



## WESTGATE SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, December, 14, 2020

Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

<b>Present:</b>	Coral Klein (P), Laura Bortolin, Carlos Santander-Maturana, Giselle Little, Delfina Trevisan, Rodi-Lynn Kinisky, Dave Coates, Melinda Coates, Allan McCormick, Bonnie Johnsen, Samantha Vance, Robert Eady, Coral McCaul, Melanie Gottfred, Brandi Willianen, Anna Sampson, Ruth Anne Faye, Liz Todd
<b>Review of Minutes</b>	Minutes reviewed from October meeting
<b>Correspondence:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>N/A</li></ul>
<b>Reports</b>	<p><u>Staff Report (non-teaching)</u>– Carlos Santander-Maturana and Giselle Little</p> <p>Staff committed to delivering quality programming and a safe environment for kids. It has been a challenge to try and find novel ways for kids to get adequate support during these difficult times. Virtual afternoons are particularly challenging. Having said that, the atmosphere in the school has been great. Staff and students appear happy and there is still lots of laughing. School participated in an awareness-raising “16 days of activism” against gender-based violence. School fully engaged. Daily announcements. White ribbons distributed.</p> <p><u>Staff Report (teaching)</u>– Laura Bortolin</p> <p>Staff are continuing to plug along. They are doing their best to keep up with the everchanging expectations and demands. Staff is currently navigating a lot of requests for support. Trying to support students who are in Cohort C (and learning virtually full-time from home) has been especially challenging. Our students’ mental health is the main priority right now.</p> <p><u>Principal’s Report</u>-Coral Klein (P)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Had a successful Quad 1. In the midst of Quad two. Staff are continuing to work hard to maintain some sense of normalcy in the lives of our students’ and keep smiles on their faces during these difficult times. Navigating this pandemic has continued to present challenges for educators, but we are pleased with the progress we have made to-date and are committed to supporting our kids through this.</li><li>This semester, we have had <u>four fire drills</u> (with fire dept. present at 2 of them) and one <u>lockdown drill</u> (with the police present).</li><li><b>October 28<sup>th</sup></b> – Picture Retake Day</li><li><b>October 30<sup>th</sup></b> – Halloween. Lots of costumes. Pics on FB.</li><li><b>November 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup></b> – Final Exams for Quad 1.</li><li><b>November</b> – EQAO Math testing canceled for Quad 1 Math students.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Week of November 23<sup>rd</sup></b> – Achievement Award Presentations for those attending conventionally. Pics on FB. Cohort C certificates were mailed home. Report Cards were also distributed to kids through their a.m. classes.</li> <li>• <b>November 27<sup>th</sup></b> – Spirit Day</li> <li>• <b>Week of December 7<sup>th</sup></b> – Compass Survey completion</li> <li>• <b>December 10<sup>th</sup></b> – parent-teacher interviews held. FB post gives you a sense of how they look from our lens.</li> <li>• <b>December</b> – raised \$2500 for the local Christmas Cheer campaign</li> <li>• <b>November 18<sup>th</sup> week</b> – Graduation Photos (in Cafetorium). Will be another portrait sitting for graduates in the new year. Cohort C students will also be provided with a link for booking photos directly with the studio.</li> <li>• <b><u>On the Horizon?</u></b> Holiday Spirit Week this week. Themed apparel every day.</li> </ul> <p><u>Student Report</u> – N/A</p>
<b>New Business</b>	<p><u>SEAC Presentation</u> – Liz Todd and Ruth Anne Faye <i>*timed item 6:20 p.m.</i></p> <p>Role of SEAC. Nurture children’s unique potential. SEAC meets monthly. Makes recommendations to the board with respect to special ed. Advocates for families. Assists with supports. Wants kids to have needs met and be successful. Work together (home and school) to do what is best for kids. SEAC advocates sometimes liaise with school principal or special education facilitators. Always room for more people on Special Education Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Evening presentations (online) upcoming in January. 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>. 40-60 minutes. Parents can watch from home. Posters/flyers coming out soon. Watch for them.</p>
<b>General Information, Updates and Inquiries</b>	<p><u>Holiday Break Travel Advisory</u> – Coral Klein (P)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Those who travel outside of NW Ontario over Xmas break will be required to self-isolate for 14 days prior to being permitted back on school property.</li> </ul> <p><u>New HYBRID model of instruction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will no longer have a “separate” virtual school for Cohort C (fully virtual) learners. Cohort C kids will remain attached to their conventional classes (and Westgate teachers) and access learning via technology, like classroom webcams. This means that most teachers will now have a class that is composed of in-person learners and virtual ones. Co-op teachers and Special Needs Class teachers have already been teaching using the hybrid approach. Hybrid will likely not be an option available for tech classes, however.</li> </ul>
<b>Adjournment</b>	7:50 p.m.

Next meeting?

**MONDAY, MARCH 1st at 6:00 PM**

**An online link will be emailed to council members closer to this date.**