

CAWTHRA PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL (CPSS) SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: Monday, September 25, 2017
TIME: 7:00 – 9:00 PM
LOCATION: CPSS Library

ATTENDEES: Yvonne Everard-Parr (Co-Chair), Leslie Buckle (Co-Chair), Anju Dhawan (Secretary), Anne Roe (Community Rep), Lesley Wilton, Kimberley Doherty, Karen Pua, Julianne Pasztor, Nandita Dutta, Angela Sidoriak, Nancy Simpson, Mary Kidnew, Catherine MacLean, Ana Freitas, Sharon Chiovitti, Joanne Mazaris, Helga Trudeau, Mark Thurston, Yuliya Hurynovich, Helen Almeida Rosolowski, Val Powell, Abbi O'Neill, Esthela Richard, Lily Wilson, Jennifer Ling, Terry Whitmell (Principal), Sarka Kubelikova (Teacher), Marienza Miserere (Student Council), Zainab Raza (Student Council)

1.0 Opening Comments – Lesley

Discussion:

- Welcome to those in attendance by Lesley and Terry Whitmell.

2.0 School Council Members and Executive – Lesley

Discussion:

- Lesley discussed openings for Parent Representatives and asked those in attendance and from whom Terry had received nomination forms as to their interest in being a Parent Rep. In total, **nine parents** were nominated **for the Parent Representative** positions. **The new reps include: Yvonne Everard-Parr, Leslie Buckle, Anju Dhawan, Lesley Wilton, Anne Roe (Community Rep), Kimberley Doherty, Karen Pua, Julianne Pasztor and Nandita Dutta**
- Lesley announced that she would like to stay on as Co-Chair and is looking for another Co-Chair to assist her. No individual volunteers, but Yvonne and Leslie B. offered to Co-Chair the School Council as a team. Lesley graciously offered to step down and let **Yvonne and Leslie** assume the positions as **new Co-Chairs**.
- **Anju** volunteered to stay on as **Secretary**.
- Leslie and Yvonne provided some information about themselves to begin the process of introductions. All parents around the table then gave introductions.

3.0 Student Council Update – Marienza Miserere and Zainab Raza`

Discussion:

- There is a new Student Council President and Vice President.
- Minister elections are taking place for six new Ministers – Spirit (2), Mental Health (2) and Cultural (2)
- Upcoming events:
 - Semi (March 2) – Paris/Hollywood Under the Stars theme. Event will be held at the Oasis Convention Centre. Dietary restrictions will be adhered to.
 - Appetizer, entree and dessert for \$30.
 - Winter Dance - \$10 for event. Peanut and gluten free restrictions will be adhered to.

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- Holiday Event (December 21)
- Halloween Week – activities planned include: cookie decorating, annual costume runway contest, etc. Prizes include gift cards.
- Holi Day – event to celebrate the colours and Spring.
 - Hypo allergenic powder will be used to gently throw coloured powder onto each other. Event will probably be held after school. Still in planning stage.
- Holiday Spirit Day – occurs a week before Christmas. Activities planned include: gingerbread house decorating, ugly sweater contest, etc.
- End of the Year Celebration – this will be held in a fundraiser format.
- Discussion ensued regarding Orange Shirt Day and Pink Shirt Day. Terry to make announcements over the next few days re Orange Shirt Day.
- Reps discussed structure of Student Council in terms of Upper Council, General Council, Grade Reps, etc.

4.0 Principal's Report – Terry Whitmell

Discussion:

- Cawthra Student Council will now be the clearing house for all of the other Councils and Clubs.
- Executive from School Council have a standing meeting with Terry every Friday at noon to discuss upcoming events, etc.
- Reminder that funds are collected as student fees and a portion of this is given to Student Council for initiatives as needed.
- Orange Shirt Day – Indigenous initiative. All schools in Peel are coming on board incrementally.
- We Rise initiative is looking for parent representatives – looking at addressing issues of inequity related to young black students.
- Some parents expressed concern re common lunch time for all students.
- The 3rd floor will be open to students (a teacher will be assigned to supervise) to use during lunchtime when the cold weather makes it challenging for students to go outside. This is to help address the single lunch hour for all students.
- Currently, students are eating outside due to the nice weather.
- Cafeteria has adjusted to simultaneous influx of students by operating two full lines with two debit machines. One additional microwave has been purchased for the cafeteria as well.
- October 24 is the Open House for RAP. To increase recruitment for RAP, 600 students will be bussed into Cawthra from feeder schools for a 40 minute performance and a 20 minute tour. The next day, 600 Cawthra students will be bussed out to various schools for performances.
- School Council played a large role in helping to raise funds for a brand new projector in the school auditorium. Hardware is all in place and controls are in the front of the auditorium.

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- Board is currently looking at final assessments. October 6 is a Professional Learning Day for teachers and exploring how to support students with learning disabilities.
- Currently, 16 teachers are piloting a new learning software called Sesame. This helps to show student growth with built in standards and involves students in inquiry based learning. The iPad that teachers use can take pictures and videos and can attach them as artifacts to students' portfolios.
- Website is Sesamehq.com. Comes out of the University of Waterloo.
- Air conditioning has been turned on as of today. Was asked to turn it on prior to the weekend (Board has taken over the controls for the air conditioning). Tomorrow, students will be reassigned to different areas of the school which are cooler, if temperatures continue to rise.
- Air quality testing has been asked for.
- School Cash Online is working well, except for a few hiccups. 3% service fee paid by the school.
- Please check school Daily Announcements re upcoming Scholarship Information session.

5.0 Fair December Update – Anne Roe

Discussion:

- Fair December Update – event happening on December 2-3 from 10:00 – 4:00. Has been approved to run for the next two years at CPSS.
- Much of the work is already underway.
- Fair December is a high-end Artisan Show that boasts 70 unique vendors, hourly draws as well as a gourmet café and silent auction. \$5:00 admission fee for shoppers and the artisans provide a 15% cut of their profits to CPSS.
- The local charity that CPSS will be donating part of the proceeds to is the Compass Food Bank. QE Middle School will operate the Café and receive the Café proceeds.
- Free advertising is happening through the local communities, along with website, Facebook, Instagram, etc. School Council is helping with this.
- Historically, the school Principal has provided guidance to help decide where the money raised by this fundraiser will be spent.
- Jane Chan Singh, teacher at CPSS, will be responsible for the student volunteers.

6.0 Parent Engagement Session Speakers and Update – Lesley Wilton and Jennifer Ling

Discussion:

- Ministry of Education will typically provide School Councils with up to \$1000 for school type initiatives that follow the criteria of the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant.
- Jennifer has sourced two doctors to discuss ADHD and ADHD and Mental Health Issues. Speaker fee not known at this point in time.

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- Approval of grant not yet received from the Ministry of Education
- In the past, Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday nights have worked for the school auditorium availability. April is usually when these types of events are held.

Action:

- Once approval of funding is received, Leslie and Yvonne will follow up with Terry re: dates for this event.
- Jennifer will follow up with speakers re costs.

7.0 Volunteers for Parent Night – Yvonne and Leslie

Discussion:

- Parent Night is Tuesday, October 17, 6:30 – 9:00 PM.
- Volunteers needed to work short shifts (10-15 minutes) to help staff the School Council table.
- Anne will also be there, representing Fair December.
- Different models of Parent Night discussed. At present, there is a 50 minute Meet and Greet, followed by pre-selected appointment times to meet with the various teachers.

8.0 New Business – Yvonne, Leslie and Terry

Discussion:

- Yvonne mentioned that the school council also receives \$500 from the Peel Board for Parent Engagement/Communication. She then held up the magnets that were purchased with last year's funds for the grade 9 packages, and explained that the money could be used for many purposes including refreshments for meetings, flyers, other printed material, etc.
- A warm thank you was extended to all those who attended the meeting.
- Invitation to continue bringing ideas of things parents want to know about related to the school environment.
- Suggestion was made to begin the October School Council meeting with a tour of the school.

Action:

- Add School Tour to the October 23 Meeting Agenda

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.