



WESTGATE SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, November 22, 2018

Westgate Library, 6:30

<p>Present:</p>	<p>Coral Szyszka (P), Robert Eady, Samantha Baltzer, Diana Petrunak, Rodi-Lynn Kinisky, Melanie Gottfred, Mary Jayne Smith (CHAIR), Shannon Ambury, Jody Forester, Trevor Workman (STAFF REP), Debbie Hill, Bonnie Johnsen, Dave Coates, Melinda Sault-Coates, Giselle Little (STAFF REP), Alex Crane, Judy Crane, Brenda Shedden, Alan McCormick, Heather Del Ben, Stacey Freemantle, Andrea Shepard, Faithvincenia Nwizu, Okey Nwizu</p>
<p>Regrets:</p>	<p>Nick Sacevich (VP), Dave McCallum (VP), Shawna Kozak (SECRETARY), Pamela Hamlin, Carlos Santander-Maturana (STAFF REP)</p>
<p>Welcome:</p>	<p>Introductions of all members (and attendance sheet completed) Review of Minutes (September 24, 2018)</p>
<p>New Business:</p>	<p><u>Biwaase'aa</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deferred until next meeting <p><u>Social Work Supports</u> (timed item 7:00 pm)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westgate's Social Worker, Laura Ward, spoke to social work and school support services available to students. Very, very busy. Kids can self-refer or referrals can come from a third party. Westgate also has an Attendance Counselor on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Outreach Workers who support the school on an on-call basis, a Mental Health and Addictions Nurse (part-time), counsellors from Sullivans and Associates (two half days per week) and a full-time Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Counsellor. Also applied and received a \$1500 grant last year to run a Mindfulness and Meditation Art Group during the lunch hour for girls who suffer from anxiety and other mental health issues. <p><u>Midterm Achievement Data and Student Supports</u> (Coral Szyszka)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data is concerning. 26% of all students at Westgate currently have one or more classes at 50% or lower. Grade 9s have the lowest number of failures with 19%; 10s have 26%; 11s 27% and 12s 31%. Senior Math and English are the most problematic areas. In response, the school's midterm supports include: 1) "Power Hours" every Tuesday and Thursday in the library. Struggling students are fed a free lunch while getting assistance in courses where they are currently struggling. Teachers, guidance counselors, grad coaches and others are providing support. 2) "Credit Rescue Plans" have been developed for all students and shared with parents/guardians 3) Guidance counsellors are meeting one-on-one with all kids who have more than one failure to determine what the barrier is to success and create a plan of action moving forward. 4) Math Tutoring is occurring every lunch hour in Room 112. We are optimistic that most of these kids will be successful in securing all of their credits by semester's end. <p><u>School Improvement Plan</u> (Coral Szyszka)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared with Council. A copy is attached to these minutes. Discussion about Westgate's "Evidence of Need" column.

Correspondence:	<p><u>Student Thank You Notes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three graduating students who received bursaries in June from Westgate's School Council sent notes of gratitude. Shared with the group.
Reports	<p><u>Teaching Staff Report (Trevor Workman)</u></p> <p>Mid-Term Report Cards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Were distributed to homeroom classes this past Tuesday - As always, parents are encouraged to review report cards with their son/daughter <p>Academic Support: There are a number of academic supports available to students (*"Tiger Success" bookmarks distributed to parents):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Student Success – Daily ○ After school tutoring in the Four Directions Learning Lodge - Tuesday and Wednesdays from 3:35 – 5:00 p.m. ○ Math Help - Monday through Friday in rooms 112 and 113 ○ Online Math Help ○ "Power Hour" - Tuesday and Thursday during lunch in the library (lunch provided) <p>Student Services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representatives from various universities have been circulating through, giving presentations to grade 12 classes - Confederation College Open House - Nov. 28 - Lakehead University Preview Day - Dec. 4 <p>SAC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Semi-Formal - Dec 6 (sold out) - Christmas Cheer is underway – canned goods/non-perishable foods items are being collected in homeroom classes - Upcoming: Christmas assembly in December <p>Westgate Travel Club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Europe trip - March 2020 - Overwhelming interest with the 45 available spots filled in 20 minutes. <p><u>Non-Teaching Staff Report (Giselle Little)</u></p> <p>Concerns:</p> <p>Lack of a staffroom is not conducive to a proper merge of staff and cultures between Westgate and Churchill. Perhaps activities during the Christmas season can help enhance a sense of school community. Perhaps the Transitions Committee can help fund/promote an grand-opening potluck once it is finished</p> <p>Special Needs washroom an area of high concern for staff. Staff are making an extra effort to provide the services that our student require, but it is difficult as there are so many students in the halls due to being down to one hallway to move from the north-side to the south-side of the building. Staff in this area are often working below their full complement due to a lack of supply staff</p> <p>The cafeteria staff report that things are going okay. They are doing their best to serve the higher volume of students.</p> <p>Upstairs bathrooms need to be upgraded. There is no ventilation or stalls in the boy's washroom. *Principal clarified that this bathroom is going to be upgraded but it was postponed as a result of the budget shortfall.</p>

	<p>Small gym is cold. *Principal clarified that a large insulated tarp has been draped over this side of the building and all doors and window openings were resealed. This should help. If it does not, will look at other heating options.</p> <p>Office staff are settling into a new sense of normal. In addition to the extra workload due to a larger staff and student body, start-up was fraught with the extra challenge of phone calls because of issues with the new transportation system and the new School Messenger. Those issues have settled down now.</p> <p>Upcoming: Staff and students will be engaging in a program called 16 Days of Action on No Violence Against Women. This is a Government of Canada initiative, intended to educate and stop interpersonal relationship violence. A variety of activities have been planned</p> <p><u>Principal's Report</u> (Coral Szyszka)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal's Report is attached <p><u>Student Report</u> – N/A .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students (Westgate's co-presidents of SAC) will be invited to the next meeting.
<p>General Information, Updates and Inquiries</p>	<p><u>School Renewal Update</u> – Coral Szyszka (P)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All three Parking Lots getting light posts. Infrastructure complete. • The Drop and Go off Gordon Street now open for business. Right turns only. *A aerial map provided to parents. • The Cafetorium completion pushed back until March 18th. • The completion of the girls change room and staff room are also pushed back until first week of January • Special Ed Washroom should be accessible again in January • Heating is still incomplete in some staff office and department areas • Challenges? Leaks from roof, sparks, ventilation in manufacturing, bells in main office all these issues have been resolved <p><u>Miscellaneous</u> (Coral Szyszka)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Smoke Free Ontario Regulations. New rule (passed in mid October) that smoking is not permitted within 20 meters of the "perimeter" of school property. The board's Education Officer is meeting with the Health Unit's Tobacco Enforcement Officer to discuss the implications of this. Stay tuned. More details forthcoming on this topic. For a variety of different reasons, some parents support the changes to the law; some oppose it. • Text Message Communication Option. Parents provided with correspondence from the board outlining how to opt into text message communication. <p><u>Parental Inquiries</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>With the St. Michael's situation so prevalent, what is the school/board doing to ensure our kids remain safe (and that nothing of that nature occurs here)?</i> Discussion ensued about existing practices and expectations. Have never had any reported incidents of athletic hazing at Westgate for the entire time current

	<p>principal has been in the building. Because Ed Officer was contacting the schools for information on this very issue, we can conclude that the board is examining their existing practices and tightening up the policies where required. Parents want “pro active” steps to be taken to both inform and protect our youth. Parent Council will be informed of any changes that occur.</p> <p><u>Parental Issues or Concerns</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not receiving report cards (as kids do not bring them home). Discussion about the possibility of parents being able to access them electronically somehow. This will be investigated further. Also, parents who did not see their child’s report card can contact the school for a copy.
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>8:20 pm</p> <p><u>Next meeting?</u></p> <p>Thursday January 31, 2019 @ 6:30 in the Westgate Library</p>

Principal's Report

NOVEMBER 22, 2018

- Term one ended. Now in term two. Midterm report cards distributed this week through homeroom classes.
- Term one fall sports are wrapping up: girls basketball, boys volleyball, football, cross-country running, field cheerleading. We are very proud of our athletes. Junior Boys' Volleyball team ended the season with a silver medal. Our Senior Boys' volleyball team has been outstanding. They won gold in all four of their tournaments, went undefeated the entire season, secured the city championship as well as the regional championship and are currently in southern Ontario for provincials.
- Tigers-For-A-Cure Annual Fundraiser was held. \$2000.00 raised this year. Since 2013, our girls' basketball program has raised \$10000 for the Northern Cancer Research Fund.
- 44 kids have registered for a Travel Club excursion to Europe in 2020 (Switzerland, Germany and France). An information night for parents was held this month. Interest far exceeded capacity so we are hoping that other staff may step forward to coordinate a second Travel Club. Stay tuned on that one.
- The 2017-2018 Yearbook finally arrived and is being distributed now. Feedback on the fall distribution has not been favourable so we will return to the traditional approach of distributing the yearbook in the spring. Extras are available for purchase if interested. In addition, some tiger wear is also on sale. Check out our FB page and/or School Cash Online.
- This semester, we have had three fire drills (with Fire Dept. present at one of them) and one lockdown drill (with Police present)
- **October 15th** – Picture Day. Retakes were November 7th. Grad Pictures are currently being taken.
- **October 18th** – MADD Assembly (for grade 11s)
- **October 19th** – CORN ROAST. A Churchill tradition transplanted here. Great fun ☺
- **October 25th** – parent-teacher interviews held. Biwaase'aa also hosted a FALL FEAST that evening in our cafeteria.
- **November 1st and 2nd** – community bus tours occurred with FNMI students new to Thunder Bay. Stopped at key locations around the city to familiarize the students with things like walk-in clinics and libraries.
- **November 1st** – Faryn Gysen (a senior student) won the \$1500 first place prize in the TBayTel for Good Competition. Faryn's idea "Project Purse" got approximately 15000 votes. Fills purses with necessities and distributes them to vulnerable women in our community.
- **November 9th** – two beautiful and moving Remembrance Day Services in the large gym. One for 9/10 and one for 11/12.
- **November 14th** – Take-Your-Kids-to-Work day (for grade 9s)
- **November 15th** – Achievement Night
- **November 22nd** – Health Canada's KNOW MORE Awareness Tour. 5 interactive displays set up in the main hallway. Certain classes cycled through. Educating kids about opioids, like fentanyl.
- **On the Horizon?** Tiger Tip-Off Tournament (November 29th- December 1st) will be expanded this year to include juniors as well as seniors, Semi Formal (December 6th), Christmas Cheer Campaign, Music Concert (December 13th) and more