

2017 February 27 WRDSB WO Parent Council Meeting

Present: Jeanette P., Frankie K., Lynn H., Kim K-K, Kyle B., Melissa G. (staff rep), Beth Bodkin (Principal), Kim L.

Presentation: Science Department (Science Department Teacher: Karen Renkema)

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth Space and Science
- Environmental Science
- Physics (Electric Vehicle Club)
- Green Industries (actually is technology, not science)

Items from Kyle

- "Where are they now?" What happens after people graduate? Would there be opportunities for past grads to keep in touch and talk about where they are now? This could be inspiring for students
- WRDSB budget survey available to complete before March 10th
<https://www.wrdsb.ca/blog/2017/02/21/2017-18-annual-budget-survey/#.WLd5iG8rLio>
- February 16th WRDSB Parent Engagement Event on Wellbeing hosted at BOE; option to provide online feedback
- Best Buddies program is going very well; featured in the New Hamburg Independent
- April 8th PIC and WRAPSC conference is offered at no cost to parents/caring adults
<https://www.wrdsb.ca/blog/2017/02/27/register-now-for-the-annual-pic-and-wrapsc-conference/#.WLd56W8rLip>
- February 22nd Town Hall on Parent Engagement re: new strategic plan (math, increasing grad rates, wellbeing for students and staff) <https://www.wrdsb.ca/blog/2017/02/10/directors-wearewrdsb-town-hall/#.WLd6JW8rLio>

Student Council and Principal Updates

- Floor ball tournament is most popular sign-up event at the school (live streaming via Twitter, all ages, stats are kept)
- Great results from different clubs! New season of sports now starts
- Dev ed floor hockey tournament hosted by WODSS
- January 25th Semester Info Night was attended by 80+
- Student council co-president elections on March 3rd
- March 31st Grade 10 literacy test (morning for Grade 10 students, tutorial sessions for any interested students in the afternoon)
- Course selections have been submitted, students will get a copy to sign and return to the school

- Wednesday, April 19th PRO Grant Night with topic of Raising Resilient Youth: Parenting in the 21st Century (includes free childcare, free parking, refreshments); will distribute flyers at April 6th mental health PRO Grant Night for 3 schools in New Hamburg
- PRO grant application is due in May; Beth will contact local principals about connecting with other parent council co-chairs to discuss a possible joint project
- FAQs re: questions about semesters is on WODSS website <https://wod.wrdsb.ca/semester-f-a-q/>; next year's exam schedule will be one per day for four/five days
- Facility updates: cafeteria and some hallways will be painted over the March Break; may replace some lockers (similar to the music corridor) 50 at a time; will do a transformer upgrade in the summer which will require a whole school shut-down; will be fixing part of the back parking lot; don't have the extensive funding needed to fix the 30 year old tennis courts; possibility of a new track
- Outdoor hoop and landscaping area near hoop will be supported through \$3,000 funding from the Township of Wilmot
- WODSS logo: change in logo is being tried out, haven't changed the mascot or name but that may happen slowly down the road
- Current school registration 1210, want to retain and attract new students
- Exam Schedule for January 2018: students will write one exam per day. Day 1 will be the exam for their first period class. Day 2 will be the exam for their second period class, etc. Benefits: students will only write one exam per day, so helps with studying, success on exam. Students will write the exam in their regular classroom with their own teacher. Students who need extra time will be accommodated.

Recognition of staff

- Grade 8 night was a success! Great presentations from staff and representation from students