

CAWTHRA PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL COUNCIL MINUTES

DATE: Wednesday, January 18, 2017
TIME: 7:00 – 9:30 PM
LOCATION: CPSS Library
ATTENDEES: Captured on a separate attendance list

1.0 Opening Comments

Lesley and Eva

- Welcome to those in attendance.

Action: November 16, 2016 Minutes approved: Yvonne Everard-Parr 1st and Sandra Halford 2nd.

2.0 Student Council Update

Tyrese Walters and Kayla Ado

- Semi-Formal event is sold out at the Living Arts Centre for February 16.
- LGBTQ Assembly is on March 21 with speakers from Queens University's "Get Real" group.
- Spirit Week is happening in March as well.

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

Action: Deferred to February 15 Meeting

4.0 Fundraising

- **Fair December Update** – Committee Chair Anne Collins, Eva and Sharon
 - On behalf of CPSS School Council, flowers were presented to Anne Collins with very warm appreciation for her leadership in the Fair December event.
 - 1400 people came to the two day fundraiser.
 - Vendors provided 15% of their sales to the fundraiser, along with a silent auction donation.
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- Totals:
 - Total Revenue: \$14,538.72
 - Proceeds have been shared as below:
 - QE - \$3,500
 - Peel Children's Centre - \$4,000
 - Cawthra - \$7,038.72
 - The "More Than a Garage Sale" fundraiser in 2015 raised \$4723.13.
- The consensus was that Fair December was a success. Members shared their experiences and stories of event:
 - "We can only do better if show stays here" (Anne Collins)
 - "Vendors loved the venue and the students" (Sandra)

- Event tips for the future:
 - Extra custodial staff required
 - Biggest challenge prior to the event was "the unknown". Now we have baseline data that can be used going forward.
 - Board can deliver and pick up tables.
 - Have more wheelchairs on hand
 - School administration must be present all weekend – principal, vice principals and office staff. They are eager to continue with this next year.

Action: The decision as to whether CPSS will host the event next year will be deferred until the February 15 Meeting to give members an opportunity to think about the pros and cons and for the incoming principal to provide input. Decision will be communicated to Anne Collins so that subsequent planning can commence.

- **Projection System Update**

- Costs have been revised. Projection system will now cost about \$35,000 plus installation of about \$10,000 – 12,000.
- Department head consensus required before purchase can be made.
- School Council has raised about \$11,000 (\$4,723.12 + \$7,038.72) that can potentially go towards this purchase, providing the Council agrees to support this initiative
- Vendor was selected from the Preferred Vendor List.
- Still some unknowns about the purchase and more information is required before a decision can be made.

Action: Motion will be brought by the Council once Administration confirms Dept. Head support of this project. Decision deferred until the February 15 Meeting.

5.0 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Newsletter

Lesley

- There are opportunities to join a Sub Committee. There are three to choose from: Communication, Pro Grant and Annual Conference.
- Lesley shared the first PIC Newsletter that was sent to all of the School Councils in Peel. Newsletter will be produced and distributed by PIC on a regular basis.

Action: Let Eva and/or Lesley know if you are interested in volunteering on a PIC Committee.

6.0 RAP Changes – Highlights

Don Ablett

- Don shared with the members a bit about himself – i.e. acting Principal. He has been retired for six years but is working 50-60 days a year to actively remain engaged with learning.
- For many decades, repertoire Music and Dance have been credit bearing courses (i.e. credits have been attached to the courses). It has recently been brought to light that students cannot audition for a credit bearing course that has a pre-requisite.
- K. Anthony Edwards, Superintendent of Education, has stated that:

I outlined that the principal does not have the power or the authority to create a pre-requisite for a course. The practice of conducting an audition for a credit course is not permitted. The Ministry of Education determines what pre-requisite or co-requisite is required. A principal can only waive, a pre-requisite nothing else.

The practice of auditioning students came to my attention for the first time last summer and I have no choice but to correct that error this fall. The school staff have had time to review and change their practice to ensure that they are compliant with the expectations of the Ministry. It should be noted, that students wanting to take these courses may do so. Unlike the vast majority of students in our board and the province this allows students the ability of earning up to 9 credits rather than 8 in a regular school year.

- A spirited and passionate discussion ensued from members about the poor communication to families, lack of consultation process with parents and how this would impact students in the Dance and Music programs.
- An attachment of a letter to the parents/guardians of the RAP students is attached to the minutes.

Action: Don will take forward parents' questions and will report back to Eva and Lesley

6.0 Principal's Report

Don Albett

- Don reported that Wendy Lautamus, principal of CPSS, wrote a beautiful letter to her colleagues at the school. Superintendent Anthony Edwards read it to the teaching staff, letting them know that Wendy would not be returning to the school but would remain a principal at large.
- Search is underway for a replacement for Wendy.
- Don will remain the principal until January 31.
- Some retirements were noted: Krista Johnston, Sheila Graham and Don Ball. Don has been nominated for the Prime Minister's Award of Teaching Excellence.
- Guys and Dolls was an amazing performance that was held in December. It went about \$16,000 over budget.
- A new piano and new windows are coming.
- Therapy dogs have been at the school and have been a tremendous success.
- Course selection closes on January 20.

Action: Anthony is working diligently to find a principal. Don has recommended that an experienced principal be brought in to deal with the complexities of the school.

Action: Don has recommended that the principal take control over the budget for performances (i.e. Guys and Dolls) to help tighten cost control.

7.0 Parent Engagement Session - Dr. Karyn Gordon

Eva

- Reminder of the upcoming Workshop.

Action: Eva will resubmit application, at the sponsored rate, for the *Inspiring Dream* presentation in January, 2017 for the proposed date of April 19, 2017 at 7:15 PM in the CPSS auditorium.

8.0 New Business – All

- Graduation Information

Action: Deferred to the February 15 Meeting

- No program delivery at places of Worship for PDSS students or staff.

Action: Voice concerns to your school trustee.

9.0 School Council Consultation Process for Principal and Vice Principal - All

- Vice Principal Profile discussion lead by Principal
- Principal Profile discussion has held after Principal left the meeting. Notes submitted to Superintendent.

10.0 Next Meeting

Eva

Discussion:

- Next School Council Meeting is February 15, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

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

DRAFT