Attendees: Janine Sutcliffe, Suzette Rasmussen, Amulya Dave, Kuldeep Kanda, Tjinder Dhanjal, Ramona Nazareth (Teacher Representative), Barbara Gordon (Vice Principal), Loi Lam (Vice Principal), Sao-Kham Mork-Gerra (Principal).

Welcome all parents to this year’s first school council meeting.

Introduction of all attendees

School Council Election

The two nomination forms received were presented to the council, although only one of the nominees was in attendance. Other parents at the meeting were asked if they would like to put their names forward to be on the executive. The chair was acclaimed to be Janine Sutcliffe and the three parents present gave their approval. We solicited for the secretary position but no one could make the commitment – the chair will prepare and distribute the minutes.

Principal’s Report

Celebrations:

- September 5th- Grade 9 Orientation- Ms. McKenna, Ms. Fournier, Ms. Anderson-Reeves, Mr. Weightman, with assistance from Linc crew.
- September 15th-16th - Department Heads Retreat @ Hockley Valley.
- Sept. 18th – Terry Fox Run
- Plant upgrades- roof repair (over the summer, to be continued next summer); auditorium light replacement (to be completed by winter holidays)

Update:

- School enrolment for 2017-2018 is above projection, actual is 1,027 students. This has resulted in the need for one additional teacher (with a computer engineering/math focus). New student timetables will take effect Monday, Oct. 2nd.
- Chinguacousy SS received a government of Ontario award as a Safe and Accepting School. A safe, inclusive and accepting school environment is essential for student well-being and achievement. Congratulations!
- Chinguacousy SS has been recognized as a silver EcoSchool. This is a voluntary certification which recognizes and celebrates schools for their environmental learning and action. Congratulations!
Looking ahead:

- October 6th - PL Day
- October 10th - Social Media presentation to students
- October 12th - Early Progress Report Distribution
- October 17th - Parents Night/Post-Secondary Fair
- October 18th - Early Release at 2:04
- October 25th - Grade 8 Open House night
- November 1st - Take Our Kids to Work Day
- November 10th - Undergrad Awards-AM/Commencement-PM
- November 15th - Mid-Term Reports distribution
- November 17th - PL Day
- November 22nd - Co-op Fair
- November 28th - School Council Special Event (Mental Health Counts presentation)

Pro-Grant application – Mental Health Counts

- Council applied for a $1,000.00 grant with a focus on mental health. Applications will be approved by end of September. In the hopes that our grant will be approved, we have contracted with CAMHPeel to speak on the night of November 28th on this topic. We plan to invite community members to put up displays in the foyer and be on site before and after the talk. Youth Net was mentioned as a possibility.

Discussions:

- Question regarding course outline – teachers should have explained outline and expectations to students. Many teachers use Google Classroom (or other similar sites) to communicate with students and assist them to stay on task. Parents are encouraged to call the teachers with any questions or concerns. Attendance at Parent Night (October 17th) will give the opportunity to meet with teachers at pre-scheduled meeting.
- Parents discussed concerns regarding new students and adapting to high school. There are many ways for students to be involved, most extra curricular activities take place during lunch. Exams are different in high school, and teachers introduce the longer style tests to students over the course of the year. Parents can also create their own My Blue Print account, which will be linked to their child’s account, allowing the parent to follow his/her progress.
- Question regarding proposed changes to report cards, and the move to “grade-less” courses being piloted at a local PDSB high school – this change allows for more feedback and observations from the teacher to the student, and is not necessarily “grade-less” as the media has presented it.
Closing remarks:

Thanking everyone for attending the meeting tonight.

2017/18 School Council Meetings will be held at 7 pm in the Library, on the following evenings:

- November 28, 2017    Mental Health Counts special event
- January 30, 2017     My Blue Print focus
- April 24, 2017       Potluck; discuss theme for 2018/2019 ProGrant application