

## **WODSS Parent Council Meeting Minutes**

November 30, 2021

Present: Kyle Bard, MaryLynn Hoerle, Rob Waechter, Darlene Vandenakerboom, Lori Schaefer, Sara Roth, Student Co-Prez Anna Watsa, Student Co-Prez Joey Weber, Student Co-Prez Adam Roth, Teacher Brittany Tiffin, Principal Carolyn Salonen

1) Indigenous art at WODSS: student came forward with concerns about cultural appropriation at WODSS; healing circle with Elder Nina from Wilmot Family Resource Centre; use of WODSS as a hub in the community

2) Land Acknowledgement: Carolyn Salonen

3) 3 Co-Presidents: Joey Weber, Anna Watsa, Adam Roth

- Caf and halls have re-opened: good to be able to eat inside and re-connect; students are following guidelines
- Gift of Love Charity headed by WFRC and supported by WODSS students; promo videos have been made to share for teachers to share with classes and via Co-Prez news network; people sign up to donate items
- Annual Yuletide Seniors' Feast in the past with meal and entertainment; sending students on buses to different areas to drop-off meals and cards; will have carolers
- Bring back school culture in a safe, caring, and inclusive way; student leaders role model values for others
- Open to communication and ideas at any time; want to rebuild school culture and connect with community culture; parent appreciation for different ways to communicate with SAC students (good that there is a locker beside the SAC office where students who are shy or intimidated can leave written feedback)

4) School start time and buses: Parent Rob Waechter

- Some studies (Waterloo, Brock, around the world) reveal that high school students usually do better with a later start due to the later release of melatonin; later start times lead to academic improvement, better nutrition for breakfast, longer and deeper sleep, minimized lateness for school, improved attendance, reduced vehicular accidents
- Last review of school start times was in 2012; up to STSWR (Student Transportation Services) and WRDSB to set the start times
- Especially in rural communities, bus schedules are complicated to cover elementary and secondary hours
- WODSS needs to start and end within 15 minutes of the other WRDSB high schools because of high school sports
- Consider results from later starts in other high schools (Lakehead, Durham)

- Option for further discussion on this; contact Kyle or Carolyn if people are interested in moving this discussion forward

#### 5) WRAPSC Update: Parent MaryLynn Hoerle

- Last WRAPSC meeting: Supervisor Matt Gerard shared that WRDSB wants to focus PRO grants on equity and creating a safe and welcoming school environment; consider how this impacts parent councils to be inclusive (e.g. translation of council minutes)
- Fundraising: everything should be virtual
- Carizon presentation on support available; WRAPSC meeting minutes include how to contact Carizon
- PRO Grant Application deadline has been extended to January 14, 2022; focus on addressing inclusion and anti-racism; need to be aware that schools are held to a different standard about public gatherings; still have some funds available if we don't receive PRO Grant funding
  - Ideas: connecting with Elder Nina and the local Indigenous community around increasing Indigenous awareness; removing barriers to parents communicating with teachers (e.g. a virtual evening where department heads share about their departments); Navigating High School 101

#### 6) Principal Update: Carolyn Salonen

- Facility updates: cafeteria is open (students sit one way and stay masked unless eating) and food services will be available on December 6 with pre-orders on SchoolDay; hallways are open for eating; lockers are now in use; some renovations over the winter break
- Staffing: working on filling positions for Semester 2, fair bit of hiring for WO and hope to have all hiring completed by December 17
- Semester 2: unofficial plans to go to a regular semester with 4 classes per day; may need to do some changes to student timetables; not sure about how remote learning program will impact timetables

#### 7) Staff Appreciation

- Staff working on showcase in the school; updating to feature current events/features; staff helping with school clubs and high attendance; staff helping with Gift of Love and Seniors' Feast; staff helping with Fall WCSSSAA sports
- Parent council wants to recognize and appreciate staff
- Future Discussion Items: Selection and retainment of library materials; work on providing accessible link for parent council meetings

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 6:30 PM