

School Council Meeting Minutes – Wednesday, October 18, 2023

In attendance:

In person:

- Heather Jakobi – Principal (P)
- Jenn Goold – Teacher
- Ron Buchanan – School Council Chair
- Jan Gourley – Parent
- Jeff Barrett – Parent
- Kelly Humphries – Parent

Online:

- No participants

Regrets:

- Carrie Elliott

Agenda:

1. Welcome and school council formation.
2. Principal's & Staff Report
3. Any other business

Meeting Minutes:

1. School Council:

Typically, at the first school council meeting of the year we would hold elections.

Mrs. Jakobi put forward a call to see if anyone intends to run against Ron – no

Ron will remain the school council Chair.

Mrs. Jakobi put forward a call to see who would like to be secretary.

Jan Gourley nominates herself.

No one else ran.

Jan will be the school council Secretary.

Mrs. Jakobi is hoping for the gym ceiling to be addressed because paint is falling off the ceiling onto the gym floor. A quote was obtained and the company who wants to do the work has quoted over \$100,000.00. As a result, this will need to be approved by the board and come out of capital funds instead of facilities funds.

Mrs. Jakobi is also hoping to involve students in a project to beautify the bathrooms.

The issues surrounding students in the bathrooms are getting better but are still ongoing. The new VP is Kate Crossland. Because both administrators are female, they cannot access the male washrooms to get student's out. Their strategy has been to stand outside and to be vocal and persistent until the students leave.

Students need to stay out of washrooms, other than for toileting, because no one wants them to get sick from eating in there. It is also important that all students feel safe, and that the washroom is accessible to all students so that they are not trying to hold it all day and getting sick from keeping everything in. There is an all-gender washroom available to students.

Mrs. Jakobi is willing to offer a single use washroom near the office to students if this becomes necessary but hopes to avoid this.

Currently the 3rd is not being used for classes. This was a computer lab, but the computers are so old they are unusable. Sometime outside organizations rent school space and Mrs. Jakobi is hoping that room 306 could become a bookable training room for those organizations. She is also hoping it could be used as a workshop space and thinking classroom with whiteboards around the room.

Every year the school must set a literacy and numeracy goal.

Literacy:

Last year, for Grade 10's, the pass rate for TVDSB students, writing the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) was 77%, the province's pass rate was 84%, and Voaden's was 42%.

The school has done Benchmark Assessment System (B.A.S.) testing with Grade 9 students to check their reading and literacy. This test is not publishable, nor is it a benchmarking test, but it does give a good indicator for educators of approximately where students are at.

The results were alarming for both the regular and IEP streams of students.

Some grade 9 students are only reading at a grade 1 or 2 level. Only 2 students out of all the grade 9 students were reading above grade 6 level.

Staff are also hoping for things like a dance, pumpkin carving, and the Terry Fox run.

Everyone is working to complete all the mandatory safety drills. Staff recognize these can be very difficult for students. The recent fire drill was extremely successful.

Ms. Goold is encouraging students to sign up for Specialized High Skills Major (SHSM) programs. Kids need to not only sign up, but also complete the courses and co-op so that funds for this program are not pulled.

There are exciting new partners for co-ops for students such as Dotsy the Clown supporting a student who wants to get into special effects makeup. Also, a nurse is supporting a student interested in a career in nursing.

There are lots of upcoming professional development (PD) opportunities for teachers. For example: LGBTQ+ and Mark Book lunch and learns. Also, suicide prevention training.

Ms. Goold will also be attending PD for SHSM leads at the BMO center.

Ms. Goold recently took a group of girls to the Jill of All Trades event. Students went to Fanshawe. It was a wonderful and very successful day. There was construction, auto, welding. Students came back with projects that they made. They also got to listen and learn from an amazing group of young women who were inspiring.

There is also an Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program that parents and students should be aware of. Students can sign up for this program until they are 16. There has been an increase in sign ups for this program. Hours in this program will count toward apprenticeship for students moving into skilled trades in post-secondary.

The week of Oct. 23 is going to be student support week. In the past this has been 1 day for students to try to catch up in every subject if they have fallen behind. This year it will be 1 week. There will be 1 period on each day of the week where no new learning will be assigned, and the goal will be to get caught up (i.e., Monday period 1, Tuesday period 2, etc.). This change was made because it was overwhelming for students to try to achieve and focus in all 4 periods in 1 day.

The government will be mandating that students complete a tech course to graduate.

Voaden is still looking to hire a manufacturing teacher.

The theme of the Christmas parade is the Songs of Christmas. Planning has begun. Parent and student volunteers will be needed as it is a big undertaking to put a float in the Christmas parade.