School Council Meeting Minutes
April 30, 2019 7:00pm-8:30 pm in the Library

Attendees: Janine Sutcliffe, Romena Kahn, Victoria Ariri, Suzette Rasmussen, Nimco Rabile, Ieda Hawron Kuldeep Kanda, Nisha De Silva, Sao-Kham Mork-Gerra (Principal), Ramona Nazareth (Teacher Rep)

Welcome all parents to this year’s last parent council meeting.

Dress Code

- Review of the board’s current Dress Code statement, and discussed what is considered inappropriate apparel. Council agreed to add the wearing of hoods on a hooded sweater to this list for security purposes as they can be used to disguise identity. As well, council agreed to add a stipulation that all students’ clothing must be respectful and must not be revealing.

Non-board Funds

- Curb appeal funding was awarded to the school for the addition of the Digital Sign. Therefore, the funds that had been allocated to that expense are again available (@$45,000.00)
- These funds came from HST rebates, fees, rebates from the now removed pop machines. There are strict rules as to what they cannot be used for – they cannot be used for school supplies, computers, etc.
- One allowable expense is to add a new electronic scoreboard to the gym, which would include a shot-clock. Council approved this request, which has an approximate cost of $15,000.00
- Another allowable expense is to add murals. Council approved funds to add a mural in the weight room and 4 murals on the upper floor, gym C, and gym A-B. Approximate cost of $31,000.00

Principal’s Report

- Course selection will proceed as normal in the face of the recent government cutbacks. Courses with low enrolment will be cancelled, and guidance counsellors will work with students to fit them into available options. Some electives have been merged (ie. Grade 9 drama and grade 10 drama) in order to continue to offer them.
- E-learning – there is a large selection of courses for students to choose from. Although logistics about space are to be worked out, students should be able to use available school computers in order to complete online courses. Parents expressed concern about students for whom e-learning may not be a good fit (not organized, not self-motivated, otherwise challenged), and the school shares these concerns. The government directive is that all students take one e-learning course a year, although it is not confirmed when this will start.
- 7 teachers have been lost, with 4 excessed for next year. The teachers lost are exceptional teachers, role models and give generously of their time, they will be missed.
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2019-2020 Planning
- Sept. 24, 2019 – council elections; My Blue Print; discuss course selections
- Oct. 24, 2019 – 30 minute traditional meeting, followed by guest speaker, topic to be determined
- Nov. 26, 2019 – 30 minute traditional meeting, incorporating the yearly Principal profile survey, followed by guest speaker, topic to be determined
- Feb. 25, 2019 – 30 minute traditional meeting, followed by guest speaker, topic to be determined
- April 28, 2020 – plan for 2020/2021 school year
- Possibly plan a ½ day event on a weekend and invite multiple speakers
- Topics under discussion
  - First Aid mental health
  - Having Courageous Conversations About Topics Facing Youth Today (catastrophic events, social perceptions, sexuality, drugs, etc.)
  - How to Recognize and Cope with stress
  - Gaming Addictions
  - Youth Violence

Discussions:
- Question regarding one lunch period, while other schools have staggered lunches. With the current student population, there is space for all. The library is busy, and hallways too, but the cafeteria does not tend to be. Extra curriculars are held at lunch allowing all students the possibility to participate. Other schools have a larger student body, and they have to have more than one lunch time.
- Question regarding robotics club, which was not offered this year. Parents and students were disappointed, with at least one parent mentioning that the robotics club was a big draw for her child. A club such as robotics takes a large amount of energy (and cost) over a short time period, and there were no qualified teachers available to take on this responsibility this year. In addition, in the past years although there were many students who signed up for the club, many did not remain committed throughout the build and tournament timeframes leaving a small, core group of students to complete the challenge. Arduino and VEX type robotics are incorporated into regular classroom teachings, allowing students access to robotics learning.
- Question regarding traffic on the school grounds, it is not always clear in which direction the Kiss and Ride or cars need to travel. A map will be included in the Fall newsletter, which is sent to all families.
- Discussion regarding changes due to the government budgetary cuts and parents’ voices. Options are taking part in a parent rally, or a letter writing campaign to local MPP/school trustee.

Closing remarks:

Thanks to everyone for attending the meeting tonight.
2019/2020 School Council Meetings will be held at 7 pm in the Library, on the following evenings:

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Agenda Item</th>
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<td>Parent council elections</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 29, 2019</td>
<td>Guest Speaker TBD</td>
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School Council Meeting Tuesday, September 24, 2019
7:00 pm - 9 pm
Location: Library