

CAWTHRA PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL (CPSS) SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: Monday, October 23, 2017
TIME: 7:00 – 8:30 PM
LOCATION: CPSS Library

1305

ATTENDEES: Yvonne Everard-Parr (Co-Chair), Leslie Buckle (Co-Chair), Anju Dhawan (Secretary), Anne Roe (Community Rep), Kimberley Doherty, Karen Pua, Nandita Dutta, Angela Sidoriak, Evan Sidoriak, Nancy Simpson, Ana Freitas, Joanne Mazaris, Helga Trudeau, Yuliya Hurynovich, Jennifer Ling, Sandra Halford, Jane Singh, Fauzia Reza, Terry Whitmell (Principal), Stafford Lowe (Vice Principal), Sarka Kubelikova (Teacher), Marienza Miserere (Student Council), Zainab Raza (Student Council)

1.0 Welcome and Introductions – Yvonne

Discussion:

- Welcome to those in attendance by Yvonne.
- Stafford Lowe, CPSS Vice Principal, introduced himself.

2.0 Approval of Minutes (May and September) and Agenda – Yvonne

Discussion:

- Anne and Leslie approved the May minutes.
- Nancy and Kim approved the September minutes, with Angela's additions/revisions.
- Angela Sidoriak and Nancy Simpson were also nominated as Parent Reps in September.

3.0 Student Council Update – Marienza Miserere and Zainab Raza`

Discussion:

- Minister elections occurred and new Ministers are in place for Spirit, Mental Health and Cultural.
- Grade Colour Day – each grade was assigned a colour to wear for the day. Pictures taken in cafeteria with consent, etc. Great success.
- Halloween – many activities planned. Cookie decorating contest, etc.
- Holiday Spirit Week – activities include movie night, ugly sweater day.
- Winter Dance – cancelled.
- Semi-Formal – March 2, 2018, 5:00 – 10:30 PM. To be held at the Oasis Convention Centre. Tickets are \$40. Parent volunteers are needed to assist with monitoring entrance, stamps/bracelets for students, photograph area, safety, monitoring dance floors, etc. Two teachers have confirmed attendance. Deadline for submitting names is November 12. Discussion re how CPSS parent volunteers have to conform to PDSB's police check.

Action:

- Nandita volunteered to be a parent volunteer.

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4.0 Principal's Report – Terry Whitmell

Discussion:

- Orange Shirt Day was successful.
- Visit from Educators from the Netherlands re art project at Cawthra. Were here for 2-3 days.
- Exchange program happening with students from the Northwest Territories (NWT), Beaufort Sea area. 10-12 Cawthra students will be going to the NWT in early 2018 and students from the NWT will be coming to Cawthra in May, 2018.
- Breakfast Club will be starting soon for soon out of the Connections Room
- Feedback required for October 5 Awards Ceremony; however, none in attendance attended.
- For the Teachers' Professional Learning Day, Port Credit and TL Kennedy joined Cawthra Park for a presentation on "Accommodating Students with Learning Disabilities". Lawrence Demaeyer also spoke about Modern Learning. Damian Cooper, expert on assessments, also spoke.
- For the November 17 Teachers' Professional Learning Day, Port Credit and TL Kennedy will also be joining Cawthra.
- We Rise Together, PDSC initiative to support black, male students is meant to identify, understand, minimize and eliminate the marginalization experience by Black males in Peel board schools. Cawthra is one of the pilot sites for this initiative.
- Assembly will be held for students and staff the week of October 30 to address digital citizenship, recent incidence of racism, micro aggressions, etc.
- Some parents voiced their concerns that the letter that was sent home re the recent incidence of racism wasn't strong enough to address the situation. Terry explained that the letter was a starting point and that more work will be done regarding this issue.
- Parent engagement session occurring on October 28, hosted by Peel Association of African Canadian Educators (PAACE) and PDSB.
- October 11 and 12 RAP Tours were successful, as was the Parent Night that occurred on October 17. More parents expressed that they would have liked more lead up time to the event (i.e. between the time that Progress Reports were issued and the date of the Parents' Night).
- 2nd Leadership Forum for Cawthra students occurred on October 13. It was somewhat of a low key event with students not having much to report.
- Terry provide an update re staffing changes at Cawthra. Affected students were prepared ahead of time for the change in their teachers.
- Upcoming events: October 24 is the Open House (tours run at 6:00, 7:00 and 8:00 PM, October 25 is the First Nations Inuit Group event, October 26 is Music Collage, November 1 is Take Our Kids to Work (TOKTW) Day (Grade 9), Unity Day (Grade 10) and University Open House (Grade 11/12), November 10 (Remembrance Day

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activities), November 17 is Professional Learning Day (for teachers) and November 30, December 1 and 2 is the Billy Elliot Musical.

- Further discussion ensued re Grade 9 TOKTW, purpose, structure, function, etc.
- Discussion re why the Cawthra Daily Announcements aren't being updated daily on the school website.

Action:

- Terry to look into why the Daily Announcements of the website haven't been updated recently.

5.0 Fundraising Committee

Discussion:

Fair December Update – Leslie

- Preparations are going well.
- Information cards have gone out and the reach is wide. Will also be distributed to the family of schools. Other marketing pieces include: lawn signs, large signs, electronic signs in the Port Credit area, etc.
- There is a Fair December website - <http://fairdecember.com/>, Facebook page, Twitter, Instagram, etc.
- The Café will offer hot breakfast and lunch options.
- Food Drive is under consideration for Fair December. CPSS is also considering a Food Drive the week prior to Fair December.
- Compass is very excited to be receiving a donation from CPSS.
- \$5 entrance fee for adults and seniors/children are free.
- Discussion re how Compass Food Bank was chosen as this year's recipient of our donation. Explanation was that numerous nonprofit organizations were vetted and that Compass was chosen, primarily because it was a local organization.

Requests for Silent Auction – Leslie

- In addition to the items that Vendors donate, please consider donating items or tapping into someone who can assist with donating items for the silent auction. Movie tickets, dinner, etc.

Volunteers for Each Day – Anne

- Volunteers are needed for each day. A 2 hour commitment is required. If you have any students who would like to accrue volunteer hours, please have them see Jane Chan Singh, who handles student volunteers.

Action:

- A Volunteer Sign Up Sheet was distributed.

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6.0 Parent Reaching Out (PRO) Grant – Yvonne

Discussion:

- Ontario's PRO grants are designed to support parents in identifying barriers to parent engagement in their own community and to find local solutions to involve more parents in support of student achievement and well-being.
- \$1000 was received from the Ministry of Education for these types of parent engagement initiatives.
- March 20, 7:00 – 8:30 PM is the chosen date for the speaker. It will coincide with Parent Night in the hopes that parents will already be at the school to meet with teachers and this may increase attendance.
- The speaker, a psychiatrist, will speak about mental health, anxiety and depression in students.
- Port Credit Secondary School is having a speaker, Alyson Schafer, discuss "The Joys and Fears of the Teen Years" on November 9, 7:00 – 8:30 PM. Cawthra parents are invited.

Action:

- Jennifer will follow up with speaker re the March 20 date.

7.0 New Business

Discussion:

Vice Principal Consultation – Terry

- This occurs in the event of an unexpected absence or leave by the Vice Principal.
- Members brainstormed characteristics that we would like to see in a VP.

Principal Consultation – Yvonne

- This occurs in the event of an unexpected absence or leave by the Principal.
- Members brainstormed characteristics that we would like to see in a Principal.

Parent Library – Leslie

- Available in the school library and has a very good collection of books. Available for parents to borrow.

Carpooling Booth at RAP Open House – Yvonne

- Yvonne shared with the group that Deirdre, responsible for carpooling at Cawthra, needs volunteers to work at their table during the October 24 RAP Open House.

Action:

- Any interested parents, please let Yvonne know.

8.0 Questions and Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Next Meeting is on November 20 at 7:00 PM.