



WESTGATE SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday December 8, 2021

Virtual Teams Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Present:	Coral Klein, Neil Workman, Laura Bortolin, Carlos Santander-Maturana, Delfina Trevisan, Allan McCormick, Diana Prairie, Jennifer Ranta-Ojala, Jenny Diaczun, Rodi-Lynn Kinisky, Samantha Vance
Regrets:	Erin Murphy
Welcome:	<p>Introductions of all members</p> <p>Welcome to new VP, NEIL WORKMAN. Neil (who came from Hammarsjold) joined Westgate on November 29th. He replaced VP Upton, who left Westgate to go to Gorham and Ware as Principal.</p>
Correspondence:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you notes (from students) for School Council Awards
Reports	<p><u>Staff Report (Non-Teaching)</u> – Carlos Santander-Maturana</p> <p>Custodial Staff. There are heavy demands on custodial staff (due to every day cleaning as opposed to alternate day cleaning). With the cafeteria set to re-open, our custodial team will be left short-staffed (as caf personnel have been assisting with regular custodial duties). There are concerns that secondary custodians will leave for elementary schools. However, school is working with the board on solutions and custodians are trying to stay positive.</p> <p>Office and Clerical. New “Powerschool” software/data base system has complicated things for secretarial staff. Working through issues as they arise. Things (like report card distribution) are a little slower this year. Clerical staff is happy with the return to the 4 period day. Everyone is looking forward to the holiday break.</p> <p>Support Staff Professionals. Continuing to work hard. Everyone is adjusting to the new 4 period schedule. 2 grades (9 and 10) have never experienced this schedule so they are getting used to it with support.</p> <p><u>Staff Report (teaching)</u>– Laura Bortolin</p> <p>Not Available</p> <p><u>Principal’s Report</u>-Coral Klein</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October 14th – parent-teacher interviews. Still many parents opting to attend virtually as opposed to in-person. • October 15th – completed our third (and final) fire drill for the semester • October 19th – student athletes from our Special Needs Class were recognized by Special Olympics as “class of the year.” Small ceremony held in the large gym to recognize their efforts. • Late October – installation of BlindSquare technology in our school. Designed to meet the needs of blind students but can be accessed by all. Approximately 30 beacons have been installed around the school. Kids can download an app to their i-phones that will communicate with those beacons (ie. “room 204 is 50 feet in front of you on the left hand side.”) • November 3rd – “Take Your Kids to Work Day” for grade 9s. • November 5th – picture retake day

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 11th – Remembrance Day ceremony held over the intercom. Approximately 20 minutes in length. • November 15th – welcomed student teachers to our school for their placements • November 26th – Black and Orange Spirit Day • November 29th – new VP started. Also the day that the secondary schedule reverted back to a pre-pandemic one of 4 classes per day. Everyone is very happy with this giant step in the direction of normalcy again. • December 1st – the first of grade 8 transition day visits. Must do things very differently than in the past. More covid friendly. Can't overlap cohorts. One school coming in per day. Feedback has been positive. • December 2nd and 3rd – Tiger Tip-Off Tournament (senior). Junior Tiger Tip Off to follow Thursday and Friday of next week. • Other? Christmas Cheer fundraising underway. Monetary donations only. No food donations again this year. 16 days of action to end gender-based violence is also underway. GSA coordinating it. Had a vigil in the library for the 14 women who lost their lives in the 1989 massacre at Polytechnique. Daily announcements. Signed pledges in main hallway. Activities end this Friday with a LU professor as guest speaker. • On Monday, December 13th, course planning begins for the 22-23 school year. • End with huge CONGRATULATIONS to both our Senior boys and Junior boys' volleyball teams who walked away with gold medals in the city championship this year. <p><u>Student Report</u> – Chalisa Hoskins, SAC President</p> <p>Been a slow start for SAC but we are doing what we can. Have had a couple spirit days, Helped with the Terry Fox run. Next week is spirit week: Monday – green and red day, Tuesday -Xmas accessories day, Wednesday – flannel day, Thursday – pajama day, Friday – ugly Xmas sweater day. Raided money for Xmas cheer. Going to the radio station tomorrow to present the cheque. Have tentative date schedule for semi-formal in February, but not actively promoting it yet. Will need more guidance from the Health Unit closer to the date. The switch to the 4 period day has been a little “hectic” but kids are getting used to it again. It is nice for school to feel more “normal” again.</p>
<p>New Business and General Information/ Updates</p>	<p><u>Social Work Services</u> - Erin Murphy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postponed until future meeting. Erin unwell and unable to attend. <p><u>Covid Update</u>– Coral Klein</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have had more positive covid cases but are currently all clear. Students who are in the affected cohorts but are fully vaccinated (and asymptomatic) can continue to attend classes as per usual. Only those not fully vaccinated must quarantine in these circumstances. The school is distributing PCR covid tests to fully vaccinated students and staff in affected cohorts. These are voluntary. Kids who opt to take the test will need to drop their samples at designated pharmacies to be sent off for analysis. All information is shared with kids when tests are distributed. • Westgate has also received a large shipment of RAPID ANTIGEN TESTS that will be distributed to students on December 15th. Each student will receive 5 tests to be taken in the weeks ahead. Instructions and information sheets will accompany these tests. Testing is voluntary and kids will NOT have to show negative test results to be admitted to school in January. • In second semester, there will no longer be a “hybrid” approach to instruction for students who are fully virtual. The educational program will change. In January, all fully virtual students will be contacted via phone. • By the end of January, all student athletes will need to be double vaccinated if they want to play on school teams. <p><u>Westgate Safe Schools Committee</u> – Coral Klein</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School must have a “Safe and Accepting School Team.” Team works to help foster a safe, inclusive and accepting school climate. It is composed of representatives from administration, staff, students, parents and community partners. Task for this year - review and revamp (as required) Westgate’s Code of Conduct. Looking for parent and student volunteers. Will meet separate from the School Council. Parents who volunteered? Rodi-Lynn Kinisky (and possibly daughter Sydney), Allan McCormick and Jennifer Ranta-Ojala (and daughter Morgann). <p><u>ProGrant</u> – Delfina Trevisan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Parent Reaching Out grant application was approved. THANK YOU DELFINA for composing this submission. Proposal was rooted in supporting the emotional health of parents. An evening event over Zoom will be planned. Mental health professionals to speak to parents about their wellness needs. Resources to be provided. Delfina wants to set up a sub-committee to plan this. Jennifer Ranta-Ojala and Diana Prairie willing to assist.
<p>Questions/Issues?</p>	<p>Q: What is happening with ACHIEVEMENT NIGHT this year? Our plans to recognize the achievement of students in December has now been postponed to January. Powerschool issues have complicated things at our end and slowed us down, but we are still fully committing to doing it.</p> <p>Q: Is there a glitch with SchoolCash Online? Who do I speak to? For all inquiries relating to SchoolCash Online, please call the school and ask to speak to our purchasing secretary, MARY MAVAR.</p> <p>Q: What is the exam schedule this year? Exam schedules will revert back to the pre-pandemic approached. Period 1 will be day 1 (Jan 21), Period 2 will be on day 2 (Jan 24), Period 4 will be on day 3 (Jan 25), and Period 5 will be on day 4 (Jan 26). The 5th day (Jan 27) is a conflict day for those who could not write at their regularly scheduled time.</p> <p>Q: What do athletes have to show for vaccination status? Their vaccination card. Students with any Qs can speak directly to their coaches.</p>
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p><u>Next meeting?</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">THURSDAY, MARCH 3rd 5:30 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MEETING WILL AGAIN OCCUR VIRTUALLY VIA TEAMS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">All parents on Council will receive an email reminder and meeting link closer to this date.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thank you again for supporting Westgate’s School Council! 😊</p>