handbook as necessary
 - o Question: do admin have an opportunity to meet with each other to discuss concerns like cell phones? Yes, during monthly P/VP learning; some time in afternoon for family of schools to discuss; also VP Networking for discussion. Is there opportunity for common responses to these issues by schools? Schools are learning from each other (e.g. another school has vape detectors in bathrooms and it isn't going smoothly)
 - o Noted that it is the feeling that parents would be supportive devices being removed and placed securely away; perhaps a fundraiser for the lock boxes?
 - o Cindy noted that when SO Smith came to PIC, board is still working on finalizing and tweaking policies
- **Transportation**
 - o Shannon emailed other school councils and only 2 responded and neither are interested in transportation discussion
 - o PIC unsure if transportation will be rescheduling to attend their meeting
- **Lates**
 - o Habit-forming
 - o Consequences?
- **TVOMathify**
 - o Can it be promoted more frequently
- **Cafeteria**
 - o Can it be an inviting space for students to bring lunch and meet new people
 - o Opportunities almost daily in spaces in the schools for students to engage
 - o Relatively small comparative to size of building
 - o Will work on engaging kids in spaces
 - o What about more benches/picnic tables around the property?

Meeting adjourned 7:37 pm