

School Council – June 17, 2025

In Attendance – B Goodram, KPH, Claire Rivlin, Kristi Gringhuis, Jerome Galante, Jan Sumner, Rachael Shay, Shannon Boyle, Danielle Schwalm, Catherine Roberts, Jeremy Lavrence, Cindy Stranek, Van H, Robin L,

Regrets –

Minutes

Meeting began at 6:17 pm

Land Acknowledgement

Approval of Minutes from May 2025 Meeting

- Minutes approved; nominated by Shannon, seconded by Kristi

Student Council Report

- Prom went well
- Tree planning event also went well in back field
- Focused on elections and have chosen co-presidents and grade reps for next year
- Overall a successful year

Teacher Report

- Very successful Grad Breakfast on May 30; students heard valedictorian speeches and voted to choose valedictorian; Mace Bearers also selected and announced this week
- Most students have picked up their gowns and tickets; there are still some lawn signs left in Guidance if families would like one
- Looking forward to Commencement next week
- Timetable conflicts continue to be worked on; staffing is ongoing; student timetables will be shared in August

Principal's Report

- Staffing good news – board allocated an additional 2 lines to support growth in Tech/Construction SHSM
- Moving into LTO postings
- Keeping 3rd VP; new VP is Kelly Davy
- Reminder that exam start time is 9:00 and that they last 75 minutes (10:15 minimum end time)

Chair's Report

- Van found a study by MIT and Cambridge about AI/ChatGPT Use Writing Essays; will send to Brian for consideration for agenda in the fall
 - o Perhaps a topic for PRO Grant in the fall?
- Van is continuing to edit the video from Dr. Jean Clinton to share; Van did a summary via blog post that he can share with the group

Committee Updates (PIC, CPF)

- CPF
 - o Franco-Fest this weekend
 - o Several Westdale students signed up to volunteer
 - o 25th Anniversary Event at Battlefield Pavillion
- PIC

- Presentation from Community Engagement/Communications; redoing HWDSB website and school websites to launch in November; possibility to have School Council space on website again that is accessible by parents on Council to update/change information
- Presentation from Nutrition programs; 80% of schools have a nutrition program; goal is for all schools to have a program running; extra money for nutrition program fridges; Student Nutrition Toolkits and Grant possibility (through Foundation);
- PIC Parent Conference was May 27
- PRO Grant 25/26; application based again next year; less rigorous process; not a lot of rules around what schools can do with the funds (eg not just for parents and can involve students as well); must be around parent engagement but does not need to be an “event”; September meeting the group should look at PRO grant application as funds will be distributed in November

School Council Meeting Dates 2025/26 and Election

- Brian proposed Sept 30 for first meeting and election
- Brian will share in summer newsletter and also share nomination forms
- New bylaw rules will be worked on next year for implementation in 26/27

Annual School Council Report to Community (B Goodram)

- Brian completed template report for School Council Report to share with school community

Further Business

- Question around process/guidelines about student activism at Commencement ceremony
 - Additional garments must align with student dress guidelines
 - We can't prevent students from showing a flag; will read and react in the moment
 - Trusting students to make good decisions and we have outlined expectations and importance of the ceremony to Class of 2025
- Brian thanked co-chairs for their service as chairs over the past two years
- Co-chairs and council thanked Brian for his work

Meeting adjourned 7:15 pm