

School Council – November 25, 2025

In Attendance – Elham Y (Triune), Prince X (Triune), Danielle S, Beth S, Robin L, Nicole C, Kristi G, Rachael S, Jan S, KPH, Brian G

Minutes

Meeting began at 6:16

Welcome and Introductions

Land Acknowledgement

- Danielle shared learning about the Haudenosaunee Confederacy

Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve by Nicole and seconded by Jan

Public Health Nurse

- Beth Snider introduced herself as our new PHN; she's a Westdale graduate
- At Westdale on Mondays; works in 3 schools
- PHN do not do 1:1 student support; work primarily with student groups to plan events and initiatives, work in classrooms with classes (eg vaping sessions with Grade 9 classes; hands on activities)
- Public Health looking at population approaches vs 1:1 services
- Broad, population-based initiatives; PHN placed in targeted schools
- Working with students on mental well-being and wellness
- PHN does not participate in sexual health; left in the hands of educators for about 2 decades
- Beth works with Warriors for Wellness; attended October staff meeting to introduce to staff
- Prince (Triune rep) suggested that sometimes it's hard to find information, especially for international students
- Group made suggestions about sharing more information with students so they are aware of available supports
- Elham (Triune) discussed the work of the SWIS workers as supports in the school as well
- Beth offered to help design a poster, if needed, with staff/stakeholders
- Be mindful that we don't want students being "in isolation" if they are needing mental health support

Student Council Report

- Prince and Elham represented Triune
- Overview of Triune (Prince)
 - o Major goal is to bring back Westdale spirit; school feeling connected, energetic and proud
 - o Successful Homecoming, themed spirit Week, another spirit week upcoming
 - o Collaborating with clubs
 - o Activities like pumpkin hunt
 - o Connecting teachers with students using "Friday Interviews"
 - o Student suggestion box in Library for students to provide ideas for Triune's work
 - o Working hard to improve inclusiveness on Triune; developed internal "rules" within Triune
 - o Ways to improve – realized that events need to be advertised/communicated earlier so that students/teachers can prepare to participate
 - o Big goal is building inclusivity this year
- Additional Points (Elham)
 - o Was a general member last year
 - o Continuing the work of last year's group

- Creating greater student voice with addition of more general members to work with executive and co-presidents
- Triune a bridge between students/staff

Teacher Report

- College application support sessions today and tomorrow (Wed, Nov 26) in Student Services during Period 3 lunch; these sessions are drop in with no appointment needed
- Ontario colleges began sending out offers on November 1
- Finishing up university visits this week with Waterloo and McGill
- Some Ontario universities have started sending out offers for some programs
- Midterm marks were sent to OUAC and OCAS last week; all students have been advised to check their applications for accuracy
- Updated newsletters have been posted on the school website for students and families with important information
- Grad photos continue this week and next; final opportunity in late Feb/early March; sessions must be booked online
- IB Information Night is on Dec 10 at 6:00 pm at the Education Centre for Grade 9 and 10 families; applications from Grade 10 students are due by Jan 9
- Hosted Grade 7/8 Open House last week and immediately following was the French Immersion Information session; both were very well attended

Principal's Report

- Thanked Prince and Elham for representing Triune
- Midterm reports shared with families last week; opportunity for reflection and connection
- Gift card/hamper drive; last year the school supported 52 families and there are more to support this year; over \$1000 already raised by community
- Successful athletics season – Jr Girls Basketball, Jr Boys Volleyball and Varsity Football all won city championships
- Westdale Theatre showing Little Women starting this week; tomorrow associate school matinee and evening shows on Thursday and Friday
- New HWDSB web platform coming to replace WordPress; school sites will be consistent across the board

Chairs Report

- Shannon and Danielle started the Instagram "Introduction" videos
- Next video to be a summary of council discussions

PIC Update

- Most of November meeting about program strategy review and looking at how programs align with board multi-year strategic plan

PRO Grant

- Planning an Open House event to support families with navigating the school system and adolescent supports (AI, mental health, Homework Help, vaping, etc), tutoring supports,
- Work with community partners and agencies
- Event slated for the spring when the weather is nicer
- Role for Guidance to speak to parents about graduation requirements, credits, levels, financial aid (OSAP, Learn and Stay, scholarships, etc)
- Kristi suggests a passport to incentivize participation; group likes the idea
- Can some Westdale business sponsor the event for prizes?
- Similar event outline to Grade 7/8 Open House

- Bump up the “fun” factor; food trucks in parking lot? Games? Dunk tank? Leadership Class running events outside?
- Get students involved as well; maybe club fair
- Danielle suggests working in smaller groups on various parts of the event
- Need a fun name

Bill 33

- Was passed before meeting; no discussion required as no action required on part of the group

Further Business

- Group expressed concern a couple of times about parents/families being unaware of supports available
- Questions about TVO/ILC Math being accessed by students; Brian also noted that there is math help every Tuesday at lunch provided by math teachers
- Some families would prefer to read the newsletter on paper rather than on a screen; perhaps different avenues/mechanisms for communicating
- Rachael encourages group to not just abandon/ignore bell times; a fight that hasn’t been won yet
- Rachael also wonders about how the kids feel about not having a cafeteria with food service; seeking out food but end up with social engagement as a bonus
- Will add bell times and cafeteria to agenda for next meeting

Next Meeting Date

- Tuesday, January 27 at 6:15 pm

Meeting adjourned 7:40 pm