

DHS SCHOOL COUNCIL Minutes

Monday February 6, 2023 (4:30pm-5:10pm)

1. Call to Order

Doreen Armstrong-Ross (Chair)

2. Roll Call

Present: Doreen Armstrong-Ross, Christine McLeod, Sheri McMenemy, Lesley Norman, Michelle May (Staff Rep), Natasha Menard-Mousseau (Principal)

Regrets: Melissa Smit, Pame Williams (Vice-Chair), Christina Baril, Syrena Lalonde (Vice-Principal), Tristan Ilko (Vice-Principal)

3. Minutes from the previous meeting

November 28 , 2022 minutes approved by all:

- 1st by Sheri
- 2nd by Michelle

4. Principal's Update

- Semester 2 began today:
 - new teachers have started and have been connected with other staff mentors
 - enrolment is just under 600, including 5 new students from the far north with KO partnership
 - IPP Tasks (ex: My Blueprint, which helps guide students along their education plan) - guidance has been going into classrooms to review and help students prep for course selection, which opens up February 21
 - grade 8 orientation/presentations will be starting February 21 for students coming into grade 9
 - grade 10 students have been targeted to complete the KAIROS Blanket Exercise, which focuses on reconciliation and the history of Indigenous peoples
 - Patrick Hunter, an Indigenous artist from the region, is coming in March to meet and work with 45 students in art programs
 - LGBTQ2S+ presentations taking place in partnership with DNFC to grade 10 students; this grade targeted as bullying has been noticed and reported
 - Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan - based off of results from our Climate Survey, the plan addresses how can we work towards rectifying issues identified; parents can learn what the process is if students are being bullied and how the school supports students who have been impacted; a group chaired by staff, including students and parents, will be working on implementing the plan. The plan can be found on our website [HERE](#).
- Parent/teachers interviews coming up on March 8
 - Family Support and Service Fair will be taking place at the same time – service providers who offer services to youth who are entering high school, in high

school, or transitioning out of high school will be present; another one will be offered on May 10

- Tutoring
 - continues until end of March; may continue longer if funding is available
 - available Wed/Thurs after school and during lunch throughout the week (reminders on announcements and social media)
 - teachers are also going into classes 2 days/week and assisting when needed
- School Concerns/Administrative Action
 - fighting at the end of the day has been noticed/reported; staff are visible and available daily during outside bus supervision to ensure students are safe
 - washroom vandalism (mostly in male washrooms) has been occurring, vaping remains an issue; some bathrooms may be closed at times throughout the day and increased supervision is taking place; vaping education is being piloted in Health classes (“Catch My Breath” from Ontario Tech University)
- School Clothes Closet
 - offers donated clothes and basic needs supplies to students in need for no or a minimal fee
- Question/discussion: any issues noticed with grade 10 math after the destreaming in grade 9?
 - staff have been discussing this to make sure the change is smooth for students; noticing a big jump (specifically with academic stream) in curriculum for grade 9 to grade 10 with regards to math; doesn’t seem to be an issue with English; staff will continue to work together to help support students on this issue
- Upcoming yey dates:
 - February 14 - Final Semester 1 Reports distributed during Period 4
 - March 1 - Late Start Day
 - March 7 - Anecdotal Reports for Semester 2 distributed during Period 4
 - March 8 - Parent Teacher Interviews

5. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Update

- Meeting was held January 16, 2023
- New trustee and other administration staff present
- Included update on new curriculum, updates from regional schools, info about PRO Grants
 - **ACTION** – Doreen will share minutes with council when available

6. Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant

- Thanks to Leslie for writing the letter of intent!
- We have been approved for \$1000
- Should we break out into a smaller group to work on this, to make decisions about when and how to spend the funds?
- Suggestions from council members:
 - Safe Spaces training
 - Recent NOSM presentation locally – social media/phone use and how it affects mental health (lots of interest around this one!)

- Rainbow Alliance – presentation about sexuality and gender identity
- DHS is hosting a mental health fair in the spring – maybe something to link up with if appropriate
- Offer an event around the timing of Mental Health Week in May or March 8/ May 10 at the same time as parent/teacher interviews
 - **ACTION** – Doreen will reach out to NOSM presenter (re: social media/phones and impact on mental health) to check availability and will share info with council

7. Questions/Discussion

- Q – Can a student in the surrounding area transfer to DHS to play a sport that is not offered in their home community (ex: football)?
 - A – Yes but there are issues that may arise, including possible disqualification of playing other sports. The student should speak to their school admin in their home community to see what options may be available; Tristan Ilko (Vice-Principal) can also answer any questions regarding this.

8. Adjournment

Next meeting: May 8, 2023 at 4:30pm