

School Council – October 28, 2025

In Attendance – Brian, KPH, Kelly D (VP), Shannon, Danielle, Van, Louai, Nicole, Kristi, Jan, Lola, Eishem, Robin, Rachael

Minutes

Meeting began at 6:20

Welcome and Introductions

Land Acknowledgement

- Suggestion from Danielle to inform/educate group instead of just reading the Land Acknowledgement
- Danielle will present at the next meeting
- Group in agreement

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve Shannon by and seconded by Danielle

Student Council Report

- No report tonight

Teacher Report

- Student Services hosted a college fair on October 21; organized by Ms. O’Leary and Ms. Quaglia; welcomed Mohawk, Sheridan, Fanshawe, Humber, and more
- Mr. Meyer and I hosted a well-attended lunch session walking students through the OUAC application and our department hosted a lunch session for students interested in applying to schools outside Ontario; university lunch visits continued this month (4 visits) and wrap up in November (7 schools booked)
- Melvin R Goodes Scholarship at Queen’s University – information session for students at lunch on Nov 7
- Looking forward to subject-specific PD on Nov 21
- Supporting Musical Theatre class with elementary school matinee performances of Little Women on Nov 26 and Dec 3
- Supporting students through preliminary report cards and working towards midterms later in November

Principal’s Report

- Enrollment steady – about 1580 students; 10 new registrations last week
- 2 new classes added to support English Language Learner classes
- Director visiting tomorrow (Oct 29)
- Family Teacher Interview Night on Thursday (Oct 30)
 - o Brian shared some rationale behind the timing of interviews being bound by collective agreement
 - o Encouraging staff to reach out to families proactively to establish two-way communication
- **Nutrition Grant Application**
 - o Came from PIC last year
 - o Support school nutrition programs; cafeteria server being used for program; applied to remove commercial equipment to be replaced with residential equipment; asked for \$15000 and hoping for \$1000; planning to purchase stoves for cooking
 - o Question: will the server be open to sell food items? No. Aramark is the company who staffs school cafeteria spaces and they don’t have enough staff for all schools; have to prioritize schools that do not have adequate food places for students to access
 - o If the board enters a contract with a new vendor, the new vendor will bring in their own equipment
 - o Brian noted that the library seems to be the connecting hub for students at lunch time

- **Music Grant Application**

- Lola shared opportunity for music grant; Mr. Abell is in the process of putting in an application
- Need some family testimonials as part of the application

Chairs Report

- **Goals**

- Stay on time and be respectful of everyone's time
- Action oriented conversation; Shannon and Danielle will try to keep conversation on course
- Healthy dialogue encouraged and all voices encouraged to speak up
- Membership
 - Started Instagram account
 - Working on renewing Facebook group; need to have a way to pass off responsibility of group
 - Are there barriers for individuals to attend? Language? Timing? Hybrid vs In-Person
 - Considering sending out a parent survey
 - Brian will check with research and analytics about sending out a school messenger
 - Anecdotally, Van notes its harder to get people out to events
 - how do we 'hook' people to want to attend?
 - Kelly noted that there is a different feeling between School Council at elementary vs secondary school; spread the word of the function(s) of School Council; maybe having information tables at evening events (Open House, Interview Night, etc)
 - Kristi suggested maybe members share posts on Instagram about SC; share success stories
 - November 19 is Grade 7/8 Open House
- Meeting frequency
 - Perhaps skip December and March due to Winter Break and March Break
 - Discussion ensued; Van suggested putting together a schedule and vote
 - Group voted to not meet in December and March
 - Van also suggested putting system in place if there is bad weather in February; group agreed this was a good idea

Committee Updates (PIC, FASLAC, CPF)

- **PIC**

- Start up session Oct 14; attended by Brian, Shannon and Danielle
- Fair bit of elementary information
- HFSS (Hamilton Foundation for Student Success)
 - Student support grants; \$200/student/year
 - Student enhancement grants; 5 areas of focus
- HWDSB is producing bylaws for all school councils to adopt by next year
 - Ensures alignment with Ministry

PRO Grant

- Parent Reaching Out Grant; promote parent engagement
- Funds up to \$1000
- Application due Nov 21; don't need all details but enough to submit the application
- Last year Dr. Jean Clinton spoke; was a group effort with 3 schools
- Brian suggests putting PRO Grant topics in the parent survey and gather input from families
- Ideas
 - AI/ChatGPT
 - Can we build a list of potential speakers?
 - Interactive? Showing issues/concerns?

- Teenage Nutrition?
 - Brain food?
 - What do they need?
 - Cooking class?
- Open Doors Event
 - Westdale is a heritage building
 - Get parents into the space(s) where their kids learn
 - Have live music
 - Get people to engage with each other; multicultural café?
 - Equipping families with learning; who are the people who could help?
 - SWIS workers
 - Navigating school system
 - Student Services
- Group decided that AI would be the topic
- Discussion about TurnItIn reliability; Kelly discussed board focus around teaching strategies; encouraging staff to work with students through writing process; best check is human check

Annual School Fundraising Plan

- Brian outlined ASFP; about \$24000 in revenue estimated
- Funds raised must be spent this year

Further Business

- Danielle suggests the group thinks about what our objective will be this year? Is it still bell times?

Next Meeting Date

- November 25 at 6:15 pm

Meeting adjourned 7:41 pm