

## School Council – November 26, 2024

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**In Attendance** – Brian Goodram, KPH, Kleri Venizelos, Nicole Lee, Claire R, Shannon B, Danielle S, Kristi G, Jan S, Catherine R, Jeremy L, Van H, Cindy S, Rachael S, Gisela M

**Regrets** –

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### Minutes

Meeting began at 6:18 pm

### Land Acknowledgement

#### Approval of Minutes from October 2024 Meeting

- Minutes approved; nominated by Shannon, seconded by Danielle

#### Welcome Superintendent Lee/Update

- Nicole Lee, Superintendent
- No update on bell times; update coming from Transportation in December
- Grade 8 Transitions – Westdale has one of the highest retention rates of in-catchment students attending the school; other schools are trending in the opposite direction
- Council asked for an update for the upcoming meeting with Jewish families at the HWDSB. Nicole said invitations will be sent out to families through school principals. Senior team members will attend. All HWDSB staff members will participate in antisemitism training on a PA Day later this year.
- Council reports that they heard concerns from teachers that there was no opportunity for discussion after the November 1 training. Nicole noted that there were QR codes for everyone to ask questions and those questions were answered centrally/consistently. Needed to be mindful that we were creating sessions that supported staff lived experiences as well.
- Concern: teachers requested information and did not receive it. Information is copyrighted and teachers who missed the training will receive it later. Concern that there wasn't handouts/take home information. Perhaps everyone would feel more comfortable if public understood what is being taught to teachers.

#### Holiday Hamper Drive – Kleri Venizelos

- Kleri Venizelos
- Update on nutrition
  - o Had visit from Tastebuds to review program
  - o Aligned with requirements of 3 food groups for morning meal and snack
  - o Main providers are Tastebuds, Bulldogs Foundation and Food for Kids
  - o Dispelling myths around perceived need at Westdale
  - o Honouring dignity for all
- Update on Hamper Drive
  - o Many students don't have access to adequate nutrition over the break
  - o Students have a voice for their family with regards to box contents
  - o Food, small gifts, can be included
  - o Gift cards give families agency for their family
  - o Last year we supported 37 families (over 100 individuals); many ELL families
  - o Invitation to SC members to visit program
  - o Brian reports that we have raised over \$1000 in about a week to support program since payment was made available on SCO
- Question: will there be funding cut again this year? Kleri reports that funding is 4 cents per student per day. Concern that federal money will be pulled back knowing there is provincial money coming.

- Question: is assistance needed for shopping or assembly? Kleri would love help assembling hampers on Dec 19 in the afternoon. Brian asks that interested people send him an email to let him know.
- Question: what other volunteers are necessary? Kleri needs help chopping vegetables in the staff room 10:30 daily. If interested in helping, email Brian to complete necessary volunteer paperwork. If individuals would like to bring food with them to donate, Kleri would love it. Kleri will check whether food needs to be chopped at school for food safety reasons, or if food can be brought in already chopped.

### **Student Council Report**

- Jeremy Lavrence
- Finished with internal elections
- 2 main events
  - o Jurassic Hunt – little dinosaurs are hidden around the school to be found. Trade dinosaurs for rewards. Big prize is free semi formal ticket
  - o Semi Formal – December 18 at Liuna Station. Need more teachers to volunteer. May need to look at starting a waitlist for those who didn't get tickets. Tickets were made available tonight and are sold out already. Ratio 15:1 for supervision.
    - Question about Junior/Senior events for formal. Triune not entirely in favour of this model
- HWDSB Student Senate member. Student trustees interested in bell times as well.

### **Teacher Report**

- Wrapped up college and university visits
- Ms. O'Leary and Ms. Quaglia hosted an OCAS application info session at lunch
- Most Grade 8 students participated in Experience A Day on TOKTWD; experienced 2 compulsory and 1 elective
- Ms. O'Leary and Ms. Quaglia completed a MyBlueprint focus group with junior and senior students to gather feedback on the new platform
- Hosted successful Grade 7/8 Open House last night
- Grade 8 FI Info Night is tonight
- IB Info Night next Wednesday, Dec 4
- Hosting feeder school matinee performances of Mamma Mia tomorrow and Dec 4

### **Principal's Report**

- 85% + students achieving all credits at midterm
- Getting back to provincial standards for all students
- Nov 22 subject-specific PA day at various sites; teacher – facilitated sessions during the day
- Enrollment is healthy; will not be in a surplus position and can retain staff
- Sem 2 – additional ESL lines
- Question: very high median grades. Concerned that assessment may not be discerning enough. Brian notes that we want to ensure consistent practice to equip students
- Question: why can't students who are late/absent be "punished"? Sense is that there is no consequence and that no one cares about attendance. Students will get a wakeup call when it comes to post-secondary and work

### **Chair's Report**

- Nothing to report other than PRO Grant

### **Committee Updates (PIC, FASLAC, CPF)**

- CPF
  - o Events being planned for January and the spring
  - o Claire shared information at FI Info Night tonight
  - o 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of chapter

- FASLAC
- PIC
  - o Board recognized that students were organizing etc through social media. Board is looking for alternate ways allow students to use electronics/devices to communicate
  - o Adding social media restrictions, vaping to updated code of conduct
  - o Vape detectors update: board putting of the purchase of these devices as there is another board piloting their use and then make decisions
  - o Board has funds for parent/student education; board wide presentations coming

### **PRO Grant**

- Contacted by DVSS/SWO SC to join forces for event. Interested in combining with DVSS and perhaps SWO could pair with Dundana
- Claire emailed list with potential speakers; Brian showed list; discussion proceeded among the group about the various choices:
  - o Dr. Jean Clinton
  - o Tara MacAuley
  - o Paul Davis
  - o Maria Orrego
  - o Andrea Davis
  - o Dr. Bruce Ferguson
  - o Mike Shoreman
  - o Aubrey Noronha
- Application has been submitted
- Need to confirm/book speaker(s)
  - o Group likes Dr. Jean Clinton for parents and Mike Shoreman for kids
  - o February suggested as optimal time
- Group asked if Mike Shoreman might be available to speak to students in addition to the PRO Grant. Brian noted that we would need student voice to move forward; will work with Triune to determine if the need/want is there

### **School Council Website**

- Website is up to date
- Need to add names of voting members. Brian suggested to put first name and last initial for privacy.

### **Further Business**

- Rules about social media are confusing for students in how it can be used to reach students. Develop survey for student voice for guest speakers. Results need to be anonymous.

Meeting adjourned 7:38 pm