

Welland Centennial Secondary School
School Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 25, 2016

Participating:

Shelly Cutts, Larry Lemelin, Amy Datema, Elizabeth Maltais, Christine Brochu, Wendy Richards, Jenn Dube, Ian Lucas, Jennifer Laroche, Nigel Evans (Principal), Mary Lou Harry, Cheryl Podetz, Darren Platakis (special guest re: Geospatial Niagara), Mr. Seebach, Dan Nadeau, Justin Dube (Student Council Prime Minister), Hannah Donofrio (Deputy Prime Minister).

Regrets:

Sherill Roberts, Jennifer Reid-George (Vice-Principal), Pam Swick Janjac, Jeff Etling, Sue Barnett.

Meeting Start time 7:01pm

1. Darren Platakis (Geospatial Niagara)-here to share with us. Geospatial Niagara started in Jan 2013, incorporated as a not for profit in June 2014. It became an iHub portfolio company in July 2015. Through involvement w/ innovate Niagara became involved w/ ihub to bring the Minecraft project into DSBN schools. Mission is to create geography awareness and to promote geo-literacy and community participation through geography. There are 20 internship projects-Niagara College/Brock Honours internship since 2011, 29 students-that have worked on these thesis/internship project, \$515,000+-the market dollar value of the 20 internship projects-illustrates the economic impact of geospatial technologies and information, 1592-number of students engaged from Gr. 2 through to post-graduate, DSBN, and NCDSB.
4 primary projects: 1) **TreeOcode project**- crowd-sourced community-managed, **day of geography**-a world wide effort to get geospatial specialists to blog about their workday (example what an urban planner does that day), **Niagara Aspiring Geopark** - attaining sustainable tourism, and the **Niagara Minecraft project** - game where you dig (mine) and build (craft) different kinds of 3D blocks w/in a large world. What is it? Conversion of Niagara geospatial data into a 1:1 scale Minecraft map. Was inspired by the Ordnance Survey of England as well as the Danish Geodata Agency. It's a way to promote Niagara and helps students and gives them good talking point with any job interviews they might have. Provides high profile project for students associated w/ it. Engages students with their local geography.
Sat. Nov. 21, **Niagara Hackathon** at ihub where students played on Niagara Minecraft map and they were able to build on it.
Next steps-continue to work w/ DSBN and teachers to implement access to Niagara Minecraft maps.

Geospatial Niagara has a meeting w/ DSBN on Feb. 12th and they will find out more from there. They need to find schools/administrators who want to come on board and pilot this.

Larry Lemelin suggested p.d. be provided by the board to educate and familiarize teachers with this before presenting it to the students. He also inquired as to what kinds of careers could come from something like this? An extensive discussion ensued about careers and opportunities involved with this program. Liz Maltais expressed the need for more access to computer time in order to be able to implement the

2. Chair's Report-Ian Lucas, Shelley Cutts-Accepted minutes from last meeting.
3. Administrator's Report-Mr. Evans-Technology funding \$21,000 on surface seems like a lot but if you were to concentrate it on one department, then what else does it do? It needs to be spread. Gr. 9's have just written math eqao, Cheerleaders won high school competition in falls, Guys & Dolls is underway, Science Fair underway w/ Gordon School, and Centennial's French program is getting extended in grade 9. Next year there will be French instruction at applied level programming. Science and math will be at applied levels. Art will also be provided in art. Next year Cosmetology will not be offered (students took bus to Port Colborne for this) as of next year. In technology, there is now a 3D printer. There are 19 certified Microsoft students. The numbers are beginning to take shape for the grade nines for next year-looking at about 190.
4. Students' Council Report-Justin Dube & Hanna Donofrio. At Christmas, there was the tree decorating. Student council put up the huge tree in caf and everyone decorated. Grandparents tea the same week and most amount of grandparents ever. Music from Cats Band, photo booth, treats, and fun times. Food Drive- canned goods collected every day and at dance. Close to 1,000 cans were collected, given to Julia Turner Cup w/ Hope Center. Talent Show and Staff-Student talent show. For 2016, lunch older seniors (mentors) helping younger students w/ studying. Chill Club on Wednesdays to help students relax/de-stress. Semi-formal will be in Port Colborne-Italian Hall-theme is Hollywood/Red Carpet. \$30 a ticket. Date: Feb. 11, 6:30-10:30pm. Larry offered his services on asking community for donations and having his wife offer
5. Round Table - Great job to everyone who came Tribune Senior Boys Consolation Game-teachers/parents/students representing Centennial who cheered loudly and representing w/ their cougar colours, etc, Larry wanted to say a big thank you.

Next Meeting: Feb 22, 2016