

CAWTHRA PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, February 15, 2017
TIME: 7:00 – 8:30 PM
LOCATION: CPSS Library
ATTENDEES: Captured on a separate attendance list

1.0 Opening Comments – Lesley and Eva

Discussion:

- Welcome to those in attendance.

Action: January 18, 2017 Minutes approved by Nancy and Sharon.

2.0 Student Council Update – Tyrese Walters and Kayla

Discussion:

- Deferred

3.0 School Grounds Greening Pilot Project 2016-17 School Year – Tricia Fitzpatrick

- Tricia came to speak to the Parent Council about the Eco Spark project. Her written notes are as follows:

Background

- In 2012-13, an interdisciplinary gardening project was begun as a collaboration between the Technology, Visual Arts, Science, and Food Science Departments. Building on projects and plans that had been happening over the past years, a plan was put together to create raised beds outside the Visual Arts rooms to use as a teaching garden, specifically an edible garden.
- Visiting artist, Catherine Hurd, worked with the Visual Arts classes and all grade 9 Science classes (both semesters) to create ceramic tiles depicting local native species of plants and animals. These tiles were intended to be affixed to the outside of the raised garden beds. Every grade 9 science student created a tile for the project.
- At the time, permission was gained from the school board and the areas was approved for digging. We had the go-ahead to start the project. Unfortunately due to a number of circumstances, including job action, the project was put on hold.

Bringing the plan into action

- The grade 9 students who created the tiles are now preparing to graduate this spring. To honour the work and contribution of these students and to further our school-ground greening, we are happy to resurrect the garden project.
- In the spring of 2016 a butterfly garden was created outside the art rooms with the help of the participants of the Nunavut exchange program, various science classes and the garden club. This was the first step in bringing our garden to life.

Funding from EcoSpark

- We are thrilled to have received funding from EcoSpark, a local environmental organization, to support our garden project. As part of a pilot project, they will be supporting us through the process of planning and implementation.

The Plan

- The current plan is to create three raised concrete beds (see image) with hopes of adding three more in the future. The Technology department (under Rod Parcher's supervision) will be building the beds this spring.
- The Science department (and hopefully other departments) will be using the gardens as teaching gardens – edible gardens and pollinator gardens are being considered. Suggestion for growing plants to create dyes (for art?) have also been put forward by the planning team.
- We are currently investigating watering systems.



Challenges

- The biggest challenge is in the maintenance of the gardens, particularly in the summer. We hope to engage community partners such as the seniors centre and/or other local organizations to help with this.

An Invitation

- The planning team would like to invite parents and families of Cawthra Park SS to help with the project – volunteering, summer maintenance, planting, donations, consultation, etc. – any help is welcome!

Planning Team:

- Tricia Fitzpatrick, Science, EcoSchool
- Don Ball, Visual Arts
- Lyndsay McLeod, Science
- Rod Parcher, Technology
- Mary Hickey, EcoSchool
- Holly Brose, EcoSpark
- Cawthra Park Garden Club (students)
- Cawthra Park EcoAmbassadors (students)

Action: Contact Tricia with suggestions or assistance.

4.0 Fundraising - Eva

- **Fair December Update**

Cawthra to host event again next year?

- Discussion arose and touched upon many topics: catering, appliance use, sequencing of events being critical to the success of the event, storage area for tables, 1-2 vendors were disappointed with the sales, school administration support for the event, etc.
- Gayle cannot guarantee that the administration at CPSS will be the same for the 2017/2018 school year and suggests to defer a decision until a new principal is selected.
- Julie Solomon is at CPSS until the end of March. A new principal will be named in April/May, 2017.
- On January 27, a cheque was presented to Peel Children's Centre and they were extremely grateful and thankful. Going forward, all proceeds from the fundraiser will be split between CPSS and a charity. Gayle recommended that this be communicated clearly to Queen Elizabeth School.

Action: Eva will speak to Julie Solomon to help secure an expedited decision.

- **Projection System**

- Eva spoke with Janet MacDougall re the projector possibly being a capital expense.

Action: Janet MacDougall will pursue this matter with the School Board about where the money might come from to pay for the projection system.

5.0 RAP Changes – Eva

Course Verification

- There is a potential for deferring deadline for course selection.
- There were not many cases of where a student didn't know what to do.
- Issues can be worked out with Guidance.
- With Dance repertoire – all students got in.
- On March 9, Progress Reports will be issued, as well as notification re RAP courses.

6.0 Principal's Report – Gayle Ackerman on Behalf of Julie Solomon

Graduation Details

- Prom will take place on June 2 at the Mississauga Convention Centre as a dinner/dance.
- Commencement is scheduled for June 27 at 1:30 PM at the Living Arts Centre.
- Report Cards are issued on June 28.
- PD Day on June 30.

7.0 Parent Engagement Session - Dr. Karyn Gordon – Eva

Discussion:

Parent Engagement Session – Dr. Karyn Gordon

- Will occur on April 3 from 8:00 – 9:00 PM at the \$1000 rate.
- Anne will ask Karyn to donate some of her books to CPSS.
- Speaker costs are \$1130 in total.

- \$370 are remaining and must be spent before the end of the school year.

Action: School Council members are encouraged to think about ways to spend the balance of the funds – i.e. \$370. Suggestion to purchase mental health resources

8.0 New Business – All

- Reminder that you can "Name a Seat" for \$100/seat. A tax receipt will be issued. Notification will go home in Progress Reports.
- Parent Teacher Meetings will occur on March 23.
- Eva met with Janet MacDougall and shared concerns re repertoire changes and the lack of communication to parents. In addition, there was discussion re the recent decision by the Board of students not being able to attend at religious venues for events. This particularly affects CPSS students as they are performing arts students and often attend elsewhere to perform.
- Nancy volunteered to write a letter to Janet, outlining the concerns. School council members provided their input to Nancy for writing the letter.
- Educational events happening at QE and Port Credit.
- Suggestion to sign up for Karyn Gordon's newsletter distribution list.

10.0 Next Meeting – Eva

Discussion:

- April Meeting will be cancelled.
- Next School Council Meeting is May 17, 2017 at 7:00 PM. Discussion re School Council Meeting being followed by a social.

Action: School Council members are encouraged to submit agenda items in advance of the next meeting.