

Westgate School Council
Monday April 19, 2016 at 6:30pm

Present: Coral Charlton, Tammy DaCosta, Bonnie Johnsen, Delfina Trevisan, Doreen McGee, Tracy Desjardine, Mark Nowak, Brenda Shedden

Regrets: Nick Sacevich, Sean Kennedy, Student Rep, Carlos Santander, Wendy Mowat

Call to Order: 6:30pm

1. Welcome

1.1 Introductions

Brenda Shedden

1.2 Approval of Agenda

1st: Tracy Desjardine

2nd: Delfina Trevisan

2. Minutes

2.1 Review and Approval of Minutes from March 21, 2016

1st: Tracy Desjardine

2nd: Delfina Trevisan

3. Correspondence

3.1 Parent Involvement Committee, Regional Symposium

- Saturday May 4th from 9am-4pm at the Valhalla Inn, looking for 2 people to attend.

4. Staff and Student Reports

4.1 Principal's Report

- Principal's Message from our April newsletter.

Over the course of the past two terms, our tiger staff and students have undertaken many exciting endeavours and continued to showcase our commitment to being "always only the best." In addition to large events, like Achievement Night, Cabaret, Open House and our Wonderland-themed Semi-Formal, Westgate also played host to a Grade 8 Transition Day, a PARTY Program Event for Grade 11s, a MADD assembly, a parental tea in the Special Needs Class, a Country 105 radio broadcast, a White Ribbon (anti-violence) Campaign, an anti-bullying Week of Pink, an Aboriginal Youth Forum and an outstanding drama performance called "Christmas in the Land of Oz." We are also super proud of our courageous staff and students who braved the icy waters of Lake Superior to participate in this year's

Polar Plunge. As a team, Westgate's Tidal Wave Tigers raised over \$4500 for Special Olympics, securing us a second place finish in the Cool Schools division of this event.

On an athletic front, our Westgate tigers continued their pursuit of excellence. In addition to hosting a variety of sporting events, including two basketball tournaments (Tiger Tip-Off and an elementary event for grade 4-6), two volleyball tournaments (Tiger Spike-Off and competition for Grade 8 girls) and a "Pickle Ball" Try Day, we are proud to announce that our junior girls' volleyball team won the city championship for the second year in a row. We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the Special Olympics organization, as well as Canadian Tire and Play-it-Again Sports, for their generous donation of hockey equipment to the students in our Special Needs Program.

From a facilities standpoint, Westgate students are enjoying the benefits of some recent enhancements, including a state-of-the-art weight room (courtesy of a generous donation from Westgate alumnus, Wyatt Wishart), a calm and welcoming "Wellness Room" (courtesy of donations from the Children's Centre Foundation and Bell Let's Talk) and a peer mediation "On-Track Program," the latter of which is the by-product of a unique partnership with the John Howard Society of Thunder Bay. In addition, we are thrilled to highlight two very special visitors to our school: Chief Collins from FWFN (who spent an afternoon with us) and Astronaut Chris Hadfield (who video-conferenced with one of our science classes). Lately, I cannot neglect to mention the incredible adventure undertaken in March by Westgate's Travel Club. This adventurous group of staff and students traveled overseas to explore the sights and sounds of England, Ireland and Scotland and returned home with memories to last a lifetime.

With the final term of this school year now upon us, look forward to many more exciting activities and accomplishments. I will conclude by thanking all of our tigers (staff and students alike) for all you do every day to ensure our amazing school remains vibrant, active and "always on the best." Ms. Charlton

- Mid-term Report Cards will be sent out May 25th.

4.2 **Staff Report**

- The south side renewal plan for Lakehead Public Schools was discussed, no final plans yet.

5. **New Business**

5.1 **Convocation Awards**

- The Westgate School Council will apply for another grant for next year and Delfina will take care of the application.
- The Westgate School Council will hand out 5 \$100 bursaries to graduating students that met an agreed upon criteria.

5.2 **School Tour (Wellness Room, New Weight Room)**

- Delayed to next meeting.

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

6.1 **ProGrant Event updates and Planning**

- May 12th from 6-8:30pm, confirmed speaker is David Tranter (speaking on "Understanding the Teenage Brain").
- Spaghetti Supper from 6-8:30pm in the Cafeteria on May 12th as a fundraiser for Me-to-We Build a School in Africa.
- Many Community organizations have confirmed to set-up booths during the event.
- Free supper tickets will be given to parents and students in the Special Needs Program, which will be paid for by the ProGrant Fund.
- Students volunteer will be present to assist visitors and will be able to use for their volunteer hours.

6.2 **School Renewal Plans**

- South Side Renewal Plan was discussed, no final details are available.

6.3 **Next Meeting Date**

- Tuesday May 24, 2016 @ 6:30pm – Final Meeting

7. **Adjournment** – 9:10pm