



WESTGATE SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, October 7, 2014

Library

Present:	Coral Charlton, Jane Lower, Mark Nowak, Carlos Santander- Maturana, Gail Iwanonkiw, Geoff Kearney, Delfina Trevisan, Jeannie Faubert
Regrets:	Cody Nygard
Welcome	Principal welcomed everyone to Westgate Introductions of staff and parents Articulated mandate of School Council – handout provided Distributed agenda and hand out on Code of Ethics
Elections	Chair – Gail Iwanonkiw Secretary/Treasurer – Jeannie Faubert
Correspondence	* Election Guidelines for School Councils * Minutes – Parent Involvement Committee Meeting (May 2014) * School Council Orientation Event – October 20, 2014 * SEAC Information to Parents * Parents’ Guide to EQAO
Reports	* <u>Principal’s Report</u> – attached to minutes * <u>Staff Report</u> – staff feeling “re-invigorated” – overcoming challenges by working together as a team – Westgate staff extremely supportive of co-curricular opportunities for students – exciting things on the horizon from an equity and inclusion standpoint - staff in negotiations but optimistic an agreement can be reached without any sort of labour action – much determined at a provincial (as opposed to local) level - teachers’ strike vote result? 93% in favour * <u>Student Report</u> – no report this week
New Business	* <u>Annual Meeting Dates</u> – group wishes to determine upcoming meeting dates at subsequent meetings (as opposed to selecting dates for the whole year). Next meeting will be Monday, November 17th at 7 p.m. – much discussion around how to “re-build” School Council and outreach to parents – information sheet will be given to parents at upcoming parents’ night – mail out will be done at midterm with newsletter and hopefully report card – all members will bring a friend – one member will invite a community representative * <u>School Improvement Plan</u> – shared and discussed – parent members to provide email feedback to Coral by Friday, October 10th * <u>School Profile</u> – school population 849, 56% male, 13.5% aboriginal, 23 kids in special needs/multi-needs, 14 in pre-workplace program, 59 teachers, ½ social worker, 17 SSPs, 4 secretaries, 1 library technician, 7 custodians, 2 cafeteria staff, 1 aboriginal tutor
General Information, Updates and Inquiries	Parents’ Questions: Q: Why did the board eliminate one VP? Did it happen in all schools? Q: How do parents receive information via text?
Adjournment	8:45 p.m.

Principal's Report

OCTOBER 7, 2014

- Great start to the school year ☺
- August 28th - Grade 9 Parents' Night
- September 11th – Grade 9 Welcome Luncheon in Courtyard
- Challenges: staffing changes, timetabling issues, student behavior, gym floor
- September 24th – Farm-to-Caf Event successful
- Fundraisers occurring for local charities, including Alzheimers and Northern Cancer Research
- Planning underway for a spring musical: "Bring it On" - collaborating with Churchill CVI
- Travel Club is planning for a 2016 trip to Scotland, England and Ireland. An information night for parents is being held October 9th in our library.
- October 2nd: Kingfisher Leadership Retreat – enjoyed by all
- Sports are in full swing ... Westgate's Golf Team won the city championship for the first time since 1986.
- New Student Success Program – assists struggling students
- SSSI Project – grade 9 and 10 applied Math; grade 10 applied English
- FNMI Collaborative Inquiry – meet the needs of aboriginal learners
- Smoke Free Ontario Pilot Project – "tobacco de-normalization." Action team formed. Queens University will come to the school to conduct focus groups.
- Wellness Initiative – meet the needs of kids who struggle with mental health issues
- School Garden – led by a Social Sciences teacher, but many involved
- Student Mailbox for anonymous reports