

**Westgate School Council**  
**Monday January 18, 2016 at 6:30pm**

**Present:** Coral Charlton, Tammy DaCosta, Carlos Santander, Bonnie Johnsen, Delfina Trevisan, Wendy Mowat, Doreen McGee, Tracy Desjardine

**Regrets:** Mark Nowak, Nick Sacevich, Sean Kennedy, Student Rep

**Call to Order:** 7:00pm

**1. Welcome**

**1.1 Introductions**

Carlos Santander  
Wendy Mowat  
Dave Workman

**1.2 Approval of Agenda**

1<sup>st</sup>: Tracy Desjardine  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Bonnie Johnsen

**2. Minutes**

**2.1 Review and Approval of Minutes from November 23, 2015**

1<sup>st</sup>: Tracy Desjardine  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Bonnie Johnsen

**3. Correspondence**

**3.1 Open House** – To be rescheduled, due to Board Decisions

**3.2 New “School Board Complaints” process**

- New pamphlet available at Main Office and Guidance Office
- There is a website and a toll-free number available [www.ombudsman.on.ca](http://www.ombudsman.on.ca) or 1-800-263-1830

**3.3 Microsoft Office for Families**

**FREE** Microsoft Office Suites for our Lakehead Public Schools families – Lakehead Public Schools is pleased to offer your family access to a free Office 365 account and five (5) free Microsoft Office Suites available for your **personal laptops, desktops, tablets (including iPads) and smart phones!**

To access your free Microsoft Office Suites click on <https://www.lakeheadschoools.ca/office365>

Or visit our website at <http://www.lakeheadschoools.ca>

#### **4. Staff and Student Reports**

##### **4.1 Principal's Report**

- November 25<sup>th</sup> – Party Program Day for grade 11 Students Attended by many community partners and students learned a lot and the “beer goggles” were a huge hit. “Real-Life” simulations offered a reality check to many students and emotions ran high, but students learned a lot about life decisions and how they impact family and friends.
- November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> – Cabaret Well attended and 2 fun-filled days!
- Week of November 30<sup>th</sup> – White Ribbon Campaign Organized by Carlos and Coral, day of morning for the 14 women killed, highlighted “social issues”. Changing from GSA to Social Justice League.
- Month of December – Christmas Cheer Collection, Tiger Tip-off Tournament, Tiger Spike-off Tournament, Holiday Tea in the Special Needs Class, Production of “Xmas in the Land of Oz, Holiday Assembly

Christmas Cheer Collection – 3 individual students each brought in over 140 items each. Challenges between homerooms.

Tiger Tip-off Tournament – Great Success! Lots of Team Spirit!

Tiger Spike-off Tournament – Great Success! Lots of Team Spirit!

Holiday Tea in the Special Needs Class – Awesome, the Special Needs Class was well received by the School!

Production of “Xmas in the Land of Oz – Production was well attended!

Holiday Assembly – Lots of Teachers participated and lots of new ideas were shared.

- Month of January – Culminating activities, final exams begin on the 21<sup>st</sup>, elementary basketball tournament in large gym on the 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Upgrades – Weight room upgrades (and weight donation), Wellness Room – Alumni donations made a complete renovation possible, state of the art equipment was donated! Fitness Clubs will be set-up! During 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester, planning on having school staff available and set-up so that the room can be utilized during lunch time and after school.
- On the Horizon – Semester 2 begins on Monday February 1<sup>st</sup>, Travel Club excursion to Scotland, England and Ireland on March Break, Dog Therapy in PWP class, School Council ProGrant Event in April.

Travel Club March Break Trip – Parents and staff had concerns over safety due recent bombings, but we are confident and prepared that the trip will go off without incident.

Dog Therapy in PWP Class – Pilot program for therapy dogs to come into Special Needs Classes twice a month is schedules to start shortly. Pre-workplace program starting, Students can earn up to 14 credits, Multi needs, Special Needs event in planning.

School Council ProGrant Event in April – In the planning stages.

- Other? – “Urban Slang” issue around the word “savage” There was a misunderstanding between Westgate Senior girls Volleyball team and Dennis Franklin Cromarty Girls Volleyball team. The Westgate Team made a formal, along with the principal and the coach and delivered it to the school.
- Other? – Football Issue – The SSSAA Football issue was settled in favour of Westgate and the Churchill Coach was suspended for 1 game for not shaking hands at the end of the game.

4.2 **Staff Report** – Carlos is standing in for Mark Nowak, Contract Negotiations are almost settled, SSP signed.

5. **New Business** – No New Business

6. **General Information, Updates and Inquires**

6.1 **ProGrant Event updates and Planning**

Delfina and Dave - Grant monies granted for \$1000 to be used for an Open House/Trade Show, scheduled for May 11<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 2016 8:30 pm. Dave and Delfina will take care of organizing services available for Special Needs Graduates. High Schools students and parents are welcome to attend!

Some suggestions re: possible agencies being at the Pro Grant event:  
**Police** – City, OPP, Nishnawbe

**CAS/Dilico**

**Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board** – Covers daycare, Housing, Ontario Works (Social Assistance)

**Thunder Bay District Health Unit** – Birth Control, STD's, HIV and Pregnancy Testing

**St. Joseph's Care Group** – Mental Health and Addictions

**Thunder Bay Counselling Centre** – Some issues addressed: Grief, abuse, anger, relationship difficulties, stress, trauma and budget management

**Children's Centre** – Autism Intervention Program, Parenting Education, Child and Family Intervention, Parent Support Groups  
Faye Peterson & Beendigen Crisis Homes

6.2 **Next Meeting Date**

Monday March 21, 2016

7. **Adjournment** – 9:10pm