

**WATERDOWN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, September 24, 2024, 6:30- 8:00 pm, Library

1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement (Tracy/Sarah)

2. Introduction of attendees

IN ATTENDANCE: TOBI HOFER, TINA LILLYCROP, SUSY WATSON, SAYEEDA MANES, REBECCA HESSELS, LINDSAY JACK, JEANETTE SZABO, JACKIE PARRY-KENNEDY, GINA ALLEN, TRACY SEGAL, SARAH BARKWELL, GREG CLARK (PRINCIPAL), PENNY DEATHE (HCHY), STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE.

REGRETS: TIM LOUKS, MARY ANN SLAGTER, ELLIE MILLARD

3. Council overview, meeting time, discuss elections, members (voting/non-voting), setting quorum, etc.

The purpose of the School Council is “through the active participation of parents, to improve pupil achievement and to enhance the accountability of the education system to parents”.

The role of the school council is to:

- Advise the Principal and, where appropriate, the school board
 - Place students’ interests first
 - Support school success planning and goals
 - Encourage parent and community involvement
 - Promote positive attitudes towards public education
- A person is qualified to be a parent member of the School Council if they are a parent of a pupil enrolled in the school. School Council Self-Nomination forms were distributed. Tracy and Sarah will nominate each other for the position of Co-Chair.

4. Review and approval of the previous meeting minutes

Rebecca Hessels approves, Jeanette Szabo seconds

5. Principal’s report – Greg Clark

- Nicoleta Baciú will share information about Mental Health & Wellbeing weekly with teachers.
- At the beginning of the year grade assemblies were held in the cafeteria. Expectations reviewed- Enforcement Relating to Alcohol, Tobacco, Electronic Cigarettes, Recreational Cannabis and Related Products and Illegal Drugs and Policy on Enforcement of Restrictions to Student Personal Mobile Device Use. Clear consequences reviewed with gr 9-12's. No phones out/silent and away, only permitted for educational use. So far students are receptive. There have been no office referrals. *Noted that the side benefit is no congregating in the bathrooms*
- Facility Renewal- Bathroom Renovations will enhance student respect in those spaces. Renovations are ongoing in the changerooms and washrooms. Improvements include a rubber floor in the Team Room (for enhanced safety), atrium bathroom, single occupancy washrooms and change rooms, these Should be finalized at the end of March 2025.
- Leadership Camp Nominations for Canterbury Hills Camp (30 Students) Students develop leadership skills to use at school. Nominations from Phys ed department, Student Groups.
- PA Day- Review of School Climate Survey from 2023 with staff
- Grade Nine Day-facilitated by 70 student leaders, games on the field, to promote student engagement, and build community. Grade 12 Student leaders are selected by teachers, and by student inquiry. *Student Ambassadors-staff nomination*
- Social Media Platforms are blocked from HWDSB. The downfall is that school groups cannot communicate directly with students but can communicate with families/the community.
- In school Televisions- waiting on 'Bright Sign" to begin announcements. Six (6) screens on the main floor.
- SPHERE- Navjot Jolly, Communications teacher. A student-created app that includes, announcements, an interactive map, tutor resources, and information about clubs/teams, has parent access, and is published on the HUB.

6. Student report – Deputy PM Student Parliament

- Fundraising for school improvements. Four (4) all-grade dances scheduled. Money raised going to Warriors Den in the cafeteria (foosball, arcade games)
- Car drive and clothing drives to give back to the community
- Student Parliament are looking for grade 9 and 10 representatives. Meetings are on Mondays after school to discuss goals for the school year. QR codes posted around the school that link to the application or students can reach out to PM if interested.
- GLOW (Great Leaders of Waterdown) students work with Beth Morrison the Student Success Lead
- October 24- Pathways night at Liuna Station

7. Teacher's report – n/a

8. PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) – (Tracy on behalf of Tim Louks, PIC Rep)

- Overview Role of PIC. Provide advice and feedback to the Board from a parent perspective, parent engagement, contribute to meetings and participate in sub-committee work, represent broad parent interest in all committee activities, raise common parental concerns with the board, respond to requests for consultation on policy, programs and strategies, communicates with and support school councils, help parents support their children's learning at home and school.
- Post-secondary information Night, guest speakers. Parents Reaching Out Grant \$1000. *Pro Grant Funding- Deadline November 22, 2024

9. School Council Fundraising Discussion:

- Family Teacher interview night on Oct. 29. Requesting volunteers to help with the set-up, bake sale, and clean up from 4:30-7 pm, donations (home-baked or donated goods), seeking donations from Tim Horton's for teacher coffee. Rebecca and Jeanette volunteered to donate baked goods, and Tobi, Tracy and Sarah volunteered to help. Funds raised go towards the end of the school year Teacher/Staff luncheon.

10. Healthy Community-Healthy Youth- Penny Deathe

- Overview of HEART (Healthy Education About Relationships) Student-led approach to building healthy relationships, creating a school environment that is safe for all genders, where everyone feels heard, supported and treated with equity.
- What's Your Pathway Portal: Speakers Bureau that teachers can draw from for guest speakers. Possible expansion that will feature post-secondary students in different programs.

- Youth Portal and Parent Place: learn about health and well-being, education, future-ready, human rights and social justice, life skills

11. Open Forum- Questions/Open table

- Community visitor from Mathnasium- Pieter Geerkens, Centre Director. Provided overview of Mathnasium a local business that offers customized learning paths for math comprehension.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 22, 2024, 6:30-8:00 pm

IMPORTANT DATES:

School Council dates: Oct. 22, Nov. 26, Jan. 28*, Feb. 25, March 25, Apr. 29, May 27

Family Teacher interviews: Oct. 29, 5-7 pm

Gr. 7/8 Open House: Nov. 6, 6:30-7:30

Gr. 8/9 Option Sheet Night: Jan. 14, 6:30-7:30