

WCSS Parent Council Meeting Minutes. Jan23/17

Meeting started at 7:04 p.m. in Room 116

Motion by Jeff, to approve the Minutes of last meeting, accepted by everyone.

Arts Dept. Feature Presentation

- Teacher Lori T. was our guest speaker.
 - Her focus was on the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) certification.
 - In grade 11 and 12 students can earn Certificates to help them with moving into different jobs skills.
 - Students need 4 credits in Art and History, Co-op in the Arts , and 3 learning certificates are also needed.
 - The SHSM is across the DSNB and approved by the Ministry of Education.
 - Funding is given by the board to allow this to take place.
 - Students learn a lot of behind the scene things in Visual Arts, Photography, Animation, Drama, Music and vocals.
 - Students must have First Aid, CPR and WHIMIS, ICE Training (innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship)

Student Council Report

- No events in January because of Exams.
- Semi Formal is Feb 16/17 at the Italian Hall in Port Colborne from 6 pm – 10 pm.
 - The theme is Destination Tour.
 - Students will have dinner, music and awards will be presented.
 - The event has been sold out with 400 ppl attending.
 - Next year student council will be holding it at a bigger venue in Niagara Falls, and no students from other schools will be invited to participate.
- “Match Maker” event in time for Valentine's Day. Students will fill out a compatibility quiz and it will be entered into a computer program, and on Valentine's Day they will find out their match.
- Also Candy grams will be available to purchase to be sent to friends.

Chair's Report

Ian asked if we would still like to have him continue as Chair, due to that fact that his student son will no longer be at Centennial for the 2nd semester. All attendees of the meeting agreed to have Ian continue as the Chair.

Principal's Report

Enrollment

- Projected numbers for Grade 9 students for Sept/17 is over 200. Which will have our school total around 850 students for the 17/18 school year.
- There have been enrollment requests from school boards outside WCSS' catchment

area, for about 10-15 students.

Arts and Culture

- School play is coming along nicely. The title is “Sisters In Spirit”, with "mature" content.
 - Lots of research has gone into the play , and the students have shown a lot of respect for the indigenous topic.
 - The play will be Feb 22/17 with 2 showings (matinee and evening).
 - Also on Feb 23/17 with only one showing in the evening.

Department Growth

- The board has purchased probes for the science department, these probes will help with different science experiments.
- SHSM- Arts dept has linked with Brock and Niagara College for Drama and Photography.
- French Immersion – was at the Academic level now looking into offering it to Applied.
- English – Have updated more than half of their books to try and keep reading of more interest to students., including Canadian authors where possible.

Employment Foundations (MS Certification)

- Our students are taking advantage of Microsoft certifications: WCSS is # 3 in Canada for having the most certifications. The curriculum will be upgraded to Microsoft 2016 for next year.
- MS Certification recipients are well-positioned for early employment/career start.

EQAO

- Math- Grade 9 EQAO 100% in attendance - highest in Niagara.

Professional Development

- Teachers have worked on a common Rubric, on how to reach the students, how to keep students motivated in Phys Ed and how to assess their skills.
- At the head dept meeting a lot of enthusiasm was shown in working together to improve all depts.

Various

- Open house for Kindergarten is Feb 6/17 across the board.
- Literacy Test- if a student was able to finish they do not have to rewrite in March. Anyone who had technical difficulties will have to write in March.
- Exams- “achievement” lunches were held, leading up to exams which allowed students to come in and receive help (Teachers) in catching up or help in understanding in any subject.

Meeting was called to a close at 8:10 pm.

Next Meeting Mon Feb 27/17 at 7pm

- Anticipated Guest Speaker - Community Police Officer Denis Andre.