

Minutes December 8, 2016 Parent Council Meeting

Attendees: Rob Best, Rosalind Ward-Smith, Roberta Veitch, Sarita Kaunds, Meena Sahi, Susan Miles, Tracy Jarvis, Karena de Souza, Meetu Vijay, Sandra Hurl-Smith, Chris Reidy, Darlene Burnham, Chelsea Shen, Tara O'Connell, Marie Day, Ann Harvey-Hope, Margaret Finlay Watzeck

Motion to approve minutes from November 10th, 2016.

Approved by Margaret Finlay Watzeck **and** Marie Day

RDC/Student Council Update – no students present

Principal's Report – given by Meena Sahi

Student Happenings

- o Remembrance Day Assembly put together by our drama students
- o Next Gen Presentation to our grade 12 class - Themes included - being an upstander; not buckling to peer pressure; positive messaging about self-esteem
- o Grade 8 Parent Night - over 300 families in attendance
- o Nashville Music Night o RDC Coffee House o Waterloo Math Contests
- o Santa Claus Parade Float by Robotics
- o Winter Sports Underway - boys basketball; curling; boys hockey; girls volleyball; ski and snowboard; swimming
- o Two students were recognized for their work in the community: Victoria Winslow - YMCA Peace Medal Nominee and Keenan Quin - Canadian Cancer Society Youth Leadership Award

Facilities Happenings

- o Replacement of three computer lab equipment completed
- o Addition of a 20 chromebooks cart to 2nd floor – chromebooks can't store files but they give the students access to the internet and to the school cloud, currently there are 10 chromebook carts around the school (some with 10 chromebooks, some with 20)
- o 4 additional benches to atrium to match existing ones have been purchased - last year's prom committee's gift back to the school

Staff Happenings

- o Learning Team Retreat to build the School Improvement Plan for Student Achievement - Targets set and learning planned for the year in connection to our three goals (resiliency, wellbeing, and digital citizenship)
- o Internal School Financial Audit - preliminary report will be back to us after the new year o Suicide prevention/intervention training for select staff o Staff Learning on the Evaluation and

Minutes December 8, 2016 Parent Council Meeting

Assessment of the Final 30% of the Course - Performance Tasks and Final Exams - presentation of student voice perspective on stress (therapy dogs, calendar sheets for Dec and Jan) during Dec and Jan.

- o New Staff Members for Semester Two – Vice Principal Cammisuli will be going to White Oaks Secondary School, the new VP in her place will be Andrea Dailey (currently on maternity leave)
- o EQAO Math training for grade 9 teachers to look deeper at our scores
- o Need a parent volunteer for Well-Being Committee – there are 4 meetings per school year, the next meeting is in February – Karena de Souza volunteered.

Board Happenings

- o Presentation of the Board Multi Year Plan – this will be presented to Parent Council at our January 2017 meeting – a quorum will be required.
- o Learning on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Recommendations for First Nations Metis Inuit Education within Ontario Schools

Holiday Events Review -similar to previous years – some just for fun, some to raise money

- Winter Formal Dance - Dec 7
- Christmas Music Concert - Dec 15
- Band and Choirs to Elementary Schools - Dec 9
- Club Events Include: Interact Pics with Santa, Decorate a tree fundraiser for Relay for Life, Free the Children fundraiser - build a well
- Toy Drive by Robotics
- Rebecca's Gift Campaign to support Children's Aid Society of Halton
- RDC: cake walk; holiday movies in the cafe during lunch; ugly sweater day; candy cane grams (to raise money for Soldier On); last week daily themed holiday events

Teacher Update –Susan Miles

- Midterm reports - follow up completed by Guidance, Learning Resource and Student Success teachers
- 15th Week reports e-mailed home December 14/15
- Taking Stock document submitted to the board - reflection of "in risk" students in our school and support strategies
- December 5 staff meeting - stress/resiliency discussed in relationship to Final 30% - student/staff input – two items have been put into place to help students manage the stressful time from now until the end of Semester 1 exams. 1) Therapy dogs will be coming to the school 2) Each student has been given a calendar sheet with December on one side and January on the other side so that they can organize their time.
- Protected class time: Monday, December 12 - Wednesday, January 25

Minutes December 8, 2016 Parent Council Meeting

Ideas for Consideration by Parent Council - Fundraising (aka The Wish List)

1. Halton Food for Thought Donation..... \$250

- o would cover half of a \$500 amount the school need to fundraise for breakfast club
- o breakfast funded by HFFT; but schools need to also contribute
- o breakfast available in student success room for all OT students
- o in support of our well-being goal

2. Math Club (12 meetings @ \$30).....\$360

- o money would cover the cost of snacks for this club that meets Fridays after school
- o it is a free club to join with flexible membership
- o all OT students welcome
- o snacks create a more welcoming environment for students doing math game, puzzles, and problems
- o in support of our well-being goal

Discussion – questions were raised as to why food is required for math club, Principal Sahi explained that hungry teenagers need brain food after school to do math related problems

3. 35" wide x up to 10' tall retractable banners.....\$600 EACH (3-6 requested)

- o for around the stage in cafeteria
- o to be used during presentations and award nights
- o will frame the stage with OT logo and provide a backdrop for photos
- o retractable to be used at other venues if needed
- o setup and takedown would be minimal with this type of setup

4. 20 Chromebooks with 2 carrier totes (10 per).....\$7100 10 Chromebooks with 1 carrier tote\$3550

- o would be held in the Library for student to checkout like a book for the period
- o support our use of google drive; gmail; and google classroom for students
- o in support of our digital literacy goal

Minutes December 8, 2016 Parent Council Meeting

Discussion – don't most students bring their laptops to school already? – Principal Sahi explained the many reasons why students may not bring their own laptops to school, as well, not all students have laptops. If we order these chrombooks they will arrive for use very quickly.

5. Girder-mounted spotlights for cafeteria stage, with remote control and wiring/electrical installation..... TBA (but in the \$5,000.00 range)

- o for use around the stage in cafeteria and lighting for podium

- o to be used during presentations and award nights

- o will frame the stage with more spot lighting

- o would be remote controlled so that they could be adjusted from the ground (we do not want to get spotlights that require a ladder to adjust them)

Discussion – seems expensive for the benefit it brings to the school

6. Bicycle Racks\$550-650 per rack plus installation

- o alleviate the use of the metal railing around the front of the school - clutter

Discussion – even if we do not choose to spend the council's money on this item, the school needs them and will be getting them – they will still be at the front of the school as this reduces the risk of the bicycles being stolen or vandalized because of the increased traffic at the front of the school. New bicycle racks at Linbrook are very attractive – they look like a sculpture of a bicycle (only when no bikes are attached to them though).

7. Outdoor equipment room near the field.....\$15,000.00 - \$30,000 range

- o Phys Ed has asked in previous years about constructing a permanent structure to hold equipment

- o other schools have had this done when resurfacing the track

- o inquiry into capital renewal to see if they will consider the cost

Discussion – the building would allow some permanent storage outside the school, allowing for easier access to all equipment, it is thought that if the track is soon slated to be redone, that a building would likely go along with those renovations and be paid for by the board

8. Painting the Atrium..... inquiry into facilities for costing

- o was part of the SC plan from last year to continue with the revitalization of the first floor

- o believe the cost was around \$20000.00 because a scaffolding had to be built

Minutes December 8, 2016 Parent Council Meeting

Discussion – we are still wondering why expensive scaffolding is necessary, can they not use a jack/cherry picker? Principal Sahi looking into this.

Finance/Treasurer Update - Rose Brooks and Marie Day

\$13,540 available – wish list has been put together (see above)

Discussion: There was discussion about how to get the wish list out to all council members so that we can vote at the next meeting. Rob Best is going to use the list of email addresses he was given at our first meeting this fall and send the word to all. Members are to go through the wish list and choose their top 3 choices.

Community Connections Update - Sandra Hurl-Smith

Parent Connections was Tuesday December 6 – Dream Careers by Karyn Gordon

It seemed to be a very successful evening. We had somewhere between 250-270 attending (probably 50 students). Out of the attendees we likely had about 15 from other schools - EJ/MG/other.

Used Event-Brite to have an idea of how many were coming – approximately 325 said they were coming but the weather was not good that evening – wet snow.

Approximately 100 filled out the survey provided by Karyn Gordon. Don't have these survey results yet, but everyone seemed very pleased about the presentation as they left.

Going forward our group will discuss the topics of our next couple of parent workshops - so far these ideas have come to table cyberbullying (from our VP Meredith, recommended by our student body as well) - potentially we can get a guest speaker to come out and talk about how students can better manage their money (Karena). We will be having a meeting with Meredith on December 19th and will keep you posted on where it lands.

We have one possibly two more workshops to plan besides that we have guidance on for February and the Halton Police in April/May to give us the latest insight on drugs etc.

It was discussed within our committee whether or not it would be beneficial having the parent workshops at 8pm instead, as it appeared to be a good time for many people.

Committee will be meeting in new year to go over ideas for future events.

PIC Update – Chelsea Shen, Ann Harvey Hope

The latest PIC meeting was geared towards Google groups and the sharing of ideas – sharing will mean better use will be made of PIC money. There will be another session in spring – in mean time working on working out the kinks in the group sharing.

Minutes December 8, 2016 Parent Council Meeting

There were around 48 parents there and parents were divided into 11 groups based on different school districts. OT, E.J. James, Maple Grove, New Century were in the same group led by Ann (But only me and one parent from New Century were there). The meeting was mainly about how the parents of different schools can share ideas. They set up Google groups and held a discussion about the challenges/barriers to parent engagement in school community and the ways to get more parents involved.

Also, they recommended a website for parents: www.parentsengagedineducation.ca

New Business

What is Quorum – according to the guidelines by which the Parent Council operates a quorum would be 8 people if the council has 14 members (50% plus one). There seem to be more than 14 voting members currently so we may need to change the council member number to more reflect our situation. According to Ann Harvey Hope the lower number of 14 is in place because other schools in Halton tend to have councils about this size. It was not to be considered the maximum. We will have to sort this out in the coming months to see who actually wants to be a voting member.

Motion to adjourn meeting Margaret Finlay Watzeck, seconded by Marie Day

Meeting adjourned @ 8:10pm.

Next Parent Council meeting is January 12th, 2017 at 7:00PM.

Any agenda items for the next meeting should be emailed to rob.best@cogeco.ca by the Monday prior to each council meeting.