



WESTGATE SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday January 24, 2017

Library

<p>Present:</p>	<p>Coral Charlton, Delfina Trevisan, Carlos Santander-Maturana Bonnie Johnsen, Brenda Shedden, Mary Jayne Smith, Melanie Gottfred, Pam Hamlin, Georgie Ostrowksi, Allan McCormick, Stacey Freemantle, Diana Petrunak, Jody Forester, Krista Power</p>
<p>Regrets:</p>	<p>Tegan Venables, Nick Sacevich, Mark Nowak, Angie Lynch, Robert Eady, Rhonda Braun</p>
<p>Welcome:</p>	<p>Introductions of all members Approval of Agenda and Minutes (from previous meeting)</p>
<p>Presentation: Timed Item 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Mary Mavar, Westgate's purchasing secretary, presented "School Cash Online" system. Lakehead Public Schools would like this to be the preferred payment method for everything from student fees to spirit wear. It's safe and convenient. Easy to register but parents will need their child's OEN (which can be found on their report card). Registration instructions provided. Payment options (ie. visa, my wallet) discussed.</p>
<p>Reports</p>	<p><u>Staff Report</u> (Carlos Santander-Maturana)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Semester one a long haul. Prepping for semester 2. School spirit incredibly high. A lot of excitement about what's to come in second semester. There are a number of initiatives planned, including but not limited to an "I Am Norm" campaign (meant to help kids understand the challenges faced by others) and the Polar Plunge. <p><u>Principal's Report</u> (Coral Charlton)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Mid-late November events?</u> Achievement Night, PD Day, Senior Football City Championship Game, Grad Photos, Immunizations, Party Program Day • <u>December Events?</u> Tiger Tip-Off Tournament, Tiger Spike-Off Tournament, White Ribbon Campaign (anti-violence against women), Xmas Cheer activities, music concert, SNC Xmas Tea, Holiday Assembly • <u>January Events?</u> Grad photo retakes, culminating activities and final exams, grade 12 drama presentation "Cope," dance recital, Grade 8 Transition Day, Elementary Basketball Tournament, second semester starts. *Semester one report cards will be distributed to students via homerooms • <u>On the Horizon?</u> MADD Assembly for senior students (Feb 3rd), Open House (Feb 13th), Semi-Formal (March 2nd), Parent-Teacher Interviews (Mar 23rd), OSSLT (Mar 30th) and more

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Challenges?</u> Ojibway Teacher situation, overcap classes
New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Open House.</u> Monday, February 13th at 7 p.m. Westgate's School Council will have a table with 4 parent volunteers at it. Give-aways will be provided. Thanks to those who volunteered to help that evening! • <u>School Renewal Transition Committee.</u> Mandate and committee composition was shared. Committee members are: Coral Charlton (principal), Keri Sayer (teacher rep), Heather Holland (support staff rep), Delfina Trevisan (school council rep), Brenda Shedden, Diane Bannon and Tammison DeGiacomo (parent reps), Cameron Johnson (student rep) • <u>PIC.</u> Parent Involvement Committee at a system level is looking for new parent members. **Please email Coral if you are interested in participating in this committee, and your name will be forwarded to the board. • <u>ProGrant Planning</u> – *see attached notes
General Information, Updates and Inquiries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Parent question</u> – What renovations will be done to Westgate as part of the School Renewal Process?
Adjournment	<p>8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Next meeting?</p> <p>Tuesday, March 7th at 6:30 pm in Library</p>

BRAINSTORMING

PRO-GRANT VIDEO (Parents Reaching Out)

Brief video created by parents (Westgate's current School Council) for parents who are new to the high school experience (parents of children transitioning from grade 8 to grade 9). The video resource is meant to convey information and to alleviate the natural anxiety that parents often feel when their kids enter high school.

Title will be "Navigating Westgate" or something along those lines. ????

Length of video undetermined. Perhaps 5 minutes? 7 minutes?

Mark Nowak will touch base with his contact at Westfort Productions to determine if they will work with us on the video. If so, Mark will invite someone from the company to join us at our next School Council meeting in March.

Ideas about what should be in the video?

- the school building and facilities (ie. weight room, tech wing, wellness room, learning lodge, different classrooms, school garden, and so on)
- demographic information (ie. student population, number of staff members)
- teams, groups, clubs (ie. sports, GSA, Mental Health Champions, Student Ambassadors)
- available human supports (ie. Student Services, social work, admin). Who to call?
- cafeteria – new "Get Fresh Café" (ie. menu, prices)
- school safety (ie. video cameras, code of conduct, supervision, keyfob door locking system, anti-bullying)
- variety of course offerings (*heavy focus on grade 9 options including all available electives)
- workload expectations and different levels (ie. academic, applied and LDCC). Semester system.
- diploma requirements
- testimonials of kids and parents that highlight the many "positives" (ie. more friends, be with more like-minded people, reinvent yourself, greater independence, 4 diff teachers)
- testimonials of people sharing their concerns so others are aware that it is normal to feel anxious about these things (ie. bullying, drugs, safety concerns)
- electronic systems, like School Cash Online (online payment system) and parent portal (absence reporting system)
- technology use and BYOD
- tips about what parents can do to ensure their kids are successful in high school
- other ideas? Bike-training wheels analogy; student development from child to graduate????