

## School Council - Hybrid

Date: November 6, 2024

### **1. Attendance**

Present:

In person – Richard Tamminga, Jennifer Siannas, Nicole A. , Kim Payne, Jo-Anna Murphy, Sandra Dutton, Andrew McClenaghan, Nick Spina, Summer Dunham, Carrie Devin, Diane Pozeg, Marianne Larsen

Virtual – Danika Tipping

*Absent: student council representative*

### **2. Introductions & Welcome**

Welcomed two new members to council.

### **3. Principal's Report – Richard Tamminga**

Key items:

- a. Literacy test scheduled for later in November, which is for grade 11 and grade 12 students who were previously eligible but were not able to take the test or is able to take the test again.
- b. Remembrance Day and Recognition Ceremony will be held at school November 11, 2024.
- c. PD Day Friday November 15, 2024 – topics to be covered i) supporting literacy development with multi-lingual students and ii) high impact structural strategies
- d. Building structure update – A gate is being installed to address safety concerns surrounding Tecumseh students from entering parking garage/ramp and will also assist with limiting graffiti that occurs during the evening – work order has been submitted.
- e. Field playing surface has been repaired so spring play/sports will occur without delay/issue.

\*Outstanding Issue: Council to supply annual report/summary from 2023-2024 school year to Mr. Tamminga.

#### **4. Staff report – Danika Tipping**

Key items:

- a. Tickets now on sale – South Secondary musical production “Billy Elliott” – to purchase tickets visit [www.onstagedirect.com](http://www.onstagedirect.com)
- b. Anti black racism and food/culture courses will combine to participate in an upcoming field trip. Location of the field trip is not yet known.
- c. Intro to Anthro psychology and sociology class will participate during anthropology day at Western.
- d. Class Code to register for anti black racism course will change for 2025.
- e. New leadership course coming soon –will be held during semester 1 period 1 for grade 12 – the course will provide leadership skills to help support grade 9 classes as peer leaders/mentors
- f. Contemporary indigenous voices course –will replace the current core grade 11 English course – preparation is well underway

#### **5. Fundraising**

- a. Discussed how school fees/athletic fees are used. Athletic fees are primarily used to pay for the banquet and awards.
- b. Nicole A. to gather more information about possible fundraising and collaboration with others to help fund jerseys/uniforms for athletic and non athletic (ie: debate team) groups/clubs.
- c. Explore the possible model of refunding partial fees to those students who return their jerseys at year end.

#### **6. PIF & PRO Grant Discussions**

- a. Nic S. to request financial records from Mr. Tamminga. Council wants to know how much, if any, of the PIF used from last year remains in the account, which can be used this year.
- b. PIF grant – \$500 – unused funds can be rolled over 1 year. Can be used for refreshments, etc
- c. PRO grant – up to \$5000 – must be used in full by June 30, 2024. Only 10% of funds provided can be used for food/beverages. Focus for the grant must be help facilitate parent engagement, equity and inclusion, and to help give caregivers a voice and allow them to gain a better understanding of our education system. Examples: mental health, physical health and wellness, targeted resources that provide supports to caregivers (technology, TVDSB portal navigation, developing translated materials), yoga night, family music night, etc.

Application process: Council prepares the application and forwards it to Mr. Tamminga. Due December 20 2024. Application will outline the amount

- requested, what barriers we are trying to remove for caregivers, what initiatives we would like to hold, etc. If approved, the funds are released approx. February 2025.
- d. Council will brainstorm and share ideas and make final decision at next council meeting.
  - e. Jen S. will research possible guest speakers for series of mental health (for caregivers and youth alike), stress management, cyber security and more. Exploring costs for speakers and if no cost, perhaps use funds towards resources provided during the events.
  - f. Money could be spent on child minding for events and transportation costs for caregivers to attend events.
  - g. Nic. S. to explore STEM events and other educational initiatives (Trade School speakers, Let's Talk Science, etc) for students and caregivers.

## **7. Other Business**

- a. Treasurer position not needed at the moment. Currently Council has Chair (Nic Spina) and Secretary positions (Jennifer Siannas). Considering funds from any grants will funnel through the board and most *money* is taken through the use of 'cash online', this position isn't necessary.
- b. Council may wish to have Board professionals speak at a council meeting to assist us in understanding our financial obligations, etc.
- c. Bike theft on school property – 6 bikes to date have been stolen from school property. Deters other students from wanting to ride their bikes to school in fear of their property being taken. Mr. Tamminga is exploring ways to reduce the number of thefts ie: relocate bike lock up. Could there be space used under the ramp? Needs to determine who would be responsible for the security of the bike lock up area. Once more information is provided, a possible proposal can be made. By taking steps to ensure bicycle lock up is secure, less traffic congestion on Belgrave as more students would ride to school versus being driven. Can be beneficial for overall student safety. Council can also explore supports available through *Active and Safe Routes to School*.
- d. Newsletter goes out to school community biweekly on Fridays, therefore, School Council can add information to the newsletter such as upcoming meeting dates, etc. The newsletter will capture student achievements, being an upstander in the community, etc.

## **8. Meeting Adjourned to December 4, 2024 at 6:00 pm**