



## WESTGATE SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

Library

<b>Present:</b>	Coral Charlton, Delfina Trevisan, Bonnie Johnsen, Mary Jayne Smith, Melanie Gottfred, Pam Hamlin, Georgie Ostrowksi, Allan McCormick, Jody Forester, Krista Power Mark Nowak, Robert Eady
<b>Regrets:</b>	Tegan Venables, Nick Sacevich, Angie Lynch, Rhonda Braun, Carlos Santander-Maturana, Brenda Shedden, Diana Petrunak, Stacey Freemantle
<b>Welcome:</b>	Introductions of all members Approval of Agenda and Minutes (from previous meeting)
<b>New Business:</b>	<p><u>PIC Report.</u> Krista Power and Robert Eady are new PIC members. At the most recent meeting, they learned about: 1) LPS International and the Homestay Program. Boarding homes are needed for international students. 2) The School Calendar for the 17-18 school year. Board is looking at a September 5<sup>th</sup> start date. Still tentative. 3) Health and Safety Presentation 4) By-Laws being revamped. Feedback is encouraged. 5) Tour of Superior 6) Cultural Sensitivity video created by Aboriginal Liaison 7) Community Use of Schools policy.</p> <p><u>Compass Survey Results.</u> Coral Charlton shared highlights of Westgate's results. Study measured topics like obesity, marijuana use, physical activity, alcohol use, smoking and sedentary behavior. Some concerning results were noted. School determining how to respond and address the issues emerging from the survey.</p> <p><u>Budget Input Request.</u> Westgate School Council has til month's end to give input to the board on budgetary issues. The input must relate to "student achievement and well-being." Members are asked to email your feedback to Delfina by March 20 (who will collate ideas and submit them to the board). Group discussion evolved around support for Westgate's new Get Fresh Café.</p> <p><u>ProGrant Video.</u> Brian Popowich from Westfort Productions unable to attend meeting. Mark Nowak spoke on his behalf (as they have met once to discuss the video). Video length will be between 2 and 4 minutes. Want to have a narrator. Perhaps Cameron Johnson? Video to be broken into segments, like athletics, academics and so on. Will come in and do some location shooting. Wants a calendar of upcoming events. Senior students are going to write a script.</p> <p><u>Progrant Application for 17/18 School Year.</u> Due in spring. Ideas tossed around. Perhaps add on to and enhance the video? Members to mull this and make a decision at the next meeting.</p>
<b>Reports</b>	<u>Principal's Report</u> (Coral Charlton)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Recent Athletic Accomplishments?</u> Our <b>Varsity Girls' Volleyball Team</b> secured the city championship this year. In addition, <b>Maggie McGillvray</b> just won a wrestling bronze medal in her weight class at OFSAA. We are very proud of these athletes. Some fantastic photos are on Westgate's FB page.</li> <li>• <u>Exciting Events?</u> A <b>Basketball Tournament</b> (for Grades 4-6 students) occurred in our large gym at the end of January. A <b>Grade 8 Transition Day</b> also occurred on January 26 (another occurred for Hub students exclusively on February 21st). A <b>MADD Assembly</b> for senior students occurred in early February. Our <b>Open House</b> was held on February 13th. Thank you to our school council moms that worked a table for us that evening and secured commitments from some possible future members. Our Westgate Kids Page appeared in the Chronicle Journal on February 27<sup>th</sup>. A successful <b>Semi-Formal</b> was held at the KC Hall on March 2nd.</li> <li>• <u>On the Horizon?</u> <b>Parent-Teacher Interviews</b> are occurring on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The <b>Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test</b> will be administered on March 30th. We are currently in the process of supporting students to make their course for the upcoming school year. Deadline to make selections is this Thursday.</li> <li>• <u>School Renewal?</u> A Transition Committee Meeting will be held on March 27<sup>th</sup>. This committee will work towards helping the merger of Westgate and Churchill a positive one.</li> </ul>
<b>General Information, Updates and Inquiries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Parent question</u> – Can Westgate put in a float for the Xmas parade next year?</li> </ul>
<b>Adjournment</b>	8:15 p.m.  Next meeting?  <b>Tuesday, April 25th at 6:30 pm in Library</b>

## 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????