Western Technical Commercial School

School Council Meeting Minutes

Location: Virtual **Microsoft Teams -** Meeting ID: 226 577 857 884 91

Passcode: d43Wo988

Date: November 27, 2025

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Attending: M Koczij, M Lordan, S Hurley, F Seto-Lau, D Perez, J Zakrewski, S McKay, G Chen, A Cagney, F Hagi, A + M Dawson, O Dela Cruz, R Lockhart, M Anstett, S Nallamothu, C Heath, T Fillon-Meilke, J Van Altenberg, M Shani, J Mcdonald, L Byrne, Jean, S Dharsi, H.M., Farhiya, A Malik, Andrew, J Bosche, T Giguere, J Faria, C Stephens

Regrets: J Grant,

Minutes: S Hurley

Agenda Item	Responsible	Time	Notes
Welcome	M Lordan / F Seto-Lau	5	• Welcomes all and identifies student reps present (C Stephens) • Link to School Council page with last months minutes posted in chat: https://sites.google.com/tdsb.on.ca/wtcs/about/school-council • Time given for everyone to review the link to the website and minutes of previous meeting • M Lordan notes additional opportunities if you wish to serve on Council executive – promotions is one area • Floor over to Chair (FSL); notes that Co-Chair is available and any support is appreciated Seto Lau, thanks members. FSL is 3rd time as a chair, and has been part of a PIAC • Agenda is noted on the screen, additions to the agenda welcome in chat or via comment

			o Agenda Approved via consensus o Minutes approves via consensus ▪ Any changes or revisions can be sent to exec for revisions to future minutes
Land Acknowledgement	M Koczij	5	*We acknowledge we are hosted on the lands of the Mississaugas of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Wendat. We also recognize the enduring presence of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples* ● M Koczij notes addition of LA as a standing item. ● WTCS has a substantial Indigenous / First Nations student population and importance of LA for opening meetings for community is noted
Principal's Report AND Admin Report	M Koczij / M Lordan	45	Principal's update: ● November is often a challenging month for the school ● Issues can emerge after the Holidays break as students get a bit more fatigued – emphasizes that the culminating exams are 30% of the final grades, and students should never feel that too late to work towards achieving the marks needed for credits ● Reports on attending snack and study program. Features 5 teachers who support, tutor students from every department. Social aspects and food also beneficial. Program helps students get ahead or catch up. Hosted 330-430 daily in the library. ● Reminds attendees that Guidance department is available to support students especially at this time of year, as they are not dealing with year end issues or placement issues. CYW, Social worker available to support students. Mental health resources are available for all students. ● Encourages family to take advantage of the supports available

			• Pool updated – swim team has gotten off the ground and issues have been resolved • Athletics – Volleyball – boys volleyball were west region champions. • Football program went to OFSAA bowl game. Junior Team finished at the Semifinal for the Metro Bowl. Great showing for WTCS. • Notes C Stephens was player of the game when they won the Toronto bowl. Excellent student, in design studio program, leader and football player. • Athletics pulls from all of student population. Indoor soccer starting now. • Exam structure change for this year – period 1 is exam day 1, period 2 is exam day 2, etc. • By Ministry order we have 5 days for exams, but only have 4 days scheduled. 5th day is medical makeup day. 5th day can be writing exams that are missed. • Ski Trip has been offered on the 5th day of exams – has been approved by Board. Permission forms have gone out for those who signed up. ~ $100 dollars for the day. Second bus has not been filled, there are some spots left and others may open as students drop out. If students are interested encouraged to fill out form: **https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fGA-fT9JNM_8v0-oNgvZl1ulj-Jb-Ws43V_CnOer-Q4/edit?usp=sharing** • Coming in newsletter this week – WTCS has been chosen as part of a pilot to move away from student names in email addresses for students . Existing format can create security issues, public can easily work out email from notices like yearbook. Tech savvy student population/staff population was ideal environment. Pilot offers additional support from the TDSB; beneficial to be in the starting group. Student email addresses will change to: **student number@tdsb.ca** (NOT tdsb.on.ca) – info will be coming to general parent population. • Pilot will allow to staff to work through details of how it affects google classroom, Brightspace, etc.

			● Seeking Feedback: Admin would like to get input from grade 12 parents especially – Some schools in Board considering elimination of “grade 12 quotes” which are printed in yearbooks … historically some have been inappropriate and sneak through censor process. Yearbook is considered officially printed book to represent WTCS. Was a big issue across the Board last year. Suggestion is to leave a blank space where students can individually write in each others books after printing. Attendees encouraged to Email to Koczij with feedback. o Question – do the students know? At this stage, just being considered by student yearbook staff, not decided yet. Looking for feedback. Will want student feedback as well. Recent issue. ● School Improvement Plan – an annual process to lay out plan for targeting areas within the school for improvement. Document is shared with school council and staff; reviewed for comment. Identifies target areas for the year. ● This year – process has changed due to Board – now a common template across the Board and centralized. Schools required to use new process brought by the Board. Drop down options only and not specific input allowed from each school - more challenging process this year. Not yet complete. ● PD last Tuesday on digital administration (leveraged this session for school improvement plan). Admin is assured that process will remain consistent for several years which will help long term administration. At central level, historically there has been very little engagement with the local SIP – superintendents have not engaged. Process feels more real this year; central staff dedicated to collating data given to board to hopefully spur additional action focussed on clusters of schools. ● SIP not ready to share but is in process of completion, including leadership of school (admin/staff/school council). Hopes to have a draft for next meeting. Document will be adjusted over next 3 years or so, rather than remade on an annual basis. Seems more important at a board level.

			● Feedback welcome from all attendees on what areas should be focussed on. Will be on next meetings agenda. Questions: ● Question about Chromebook program – previously the TDSB has distributed in grade 5 and 9; now starting in grade 6 through rest of years... (actually grade 7). Some students are currently without the TDSB issued Chromebook – Is this creating issues? o Koczij - likely that Chromebooks will be phased out … currently plan is to provide to all TDSB grade 7s. Access to computers in class is anticipated to dwindle. Was a pandemic response and speculated that it is unlikely that it will be a sustained program for next 5-10 years. Fewer 1-1 devices in class is anticipated – likely to be shared assets. Speaks to devices which are cheaper to maintain and share. ● What occurs now if a child doesn't have a Chromebook? Can they request at office? o Unlikely – none are available for broad distribution. In odd circumstances some may be located but there is not a source for new Chromebook as replacement. Some broken Chromebooks can be repaired by the computer engineering program – bins of parts etc exist so old Chromebooks can be repaired or refurbished. Otherwise they are sent to IT services. Grade 12 Chromebooks are returned to TDSB IT Services for deployment, not redeployed to WTCS students. ● Question re: new exam schedule. Some concern with equity or perceived equity … students could be writing exams at different times based on their schedules. Perceived difficulty levels based on teacher. Can also perpetuate differences between schools for universities etc, if students are writing different exams. How are you ensuring fairness/equity amongst different exams? Won't be perceived that way from the student's perspective.

			o Common response to that new structure. However, historically, students have been writing exams written by other students which caused fairness issues. No exam structure is perfect. Key to exam fairness is the moratorium and preparation for the exam – do they know the content? There should be no surprises on the exam. The exam should represent the learning from the course they took. Time has been invested to ensure that content is included across all sections exams. Guidance has raised concerns about everyone trying to enroll in 4th period, etc. Admin is aware of concerns and working hard to make exams as fair as possible. ● Question son is in grade 10, how is phone use policed? Question about the PT interviews – concerns they were too short and not accessible online. Also How is AI impacting student learning process? o Phone use is defined in mobile device policy and supported in enforcement by admin. Big spike in comments on report cards. Teachers are doing the best they can, large use of phones in class. If you have concerns connect with the teacher via email and work with them to manage phone use. By the time it gets to the office it is a discipline issue. Phone hotels – where phone goes at start of class is encouraged. Reach out to VPs if you are not getting support. o PT interviews – most teachers have more requests for interviews than they have time. If not able to connect, email, but let office know and they will facilitate. Teachers will respond to email requests o AI – big issue – major influence on education systems across the world right now. Major variation across staff – some are sticking to pen and paper; some are embracing it. Currently not addressed under the Education Act. Most teachers balancing use in the classroom and trying to make use of it appropriate. Koczij sees it being an essential tool that can assist education. Anything that is communicated through Googles AI is

			secure to the TDSB, so information sharing using Gemini is safe for students. Academic honesty has always been an issue, not new. ● Are there resources for staff to get training on AI? o Yes – two pa days on that so far, and board has info and supports available. Big technological change and lots of support for teachers. Educational specialist was brought in to discuss with staff. o Will be an issue in post-secondary. AI can be both a tutor and a resource. Complicated issue. Admin Report – M Lordan 3 items: ● Midterm reports went out Nov 10 – over 4300 individual marks that get produced. Big achievement for staff making this helping ● Last week and into this week the OSS literacy test was written by grade tens, and the second test will be written in spring as makeup. Jan 8/9 is the grade 9 EQAO math test. ● Exams happen January 21-26, with the 27 a medical makeup date FSL – thanks Admin for update
Student Council Report	C Stephens	10	● Student Council C Stephens is Grade 12, co-president along with C Lam ● This month the Council has not been hosting many events. ● Remembrance Day was the big event. Had members of student council and volunteers in the leadership program to give info sessions about Remembrance Day and give veterans perspective on war and how it affected their lives. Focus on a Cree code-talker which was interesting for students

			● Working on Holiday plans to come ● Spirit week in October, Halloween themed and went very well. Table set up at lunch so students could demonstrate they were wearing the themed item and were entered into draw. Similar theme week coming for holidays. ● Holiday assembly is planned by Student Council. Live music, athletic council, cheer team, school band will be featured - to be inclusive of all holidays and religious backgrounds ● Club funding applications being received, currently over 20 clubs at WTCS. Applications for funding must provide reason for funding. Newer clubs may need additional support, as example, but older clubs have historical value and must be continued. Negotiation/evaluation process designed to be fair ● Holiday season – staff appreciation day sometime close to end of school year – hot chocolate etc for teachers. ● Student Council has been running well and big plans for the new year. ● Koczij adds – student club money comes directly from the student activity fee and student council take presentations from students and distribute the money and disperse funds. Reminder to pay fee as it allows student clubs and activities are supported financially. Public money from the TDSB cannot be used to support clubs. Roughly 75% have paid. ● FSL comments that it has been a struggle since covid to sometimes get the fee from families, and the numbers paying are lower.
Proposal from the DECA Club	T Fillon-Meilke and S Dharsi	10	● S Dharsi - math and coop teacher. Approached by students to continue the DECA club after previous advisor has switched schools. Students are running program on their own with support from teacher. ● DECA is an internationally recognized American organization that prepares students at high school and post-secondary level in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. Series of events to demonstrate general knowledge in these industries and students demonstrate competencies.

			● Large team has been signed up to form a school chapter. Participated in regionals in Scarborough. Have made the provincials. 5 students. Because deca is private, required to pay participation fees which are disproportionately expensive. Prepared marketing events. Ask to School Council is for an initial fundraising cost to support activities – students want to raise the money thru business ventures ● DECA also reinforces the SHMS programs at WTCS - leadership and hospitality. Cost for provincials is $200 for student, $1000 total for those who qualified. Funding will help pay fees and grow the club ● TFM – Grade 12 student and co-president of chapter has been involved since grade 9 … DECA provides real world experience and competitions to be able to work through and develop skills. Lots of interest in DECA from the student body as opportunities to compete are very sought after. Fees are pushing away the kids. Registration fee is now $50 per kid plus competition fees and cost is holding back student participation funding is required to grow the club. ● A dozen WTCS students were able to pay the fees this year. UFA has over 50 members and additional financial support for students ● WTCS Club funds will be exhausted this year. Request to School Council is to consider allocating some funding to offset competition fees…thanks for the time ● Additional context - MK – general donations to school become school generated funds – non public funds that come into school go into a general fund and are not dedicated to specific club or a use. Fund currently approximately $2600. ● School Council can allocate these funds…Council must vote on allocation – not an urgent request and can be voted on at the next meeting. Numeric ask as yet is not exact or specific, Dharsi and TFM can specify the amount and Council can vote. Can be an agenda item for next meeting. ● FSL notes that no general School Council members have been voted in as of the last meeting – currently only the voting members are Executive. FSL will review the bylaws and determine best voting procedure for this spend. Generally

			members must attend regularly. Members can also vote between meetings with quorum and report out at public meetings. ● For next meeting – add to agenda to vote in general members. Call out should go in newsletter in advance. ● Discussion on approval levels for funding in the bylaws. FSL has contacted the previous council chairs for bylaws. ● Motion for a vote at the next meeting – Approved via consensus
Call for Agenda Items/Discussion items	F Seto-Lau	1	● FSL notes that School Council has a new TDSB assigned email: 1414sco1@tdsb.on.ca ● FSL has access to that email, so members can email to reach out to council ● Will reach out and try to get agenda together. Attendees can email to request additional agenda items as needed. ● Update from Executive of School Council for Runnymede JR/SR – update on the parent safety committee. Safety issues noted on Runnymede property after hours and on weekends. Parents very involved in monitoring the schoolyard after hours. Notes some assaults after school hours. Wanted to let the community know that lighting will be increased in the school yard and cameras will be installed. Parents can share info out that this is occurring at Runnymede to make community feel safer. o MK – notes that WTCS has been blamed for some of the behaviour at Runnymede historically but does not feel that this is accurate. Discussion follows on various security options for schools and benefits of cameras
Close	F Seto-Lau	1	**Next Meeting: Thursday, January 29, 2026**

Community may e-mail issues to meredith.lordan@tdsb.on.ca