

# Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School

## Parent Council Meeting

Monday, November 23, 2015

7:00 pm school library

In attendance: Melissa Baxter, Stephanie Gohl, Kyle Allen, Melodie Shantz, Beth Bodkin, Ann Sills, Heidi Kolb, Melissa Guenther, Chris Schultz, Jodi Szimanski, Jeannette Pretorius, Frankie Dietrich, Heather McDougall, Mike Staub, Sheri Morrison, Julie Erb, Monica Dickau

Chair Report (Jodi S.): Jodi and Beth attended a Town Hall meeting last week. More information will follow when minutes are sent. We are still looking for a WRAPSI representative. Let Jodi know if interested, only four more meetings. Minutes will follow.

Co-Prez Report (Kyle A., Melodie S.): Both students attended the Ontario student leadership conference in Niagara Falls. Kyle attended as a spirit leader this year, and enjoyed the speakers and workshops. Anti-bullying week was last week. (Tuesday; flash mob in cafeteria, Wednesday; post the positive on social media and post-its, Friday; wear pink day) W.O. cares! Food bank donations will be accepted this month. Thursday is semi-formal (themed Disney) at Federation Hall. There is a PJ day this Friday. Starting December 1<sup>st</sup> is 14 days of Christmas themed "Straight out of North Pole". (Home room trivia, Santa photos, sweet treats, café Christmas party) Dec 9 is a Christmas feast with drama club performing for seniors.

Principal's Report (Beth B.): Our school will plan to change to semesters starting 2017. Throughout 2016, there will be information nights for staff and students. Discussion re: MSIP (multi subject instructional period). In a few semestered schools in WRDSB, periods are shortened by 15 minutes, so at the end of the day there is a planned room for each student to do homework, with a teacher available to help. The idea received positive feedback from council; administration will take into consideration, but cannot make promises without board approval.

Parent interviews on Wednesday.

WRDSB has changed the severe weather policy: -35 C schools will not automatically close. Linwood P.S., Floradale P.S. and W.O. will no longer automatically close when busses are not running. While there may be times schools will be closed due to road conditions or weather; they are no longer automatically closed.

### **Bus Cancellation Days**

### **WODSS Procedures**

#### **At school:**

- 1) Each department will identify a common room where students should go for their class.  
(eg – all math students go to Room 116)
- 2) Attendance will be taken using the bubble sheet for each teacher's class for that period.
- 3) Meaningful instruction will be provided. This may include:
  - a. 1-1 extra help
  - b. Small group assistance
  - c. Review of previous work
  - d. Enrichment opportunities
  - e. Conferencing opportunities
  - f. Work ahead on previously assigned work.
- 4) Student Attendance – the phoner will run at the end of the day. Any students who are bus pupils are automatically excused. Students who walk to school would need to have a parent phone call to validate their absence if they do not attend school on a day when buses are cancelled.
- 5) All off-campus trips are cancelled (AP4130, 7.1)
- 6) Practices are cancelled. If it is a game day, all games are cancelled.

#### **Facility Updates**

1. The township of Wilmot has approached the board about helping with a track and field. This would include a turf field and updated track, similar to JHSS or St. David's. The township has set aside money for this project and is working with the board to determine a plan.
2. Grand River Transit is working with Wilmot Township, as they have grant money to pilot bus service to Baden and New Hamburg for a year. They are looking at having a stop at WODSS, and using our bus bay. They would not have it interfere with our bus drop off and pick up. For more information go to: <http://www.grt.ca/en/index.asp>

3. There is a school council grant that allows schools to access \$2000 per school. The purpose of the money is to bring the community together, and it needs to benefit entire community. It has to be used towards purchasing items for an outdoor space. W-O had already started process of putting in outdoor basketball hoops, thanks to a suggestion from a staff member. Thanks to School Council for their approval of this project. It would go in the front of the school near the new bike racks.
4. Facility work – already started for summer projects. Here is the list:
  - Windows in upper 100's – as many as the funding will allow.
  - Tech corridor – additional roofing and ceiling work to complete the project started in the summer of 2015.
  - Cafeteria floor – separate money for this replacement work, as tiles are lifting on the floor.

The festival of holiday music will be on December 3 at 7:00 in cafeteria. Ticket sales will be starting next Friday.

Council watched the WRDSB improvement plan for student achievement video.

Safe, Caring and Inclusive schools report (Mike): Two lockers are stocked with supplies for students. They can go to guidance office, CYW, or supervision monitors, to get any day to day items they may need.

Barbara Coloroso will be speaking at St Jerome's University on Dec 4 at 7:30. She will explore why and how a child becomes a bully or the target of a bully and the role of by-standers in perpetuating the cycle. She will explore comprehensive, multi-institutional, community-wide solutions.

For more information go to: <http://www.sju.ca/breakingthecycleofviolence>.

Contact Mike for more information. Parent Involvement Committee is creating a sub-committee to support parents across the board. Meeting is next Monday at 7:00 pm at board office. They encourage parents, community members or staff to attend.

Staff Recognition:

‘Shout-out’ to Manno Waso; a parent who has volunteered to coach the boys’ basketball team. ‘Shout-out’ to Ms. Tiffen; DECA. ‘Shout-out’ to Connie McCarthy and Dale Fief for understanding and caring.

Next meeting is January 18, 2016.