

School Council – October 22, 2024

In Attendance – Claire R, Catherine R, Kristi G, Cindy, Nicole C, Shannon B, Danielle S, Van H, Rachel S, Jan S, Leanne S, KPH, Brian G, Fouziya M

Regrets –

Minutes

Meeting began at 6:17 pm

Land Acknowledgement

Welcome and Introductions

- Leanne Schaap – VP Westdale

Approval of Minutes from Sept 24, 2024 Meeting

- Minutes approved; nominated by Van , seconded by Shannon

Student Council Report

- Planning Winter Semi Formal in December
 - o Planning both a winter and spring event
 - o Space a factor as well as supervisors
 - o Question perhaps a junior semi and senior semi?
- Hallowe'en events upcoming
- Spirit week/bake sale
 - o Question about where bake sale items come from
 - o Will have signage that items were made at home
- Internal elections ongoing

Teacher Report

- Lots of events to support post-secondary planning have taken place – Grade 12 Assembly, Grade 12 Parent/Family Info Session, university visits during lunch ongoing, Ontario Universities Fair in Toronto, OUAC Application Info Session, Out of Province Info Session, Atlantic Universities Fair today,
- Hosting College Fair on Thursday in the Library – Mohawk, Sheridan, Niagara, Conestoga are attending
- HWDSB event – On My Way – Oct 24 at 5:30 at Liuna Station – various universities, colleges, community partners in attendance
- OCAS Info Session at lunch Oct 30
- Queen's Major Admission Awards info session at lunch on Nov 8
- Student Services is posting a weekly newsletter on The Hub and school website for Grade 12's. Each week shares timely and important information
- Grade 9 assembly last week – My Blueprint and TOKTWD
- Grade 8's visiting on TOKTWD
- Grade 7/8 Open House scheduled for Nov 21
- Volunteer opportunity for students with Ms. O'Leary and Ms. Quaglia using My Blueprint. Information will be posted in The Hub for students to sign up. Sessions will be at lunch.

Principal's Report

- Prelims home yesterday and interview booking has opened up
- Created a form in various languages for families to sign up for interviews
- Library seminar room will be for ESL/MLL families with interpreters on interview night

- Brian began community newsletter this month
- Question about prom for Grade 12's? Is there one? Tickets?

Fundraising Plan/Gift Card Drive

- Brian shared list of fundraising proposals
- Brian will continue to collate information to share with SO Lee soon
- Thanksgiving was challenging for some families to provide food
- Brian asks for permission to put the Gift Card drive in motion for this year again; approved
- Cash vs gift cards; must be intentional about which grocery stores to use

Breakfast/Nutrition Program and Cafeteria Update

- Breakfast daily in foyer, snacks available in Learning Resource all day
- Identified students through Taste Buds who receive food bags on Friday afternoons
- Brian will keep group posted on funding
- Cafeteria run by Aramark; unable to staff the space
- Looking to remove equipment owned by Aramark and purchase appliances to support food program

Book Club

- Leanne spoke about staff Book Club
- Current book is "21 Things I Didn't Know About the Indian Act"
- Began from Leanne's work in Indigenous education

Chair's Report

- Attended School Council welcome meeting; able to liaise with PIC members regarding Bell Times
- Support of Trustee, PIC, Vice Chair of PIC to have transportation to attend PIC meeting
- SO Lee anticipating update from transportation in the near future

PRO Grant

- DVSS and Dundas schools interested in partnering with PRO Grant
 - o Suggestions from Dundas Chair is a parenting expert? Group was not enthused about this suggestion
- Lots of suggestions for PRO Grant Speakers
 - o Brian reminded the group that PRO Grants are to support parents
- Discussion around booking Paul Davis for next year
 - o Some concern about his delivery
 - o Cindy has a list of additional speakers that other schools have used
- Application due Nov 22
 - o Speaker does not have to be determined by this date; need an outline of expected use of funds
 - o Discussion around themes school wants to support
 - o Lots of discussion about what the theme should be and how parents can be supported
 - Brian can pull some School Climate Data to support application

Committee Updates (PIC, FASLAC, CPF)

- CPF
 - o Membership is free
 - o 25th anniversary of Hamilton Chapter in spring
 - o Offers support for all students learning French
- PIC
 - o Hosted largest School Council start up meeting in September
 - o Event had to be moved to larger space at Westmount

Mailing List

- Needs updating; can everyone please share email address

Further Business

- Question about bathrooms/vandalism
 - o Currently all washrooms open except one male bathroom
 - o Update about gym upgrades and changerooms
 - o Grade 9 assembly updated students with washroom expectations
 - o Parents ask what is happening in washrooms and why students don't want to use them
 - Brian spoke to loitering in bathrooms
- Vaping
 - o Brian reports that vaping has decreased (anecdotally)
 - o Vape detectors not installed yet
- Incident Reporting
 - o Understand that only so much can be shared when incidents happen
 - o Rumors get out of hand
 - o Ask if the messaging can be more explicit to decrease anxiety of students
 - o Brian will put some information in next community newsletter
 - o SC can update admin about things they are hearing in the community

Meeting adjourned 7:30 pm