



WIDDIFIELD SECONDARY SCHOOL –
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING

Meeting of Monday Sept. 17, 2018 6:30-8:00PM

Participants

Principal: Alison Herst

Vice Principal: Marg McDiarmid

Chais: Donna Lynn Wallingford

Teacher Rep: Cindy Kislinsky

Support Staff Rep:

Student Rep:

Parents: Melanie Gainforth, Kristin Rogers, Janet Hilliard, Tom Hilliard, Denise Corbeil, Katherine Henderson, Laurie Tench, Dale McKenny, Donna McTiernan, Robert Gray, Pauline Dion, Elizabeth Aitken

Regrets: Kaili Renaud (student rep)

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1.0 INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME

Everyone around the table introduced themselves

2.0 Report from Mairghread Knought NNDSB Information Officer

She provided a brief report with respect to the recent announcement that the timeline to close WSS is delayed by at least 1 year. This was necessary for a number of reasons. There has yet to be an opportunity for the NNDSB to present it’s business case to the Ministry of Education and request funding for the proposal to close WSS and move to 2 high schools in North Bay. The Ministry usually will announce a specific time frame (usually in the fall) when these requests are to be submitted, and this has not happened yet. There has also been limited exchange of information with the Ministry since the new government has been in place. Thus plans to proceed when the funding request hasn’t been submitted, let alone approved, meant the time frame needs to change.

There is no change noted to the plan to consolidate several elementary schools on the WJF site, as this plan’s business case had already been submitted to the Ministry and approved. Thus WJF is slated to close 2019. There will be a meeting at the NNDSB to discuss plans for WJF students and Phelps students (the usual feeder schools for WSS) as it had been announced they would go to Chipewewa once WSS closed. With Widdifield staying open at least another year, it is hoped they will feed into WSS to allow greater numbers here and support more full programming options.

The upcoming municipal election will also have some bearing on the planned closure of WSS. In theory, they can request a review of the process that led to the current decision. The staff at NNDSB will meet with and train the new trustees between Oct. 22, 2018 election and when they formally take over approximately a month later.

She also distributed the Guidelines for Schools about the municipal election 2018 (see attached). Employees are reminded that they can support any candidates they like on their personal social media etc, but if they are representing the school or a school group they should not be seen to be supporting one candidate over the other.

3.0 STUDENT ACTIVITY COUNCIL REPORT - deferred

4.0 ADMINISTRATION REPORT (standing item) by Alison Herst

-first 2 weeks - went well and was very busy. Guidance had to make >250 changes to fill spaces that weren't selected and course changes. They are largely caught up with this now and students are able to book appointments with guidance for other issues.

-We have 2 VPs Marg McDiarmid (1.0) and Lynda Burtch (0.5)

-Total enrollment is 657 - grade 9- 105, grade 10-123, grade 11- 168 and grade 12- 258

-University and colleges are coming on various days to meet with grade 12s (and 11s). sign up sheets are posted for students to sign up.

-University information night for the entire city is October 17 at Algonquin

-sports and clubs are up and running (Football and volleyball- varsity teams as not enough kids for junior team, golf, basketball, Me to We, Kats in the Kitchen, Link Crew, SAC committee)

-there is a new course offered this year - HHD - Human Dynamics which is about building wellness skills to overcome anxiety, self-esteem issues etc - grade 11 open course (group 1)

-new Crown Ward Protocol had a number of teachers step up to be Champions. CAS, without breaching any privacy, will let staff know names of kids in their care

-Check out our courtyard - it's absolutely beautiful! A shout out to Mrs. Henschel and the volunteers. It's been busy at lunch with music and some classes have been held out there. The produce is bountiful and is being donated to The Gathering place.

-Terry Fox walk with the feeder schools is being held Oct. 5, 2018

-Eva Olson (Holocaust survivor) is coming at the end of October

-Fresh from the Farm is new fundraiser for the school - Samara Paleczny - orders accepted until Oct. 15, 2018 - can order Bundle A for \$14 which is potatoes, sweet potatoes, carrots and onions or Bundle B for \$15 which is Empire apples 8 lbs. 40% of funds will go back to the Kats in the Kitchen program.

-Parent Teacher Interviews - Oct. 11, 2018 from 4:30-7:30

-Cannabis Law comes into effect Oct. 17, 2018 - students have been made aware this shouldn't change anything at school as it will still not be allowed on school property.

-PD Days Oct. 1 and Oct. 22 (Oct. 1 PD day will include info on Trauma Based Classrooms)

-Edsby - new software for teachers/kids and parents. Teachers are still learning but seems very user friendly and provides much easier access of info for the teachers. Within it, kids will be able to collaborate with their classmates and parents will be able to check marks. Students are being taught how to login and can show parents. (There is a separate tab on the WSS Webpage.) Students still have access to the LMS and each class has a page in that as well.

5.0 REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Donna Lynn reported that she and Janet (being the WSS parent council reps during the ARC process) met with the ARC reps from CSS and WFSS in June, largely to look at ideas around re-branding to ensure the students voices are heard at the Board. They plan to meet again shortly and will work with student senates from all 3 schools to ensure that the student voice is very well heard from the Board.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

Donna McTiernan noted that to date there hasn't been an all candidates night where the public can hear from all school board trustee candidates to understand their views/platforms etc. and suggested that this could be something our parent council, with or without other parent councils could help set up. It was felt holding it at WSS might mean that the focus of the night would be around proposed Widdifield closure, and not all the other issues that are important in our area over the several years so it was suggested perhaps WJF would be able to host. Donna will contact WJF to see if there was space available Oct. 15, 16 or 18th. Donna Lynn will e-mail the trustee candidates to see if they are available for such an event.

Marg McD encouraged all students to get volunteer hours done early in their high school career. Janet noted that the Battalion needs games day volunteers (contact is K Moran 495-8603 ext 2703). There will also be opportunities to help with the Hallowe'en Haunted House.

Next meeting:

Monday October 29, 2018 - 6:30-8pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kristin Rogers

Please let me know of any errors or omissions!