

School Council – May 27, 2025

In Attendance – SO Lee, B Goodram, KPH, Claire Rivlin, Kristi Gringhuis, Jerome Galante, Jan Sumner, Rachael Shay, Shannon Boyle, Danielle Schwalm, Catherine Roberts, Jeremy Lavrence, Nicole Crowder

Regrets – Anita Bane, Louai Moghrabi, Cindy Stranek, Van, Robin

Minutes

Meeting began at 6:21

Land Acknowledgement

Approval of Minutes from April 2025 Meeting

- Minutes approved; nominated by Nicole, seconded by Danielle

Student Council Report

- tree planting update – got approval and hoping for June 6 planting event; planning to occur in the northeast corner of the field; 5 trees being planted
- prom update – it's tomorrow, plans in place and hoping for a smooth event
- election preparation – candidates are campaigning; elections on June 3
- freezie hand out on one of the hot days

Teacher Report

- IB exams from May 8 – 21 went smoothly at McMaster
- Timetabling is well underway for next year; counsellors will be starting conflicts next week
- Looking forward to Grad Breakfast on Friday; will start with Guidance update in the aud and valedictorian nomination speeches followed by gown and ticket distribution and food in the caf
- Important message coming home tomorrow to Grade 12 families about commencement as there are some students who have not completed all the tasks required

Principal's Report

- Over 100 students attended disABILITY prom; "silent prom" room where students could use headsets to listen to their own music
- ESL Club ran a "games day" today and it was a very popular event
- ESL Club co-presidents will have a seat at Triune next year
- Westdale students took part in the HWDSB branding initiative with many groups represented to be used in board communications
- Soap in bathrooms – students report that sometimes there is no soap in the bathrooms; ask student to let their teacher know or let the office know
- Bennetto will have a school bus bringing students to school next year

Chair's Report

- Claire shared report/document written by Dr. Jean Clinton
- Catherine participated in FI Focus Group
 - o Part of program strategy review
 - o FI entry point discussion

Committee Updates (PIC, CPF)

- CPF
 - o DELF update – 400 students took DELF (50 took A2, 50 took B2, 300 took B1); results in July

- FSL SHSM – currently at Sherwood and Waterdown; Glendale, OP, Nora and Saltfleet starting in 2025/26, will explore options for Westdale
- June 21/22 Franco Fest – volunteer hours available
- July 5 – 25th chapter anniversary event – volunteer hours available
- PIC
 - Universal Life Skills program presentation
 - School council bylaw topic; bylaws will be amended with PIC feedback for adoption for 26/27 year
 - May 31 event at Sherwood; over 700 people registered

School/System Clarification (Nicole Lee)

- Cafeteria
 - Long term contract between HWDSB and Aramark
 - Brian advocating for equipment to be removed; Westdale offered to be part of pilot to choose new equipment; hopefully new equipment over summer
 - Removal of industrial equipment and installation of equipment to support spec ed classes and nutrition program
 - Questions about how much money the board has spent on the contract and if that money could be better used elsewhere
 - Slow process
- Standardized School Council By-Laws
 - Situation where you don't need the by-laws until you need them
 - Need to be aligned with Ministry parameters
 - Schools can add addendums
 - Will act as a “base set” of rules formed from guidelines
 - Question about individuals wanting to sit on council and requirements to do so; sounds more formal than it actually may be
 - Question about information coming to families on paper for those who do not use computers
 - 3 Layers
 - Ministry Guidelines
 - Hamilton-centric Guidelines (PIC is reviewing)
 - School-based addendums
- Bell Times/Transportation
 - No official update from board
 - Conversation about who to turn to next to support the goals of the group; Ministry oversight?
 - Question about whether teachers like the start time?
 - Concern that the 4 main reasons for the bell times are not student-centered at all
 - Conversation about getting other groups involved from the ground up and bringing public attention to the issue

Annual School Council Report to Community (B Goodram)

- No fundraising or finances report for this year; used \$500 allocation for PRO grant top up
- SIP Update
 - Literacy
 - Continue to have over 80% success rate in OSSLT
 - Numeracy
 - Consistent % of students achieving Level 3 in Math EQAO (just over 50%, board average is just under 50%)
 - Focusing on IEP students and MLL student support
 - Working on gap closing; created Math learning team

- Future Preparedness
 - Above the board average for year 4 graduation rates (85%)
 - Focusing on the 15% who aren't on track to graduate to focus supports because those supports are good for all
 - Working hard to decrease midterm failure data by end of semester
- Student Well-Being
 - Over 60% of students attend 90% or more of their classes
 - Flip schedule has an overall positive impact in reducing disparity between Period 1 and 2 attendance
 - Was 11,000 in Period 1 last year; now 7000/Period 1 and 2 this year; similar to Period 5
- Incident data
 - 40 suspensions between Sept and Nov; 17 suspensions between December and today
 - Last year 156 suspensions
- Student Engagement
 - less than 20% of students feel they don't belong at school
- Brian will share with co-chairs and Nicole's office by the end of June deadline

Further Business

- TVO/ILC information/usage? Brian will follow up with staff/teachers
- Grade 9 Destreaming? Why? Nicole Crowder will follow up with Brian

Meeting adjourned 7:41 pm