Welland Centennial Secondary School

School Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 20, 2014

**In attendance:**

Nigel Evans, Vinay Sharma, Lianne Bankert, Laurie Frandsen, Sherill Roberts, Elizabeth Maltais, Larry Lemelin, Amy Datema, Shelley Cutts, Norbert Kuebeck, Marita Bootsma, and Christine Brochu

**Regrets:**

Cathy Alakas, Jeff Etling and Pam Swick-Janjac

**Meeting Start time 7:00pm**

**Alumni Committee Report** (sent from Pam Swick-Janjac)

As a liaison for our WCSS Alumni Committee I wanted to thank the school; both of you for taking time to be with us for the Pasta Fundraising Dinner; thanks to other staff who attended; thank to s Elda and Shelia for the support they gave us with ticket sales through the office; most especially Mr. Laughton and the Culinary Students for the excellent food preparation and presentation and all the other staff who assisted in preparing for the evening.  Also, not to forget, the students who did such an amazing job with the entertainment and those who helped us for set up, during and after the event for clean up!! And the always helpful cleaning staff....what a pleasure to work with them! Of course recognizing Miss Wylde as one of our Alumni members....and the staff liasion!  We are so grateful to have her as part of our team!!  She always keeps us very suitably connected to the school! I do not have the exact total as a dollar figure, but I can tell you that we were very pleased with the money raised that evening.  Although not as many guests out as we had hoped...those that did attend, had a wonderful evening and we know look forward to the next event/activity!  We will definitely keep the Parent Council posted and I will report our financial totals at the November meeting. Our goal is to promote and build the Alumni group and look at ways we can raise resources and assist the school in a variety of ways.  We continue to support a student each year (currently a $200/year) with a scholarship to a graduating student who is a child of an alumni.  I will also report to our November meeting as to plans the Alumni Committee has for the coming year!

**Student Council Report (Lianne Bankert & Vinay Sharma)**

Spirit Week-good participation & Pep Rally-there was amazing feedback from the staff and students. Ryan Porter came to share at the Spirit Assembly. Mentor and student council members successfully welcomed the grade nines at the Catch a Slice Day! Fourteen grade nines were chosen for the grade nine elections and two for the Executive Council. Thankful Thursday –Every student to bring in a toonie for the Children’s Miracle Network and $475 was raised! Turkey Bowling- one student and one staff member went home with a turkey. Student Council hosted staff appreciation where staff were given treats, coffee, and tea. Staff then signed up for chaperoning the Halloween Dance, which is Thursday, Oct 30th (including a Haunted House!) There will be an “open” council meeting where all centennial students can bring their ideas and thoughts to council. Finally, OSLC is coming up where 16 student council members and two staff advisors will attend a three day leadership conference.

**Professional Development**-Marita Bootsma-OSSLT/Literacy

Overall Stats-good news…

86%-first time eligible FTE pass rate up 2%

48% Pre eligible PE Pass rate. Up 20%

50% Applied Pass Rate up 2%

Centennial is above province rate which is at 72%

97% of Centennial students wrote the test, which Nigel said, is a great percentage for a school.

Marita explained that through prep sessions with students through ‘ Don’t Panic Book’ experienced teachers supporting students prior to test, students are doing better at the test! Multiple choice is the biggest challenge (and is worth 40% of the test) so staff focused on this area during last p.d, October 10th. Stafff received a handout with several of the most common types of MC questions. As subject/groups/departments, they worked together to come up with ways to help the students. As a ‘Next steps, as departments they’ll try to weave in MC questions into regular tests, quizzes particularly in junior grades. Staff were provided a checklist made up of all the accommodations allowed under EQAO regulations (math and OSSLT). Students who do NOT currently have an IEP, but whom the CR teacher felt was receiving accommodations on an unofficial basis, were referred to the SERT using this checklist. They are currently compiling a list of the referred students to investigate options to support them formally on EQAO test.

Marita mentioned peer tutors who have been trained with various exceptionalities who are helping to tutor the grade 9 math and grade 10 English applied classes. It’s making a difference. Literacy test is March 26

**Chair Report:** Norbert Kuebeck acting chair

After some discussion, Liz and Sherill agreed to be co-chairs of Parent Council!

DSBN Parent Involvement Committee-$500 available funds.

THRIVE Conference-Raising Happy and Engaged 21st Century Kids-November 5th at Eden High School-hoping to have some parent representatives from our council attend.

**Administrator’s Report:** Nigel Evans

Congrats to Girls Basketball-Back to Back Tribune Tournament champs!Congrats to Vinay-Welland Youth Citizen of the Year! 177 students in grade nine, 177 in grade ten, 177 in grade 11. This has never happened! There are 794 at Centennial this week-4th largest Secondary school in DSBN. OPEN House posters have been redesigned this year and are being distributed throughout community. PD Day-in addition to literacy component, technology was featured and the possibility of all teachers having professional twitter accounts. There was also review of fire drill and lockdown procedures.

Labs are being refurbished for $400,000-should be ready by December 22nd. So classes semester 2 will be able to use them.

**Round the Table**

A discussion regarding Social networking/technology/issues with our teens and the internet. Neil Ridley may be able to come and speak to us in November. Question about what twitter is used for. Discussion again about the ‘tweets’ and whether students would be comfortable with teachers having twitter accounts to use on Centennial website to update on sports, etc. (they would be professional twitter accounts). Vinay Sharma brought up the Mental Health Initiative –joining w/ the Safe Schools Committee. The Safe Schools Committee will be meeting at 2:45pm next Monday, October 27th at Centennial.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 24 with 7pm start.