

WESTGATE SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Westgate Library, 6:00 p.m.

Present:	Jenn Ranta-Ojala, Rodi-Lynn Kinisky, Amy Johnson, Tammy Dionne, Keri Ogilvie, Dave Ambury, Shawna Ambury, Jiska Westbroek, Diana Prairie, Sandra Workman, Deb McDougall, Alisha Hodder, Paulina Arredondo, Annette Klement, Darcy Magbanua, Coral Klein, Neil Workman, Ruby Kantharajah, Laura Bortolin, Carlos Santander-Maturana
Regrets:	Jenny Diaczun
Welcome:	Introductions of all members School Council Mandate
New Business:	<u>Election/Appointments to Council</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHAIR – Jennifer Ranta-Ojala • VICE-CHAIR – Paulina Arredondo • SECRETARY TREASURER – Deb McDougall <p style="text-align: center;">*THANK YOU to these parents for stepping into these roles*</p>
Correspondence/ Resources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEAC Event with Dr. Mushquash. October 11 *attached • Westgate Parent Information Card *copies distributed. Extras in the main office
Reports	<p><u>Staff Report (non-teaching)</u>– Carlos Santander-Maturana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared information about the GSA (Gender Sexuality Alliance). Dynamic, active group. Social Justice. Promote equity in the school. Weekly meetings. Wednesdays. Library. • School busy. Pleased strike was averted. Everyone happy that cafeteria is open again. Getting supply coverage for absent staff continues to be a challenge. <p><u>Staff Report (teaching)</u>– Laura Bortolin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things are booming. Covid days behind us. Things feel normal again. Events, like Pep Rallies, are back. Kids happy. Labour relations issues for secondary teachers will be resolved through arbitration. <p><u>Principal's Report</u>- Coral Klein</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great (but busy) start to the school year ... many new registrations. • Welcomed some new staff, including a new Vice-Principal: Ruby Kantharajah • Westgate student, Morgann DeFranceschi, appointed Student Trustee • August 31 – Grade 9 <u>Open House</u> • September 5 – <u>PD Day</u>. Staff engaged in training on topics like mental health and safe schools. • September 14 and 15 –<u>Grade Assemblies</u> for all grades. Highlighted key information and expectations from our Code of Conduct and Student Handbook. That handbook is accessible

	<p>online (via EDSBY and/or Westgate's website). <u>Grade 9 Welcome Luncheon</u> followed the grade 9 assembly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 22 – <u>Terry Fox fundraiser walk and Pep Rally</u>. • September 25 - <u>Picture Day</u> • September 26 – <u>Inspire Event</u> at LU for grade 9 girls. • September 29 – Variety of <u>Truth and Reconciliation events</u>. Sacred fire, honour ceremony, orange shirt messages, awareness raising announcements, and more. • October 2 – <u>PD Day</u>. Staff engaged in training on topics like high impact teaching strategies and artificial intelligence. • October 3 – <u>Cafeteria</u> reopens. Roots to Harvest has partnered with Horizon North. <u>Fire Drill</u>. • <u>Fall Sports</u> are in full swing. Boys volleyball, Girls basketball, Football, Golf, Cross-Country Running, Cheerleading. • <u>Travel Club</u>. Going to Greece. One seat left. Deadline Nov. 11th. Trivia Night fundraiser in November and Mom's Pantry. • <u>CHALLENGES?</u> No cafeteria service in month of September. Class Size (2 grade 9 Math classes split so far). • <u>ON THE HORIZON?</u> Lockdown Drill (October 13), Parent-Teacher Interviews (October 12), Achievement Night (mid-late Nov.) <p><u>Student Report</u> – N/A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • McKayla Gaudreau (our SAC President) will be at the next meeting.
<p>New Business, General Information and Updates</p>	<p><u>School Profile and Priorities</u> (Coral Klein)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 1100 kids (1165 with e-learning) <p>Priorities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safe, inclusive, welcoming school/class environment. Shared newly updated Code of Conduct. *attached • new curriculum (ie. destreamed courses) • HITS (high impact teaching strategies) • cross-curricular literacy and numeracy • pursuing a construction SHSM • indigenous education • health priorities: mental health, vaping, substance use. Concerning stats shared from the 2022-2023 Compass survey. <p>Verification Sheets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • going home with kids. Please make corrections and send back. Critical that student data base remains up-to-date. <p>EDSBY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very important software platform at the secondary level. Strongly recommended that all parents access EDSBY. An invitation to join EDSBY gets sent to parents' email address. Please ensure we have one on file. • Currently working on getting a summary of daily announcements put onto EDSBY for parental access.

<p>General Inquiries/Concerns/Other</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for more promotion of special events, clubs, teams and so on school's social media forums. Information not getting from the kids to the parents/guardians. • Request for parents to be able to join EDSBY groups for sports teams or other groups. • Offer to connect school with a community partner with expertise relating to suicidal youth. • Discussion about Lakehead Public Schools staffing challenges and need to hire more SSPs. How to apply. • Question about penalty for vaping on school property. 1st offense – student must complete course assigned by Health Unit before being able to return to school. Repeat offenders may faces charges or suspensions. • Discussion about cell phone use in classrooms. Expectations of use - for instructional support only. Discussion about whether cell phones are still necessary in classrooms now that students have board-issued laptops. More discussion may be forthcoming on this topic.
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>7:25 pm</p> <p><u>Next meeting?</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Monday December 4, 2023 6:00 p.m. Westgate Library</p>



Special Education Advisory Committee

Presents a public event for parents, caregivers,
and guardians of special needs children.

Featuring: **Christopher Mushquash, Ph.D., C.Psych.**

Guest speaker Christopher Mushquash, Ph.D., C.Psych., is Anishinawbe (Ojibway), and a member of Pawgwasheeng (Pays Plat First Nation). He is a renown mental health expert, scientist, and research leader in Northwestern Ontario and beyond, and is a specialist in the field of mental health and addiction.

In this presentation, Dr. Mushquash will summarize the evidence on screen time and discuss recommended practices when supporting children and caregivers in managing the use of screens.

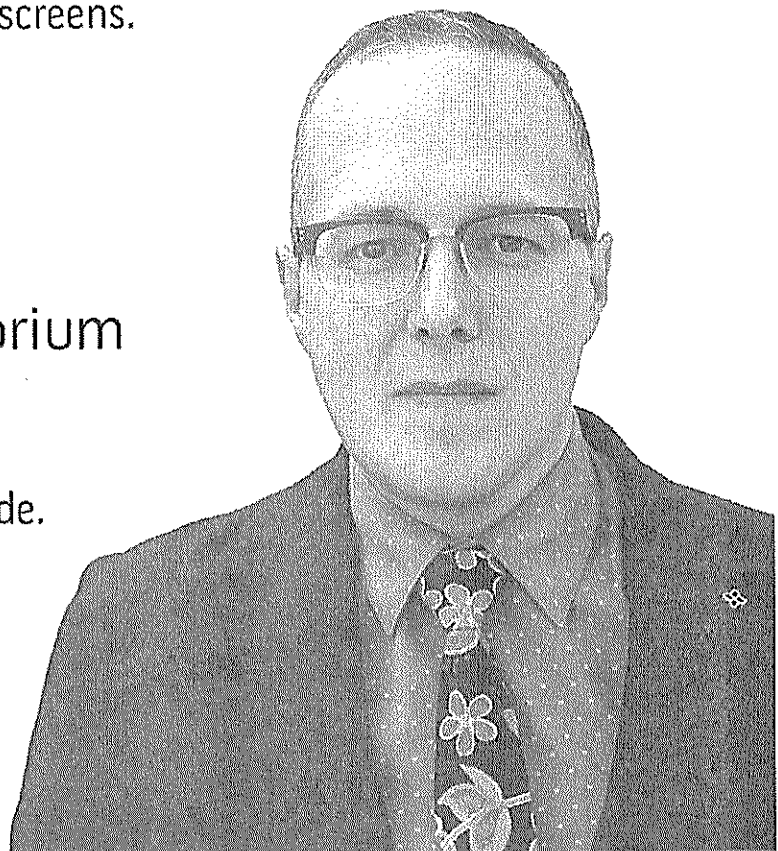
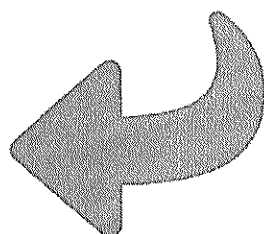
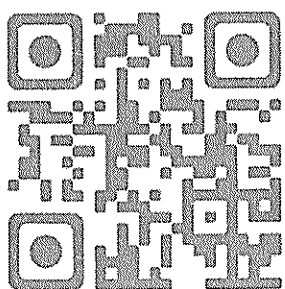
Refreshments will be served.

When: October 11, 2023

Where: Superior CVI Cafetorium

Time: 6:00pm

Register with the link or scan the QR code.



WESTGATE

CODE OF CONDUCT



RESPECT FOR SELF

I will be a dedicated student. I will attend all classes regularly and on time. I will demonstrate consistent effort and a genuine commitment to my studies. I will treat myself with care and make safe and healthy decisions. I will use respectful language and behave in a manner that is ethical and responsible. I will utilize technology in a positive and productive way.

Code of Conduct violations include but are not limited to skipping, lateness, lack of effort, plagiarism, cheating, smoking/vaping on school property, possessing/consuming/being under the influence of illegal drugs/alcohol, weapon possession, profanity, inappropriate displays of affection/intimacy, improper attire, misuse of electronic devices, accessing inappropriate websites, texting in class, recording/photographing others without consent and sharing inappropriate images or videos.

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

I will treat others with dignity, kindness and respect. I will embrace diversity and honour differences in people. I will respect the feelings, beliefs, cultures and property of others. I will take appropriate steps to help those in need. I will interact with all staff in a respectful and compliant manner.

Code of Conduct violations include but are not limited to bullying, harassment, threats, discrimination, intimidation, fighting, verbal abuse, all forms of assault, being a passive bystander at concerning events, theft, insolence, defiance, dishonesty, opposition to authority, racism, sexism, homophobia, obscene gestures or any other act that jeopardizes the physical/emotional well-being of others.

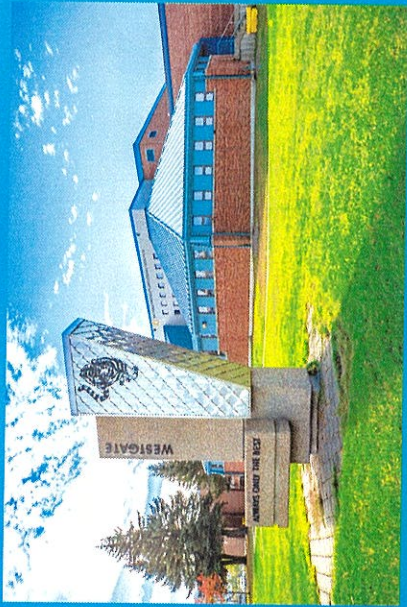
RESPECT FOR COMMUNITY

I will demonstrate pride in my school and community. I will show respect for my school building, school grounds, neighbouring properties and community businesses. I will comply with all federal, provincial and municipal laws. I will always represent Westgate (both on and off school property) in a positive manner.

Code of Conduct violations include but are not limited to hall pass misuse, mischief, graffiti, vandalism, littering, destruction of property, accessing restricted areas, dangerous driving and unsafe interactions with passing vehicles.

ALWAYS ONLY THE BEST

A range of consequences from verbal warnings to suspensions may be applied for conduct violations.



SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Westgate CVI

October 4, 2023

WESTGATE SCHOOL COUNCIL AGENDA

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

1. Welcome
 - 1.1 Introductions
 - 1.2 School Council Mandate
2. Elections/Appointments to Council
 - 2.1 Parent Representatives
 - 2.2 Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary/Treasurer
 - 2.3 Staff Representatives (Teaching and Non-teaching)
 - 2.4 Student Representative
 - 2.5 Community Representative
 - 2.6 Administration
3. Correspondence
 - 3.1 SEAC Event
 - 3.2 Parent Information Card
4. Staff and Student Reports
 - 4.1 Staff Report (Teaching)
 - 4.2 Staff Report (Support Staff)
 - 4.3 Principal's Report
 - 4.3 Student Report
5. New Business and General Information/Updates
 - 5.1 School Profile and Priorities
 - 5.2 Verification Sheets
 - 5.3 EDSBY
6. Questions/Concerns
7. Adjournment
 - 7.1 Next Meeting Date and Time



1. Welcome

1.1 Introductions

* School Councils meet a minimum of 4x per year*

1.2 School Council Mandate

* Council comprised of 25 parents (maximum), staff, student and community representatives*

KEY GOALS?

- promote a positive school environment
- provide input and suggestions to enhance students' educational experiences
- share and receive information
- address issues and challenges
- encourage and improve communication

BEING PART OF COUNCIL GIVES YOU A VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH TO EXPRESS OPINIONS & MAKES YOU A 'PARTNER' IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

2. Elections/Appointments to Council

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 2.1 | Parent Representatives | ALL OF YOU | |
| 2.2 | Chair | *position to be filled | JENNIFER RANTA - OJAJA |
| 2.2 | Vice-Chair | *position to be filled | PAULINA ARREDONDO |
| 2.2 | Secretary/Treasurer | *position to be filled | DEB. |
| 2.3 | Staff Representatives - Teaching | | LAURA BORTOLIN |
| 2.3 | Staff Representatives - Non-Teaching | | CARLOS SANTANDER-MATURANA |
| 2.4 | Student Representative | | 23-24 SAC PRESIDENT (McKayla Gaudreau) |
| 2.5 | Community Representative | | TBD |
| 2.6 | Administration | | PRINCIPAL - CORAL KLEIN |

3. Correspondence

- 3.1 SEAC Event
- 3.2 Parent Information Card

4. Staff and Student Reports

- 4.1 Staff Report: Non-Teaching
- 4.1 Staff Report: Teaching
- 4.2 Principal's Report
- 4.3 Student Report – N/A



Principal's Report

October 4, 2023

Great (but busy) start to the school year © ... many new registrations.

Welcomed some new staff, including a new Vice-Principal: Ruby Kantharajah

Westgate student, Morgann DeFranceschi, appointed Student Trustee

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September 5 – PD Day. Staff engaged in training on topics like mental health and safe schools.

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CHALLENGES? No cafeteria service in month of September.

ON THE HORIZON? Lockdown Drill (October 13), Parent-Teacher Interviews (October 12)

5. New Business and General Information/Updates

- 5.1 School Profile and Priorities
- 5.2 Verification Sheets
- 5.3 EDSBY - Parent Invites

- safe, inclusive, welcoming school/class environment
- new curriculum (ie. destreamed courses)
- HITS (high impact teaching strategies)
- cross-curricular literacy and numeracy
- construction SHSM
- indigenous education
- health priorities: mental health, vaping, substance use

* CODE OF CONDUCT

* DATA FROM COURSES

DATE ANNOUNCEMENTS GOING EDSBY SOON

(N FU TALKS)
WILL LOOK FOR
INPUT INTO
SOME THINGS,
INCL. PHYS. GA.

6. Questions/Concerns

7. Adjournment

7.1 Next Meeting Date and Time

**THANK YOU FOR JOINING
WESTGATE'S SCHOOL COUNCIL THIS YEAR.
HAVE A GREAT NIGHT!**