

WODSS School Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes for Monday, October 24, 2016

1. Welcome and Intros (Beth Bodkin, Melissa Guenther, Pavle L, Kim Lichti, Kyle Bard, Jeanette Pretorius, Frankie Dietrich, Christine Ramseyer, Sherry Shilladay, Mike Staub, Kim Krueger-Kischak, Evan Prong)

2. Presentation: Visual Art Department (Teachers Scott Futher and Reid McCammon)

- Opening courses (no prerequisites) for AWL301 Drawing, AWN301 Painting, AWN301 Photography, ASM301 Media Arts, AWA301 Artisans; want to increase attendance and give students a chance to try out new art and develop transferable skills
- Core courses (Junior) AV1101 and AV1201
- Core courses (Senior) AV13MI, AVI4MI (Prerequisite AV1201, AVI3MI) with graduating exhibition, developing portfolios
- AWR4M1 Graphic Design (Prerequisite AVI3MI)
- Green wall outside cafeteria is growing and will be updated with the months principal's choice award and recently completed artwork
- Field trip in November for Grade 11 and 12 students to go to the Creative Expo in TO
- Some homework with these classes
- Require 5 students for a club; have a movie club; keep classrooms open; possibly getting a club started to paint class room doors

3. Report from the Chair (Kyle Bard)

- Parent Involvement Committee (brochures and info on WRDSB website)
- WRAPSC (brochures and info on WRDSB website)
- Safe, Caring, Inclusive School Teams (SCIS): Mike Staub has been the parent rep on this team; VP is leading this; not sure if there is a board SCIS conference this year
- Option of charitable movement: could have students vote on community engagement e.g. peer-led Best Buddy system (several schools are already participating); could build on the great work that some students are already doing
- Future guest speakers? Let Kyle know if you have some ideas
- Invite other parents to participate; sometimes parent council info is difficult to find on the website (could highlight on the monthly calendar)
- Interested in hearing about e-learning, tech, science, horticulture
- Parent portal on the website? WRDSB uses the same template/format for school websites, but could request that this feature be added (we could be an advisory board); 537 subscribers for 1300 students

4. WRAPSC Report (Sherry Shilladay, Kim Krueger-Kischak)

- October 4th meeting: Board transportation plan; School Day (Carolyn Graham is available to help schools to increase subscription to this for families)

5. Student Council Report (two co-presidents Pavle Lacic, Evan Prong)

- Events since start of school include: Ultimate Extreme 9ers Night for Niners with free pizza followed by a dance for the whole school; SACPAC meetings once a month, assembly with games and guest speakers and events around the school, also make a phone call on the weekend before school begins; Crusader Kick-Off: competitions to build friendships between grades; Fall Activities Assembly: advertising different clubs and teams; Battle of the Barns: six different sport challenges vs. Elmira DSS
- Large SAC group with 150+ students (e.g. different committees with a chair and a co-chair organize activities during noon hours, charities, publicity, tech, new student orientation, etc.)
- Upcoming events: Haunted Hallway Experience for \$1; Semi-formal on November 10th at Fed Hall, \$20
- SAC is available to provide a student perspective
- Suggestion to consider an introvert's student perspective; the group size of 10 per committee can be helpful
- Teacher Jeff Gerber is considering options for next year when WODSS goes to a semester system; many schools don't have a SAC class like WODSS

6. Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant 2016-17

- \$1,000 has been awarded (\$900 for a speaker with \$100 for other items)
- Possible April 2017 parent session on resilience; recommendation from school social worker for speaker Trish Bidgood
- Had a mental health event last year and had approximately 50 parents; had Tyler Durban with students in the day and approximately 100 parents in the evening (Jeff Gerber tries to do this every second year)
- Idea to consider inviting Dr. Jean Clinton and combining this event with other schools; three New Hamburg schools are also hosting a mental health event in April; Christine R will ask a relative about contacting Jean Clinton; Kim K. will contact the three New Hamburg schools about the possibility of working together

7. Principal's Report

- list of clubs are on website
- 3 hour SafeTALK suicide prevention training for adults (Nov 7, Nov 24, Dec 1); 40 WODSS staff are already trained in this
- Chromebooks available at Parent Night for parents to sign up for digital updates
- Request from a parent about resurfacing the tennis courts, but this is very costly
- Wilmot grant has funding available (does it need to be used within a timeline?); used last grant to purchase an outdoor basketball hoop
- Semester Implementation Team: WODSS will be switching to a semester system in 2017; will have a semester info night in January and will let people know with phone calls; have FAQs and include in newsletter and at upcoming parent nights; are anticipating a slight increase in students because many prefer a semester system, especially if they only need to pick up a few courses in a semester
- Ongoing construction in the back parking area; starting to wrap up
- Parking lot may be on the workload for next summer; interest in expanding the parking lot; students can get a parking ticket if there are no spots left; idea to get the tennis courts and parking lots done at the same time, although tennis courts are not a top priority of WRDSB

- 34 credit limit for students (32 credits are four full years of study); students are welcome to stay for a 5th year of high school studies
- Grade 9 Take Our Kids To Work Day on Wednesday, November 2nd, consent forms are on the website. Print one, and bring to the guidance office to participate.
- Report cards come out Nov 21
- Parent night Nov 23 from 3 to 5 or 6 to 8; have an opportunity to meet the teachers and get an update; don't book appointment in advance
- Working at getting morning announcements online

8. Recognition of Staff

- Mrs. Repei has made square dancing popular! Idea to have more square dances?
- Mr. Gerber for coordinating SACPAC

Next meeting: November 28th at 7:00 p.m.

- Submitted by Kim Krueger-Kischak