Welland Centennial Secondary School

School Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 19, 2015

**In attendance:**

Shelly Cutts, Jennifer LaRoche, Nigel Evans, Sherill Roberts, Cathy Alakas, Elizabeth Maltais, Amy Datema, , Larry Lemelin, , and Christine Brochu. From Brock: Michael Krasnay, Gaston, Jordan, and Dino (here to observe from Law Class at Brock Teacher College). From Niagara Regional Police: Constable Shawn Cuke

**Regrets:**

Pam Swick-Janjac, Jeff Etling, and Norbert Kuebeck,

**Meeting Start time 7:14pm**

1. Liz and Sherill opened up meeting looking at minutes of November’s meeting.

A very happy Birthday to Tracey Kuebeck. Norbert is celebrating tonight with his lovely wife.

1. Shelley motioned to accept the minutes and Larry seconded the motion to accept the minutes.

3. Constable Shawn Cuke here to present our professional development-Shawn’s email:. shawn.cuke@niagarapolice.ca

Constable Cuke recommends once a week going through child’s cell phone/media even though kids think it’s not our right but it certainly is as we provide them w/ the cell phones, tablets, etc…Snap chat, etc…Said that if parents haven’t done this they will be shocked and some of the things that go on. He also said to remind our kids of the dangers of the internet and social media and that threats on fb are still a criminal offence, extent of criminal harassment as well…let our kids know these things….very important!!

Shawn’s role, on force for 9 years, his role …Things going on in NRP unit: ‘Music not Mischief’, take kids to camp -2 from each school this year, film festival to allow kids to put together videos. Plain clothes officers will go out to thwart drug activity. Constable Cuke’s schedule is: Mon-Thurs one week, Tues-Fri another week.

Nigel mentioned that they will call him sometimes to ask about law questions and such. Larry asked if student ever contact him directly and Shawn explained that yes sometimes students will contact him or knock on his police car door. He prefers if they go through the school as admin usually wants to know about what’s going on.

Amy supported idea of having Shawn coming to assembly and speaking as a refresher for another person for kids to come to if they need someone…Liz asked how things have changed over the years. Shawn explained that drugs in the vicinity of the school has gone down but facebook threats, bullying and assaults are just as rampant. Anytime a student has been spoken to that is under the age of 18, a parent will be contacted by Shawn if it is a situation where child’s welfare is at stake….not in the case if a student is telling on another kid or something like that. If a child is known to be physically, verbally, sexually, emotionally abused and teacher heard about it, teacher or whoever has received the information must make the phone call to FACS , the police will come and will not allow student to go with parent who is involved until FACS deals with situation.

Students go through Youth Justice Committee as punishment instead of being charged for first-time offences dealing with online bullying. However, once there is another offence after first warning, child will be charged!

4. Chair Report (by Liz Maltais and Sherill Roberts)

Email from Karen Sawatsky, (dsbn.org/pic) parent involvement committee, help for you & your child, help for you and your council.

We can go to them (their website) as parents and find information on this website.

Their next meeting is Feb. 4 at the DSBN Academy.

-Liz mentioned Parent Council meeting minutes have NOT been updated on Centennial’s website and asked Nigel if he could check with the person who is supposed to do that.

-Pam Swick-Janjac sent a note about the Out of the Cold Event –Feb 21st is going on and would like if Centennial staff and students could get involved. She will be forwarding that information to us.

5. Student Council –Nigel reported that unfortunately the dances were cancelled because of the weather. Now, they’re selling tickets for the semi-formal ($45-date is Thursday, February 12). Sherill mentioned the cost seemed steep. A discussion came about -could the Parent Council money could go towards helping students go to things like this or what could the money go towards? What kinds of things could we help out with? Parent council agreed we would be willing to put some of the Parent Council money towards helping kids who could use financial assistance because of circumstances of life. As per Larry’s idea about backpacks, we said we could put backpacks together with supplies for these particular students and have them for them.

Nigel will contact Nancy Fitzgerald to find out kids who have greatest needs who we could help out with backpacks, school supplies, etc.

6. Administrator’s Report (Nigel Evans, Principal)

At first meeting, he mentioned 187 students coming in grade 9 (10 up from last year). He also mentioned he’d explore application of new programs at school as Specialist program. Some schools have three specialist programs. We presently have three if we consider French as a specialist program, along with Construction, and the Arts.

Health and wellness is the one Centennial has applied to have as a specialist Application to the board. They put it up to a committee, and gets put forward to ministry from the ones they approve. Nigel is excited the application has been made for this and believes this will put us on par with some of the other schools.

-Second school newsletter is getting ready to go out and we received positive feedback from council members and different ones who received the school newsletter.

-Nigel would like to be in teacher’s classrooms a lot more in next term to get to know staff and students better. He feels he is getting to know school well and that is a goal for next semester. Also, he would like to begin to look at next year’s timetable.

-Christmas concerts were great.

-Trib tourney’s were great-boys played great.

-Cheerleaders won an award

-EQAO planning underway.

-March 3, 9:30am Carol Todd, mother of Amanda Todd, young teenager who committed suicide in B.C. last year will be at Centennial to speak to us about Social Bullying and Suicide.

-Cent PD for staff will involve guest Mr. Virag, Centennial’s Social Worker…Raising awareness about “Suicidation”

-In spring, because we were part of a school safety plan, Chris D’Souza will talk about equity, anti-bullying and inclusivity.

-Sherill mentioned last year they had a suicide prevention program where students were peer leaders and would be mentors for a particular group of kids could go to.

-Nigel showed us completed STATE OF THE ART science labs. Wow-very amazing!

-Shelly inquired about the foods specialist program and what’s going on\*\*\*\*. Nigel mentioned it’s only through Eastdale or Port High. A discussion proceeded regarding programs promised and then concluded.

7. Round Table-

-Amy-portable spirit wear type cart, to be made w/in construction tech class-anything going on with that? Nigel mentioned the construction tech group has been busy doing sets for Feb. 19th’s performance of –‘Hamlet-Zombie Killer!’

-Jennifer-question if kids have opportunity for first aid training in Gym class…. She wondered as her son saved her from choking and he took the training in cadets.

-Liz-mentioned that during boys tribune tourney, the boys won most sportsmanship team. Alex Elliot won most sportsmanlike award.

-Cathy-inquired as to whether phone message system has changed where if a student misses a class, if the school will still call in the evening to let them know or if we could get it changed so that school calls right away if our children haven’t shown up at school or to class. Nigel said he will make sure to see if changing this is an option.

Adjournment 8:50pm

Next meeting, February 23rd

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