

# Parkside School Council

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

6:00pm - Library

## AGENDA

1. Welcome/Introductions Heather Snow & Melanie Taylor (*Co-Chairs*)

2. Staff Report Amber Wadsworth (*Guidance Dept.*)  
-Many field trips going on such as JAFFA/ we just had College info days/ end of fall sports/changeover happening, last week was the undergrad ceremony – very big turnout!  
-Coming up: Grinchtacular -in Dec (there is a focus on building Drama dept again)  
Holiday Turkey dinner last week b-4 x-mas on Friday (snow day Thursday)  
-Have social worker come back to meet w/students-positive feedback from this experience

3. Student Report Paige Balogh (*Student Council – V.P.*)  
  
-In conjunction with Leadership, there is a boost in spirit days/pep rallies/ intro to colour houses/ participating in entries community building excitement  
-The haunted house and Halloween dance were a huge success/ positive feedback  
-Remembrance Day assembly was also a success/student did well in large groups  
-The boost to social media presence working well on Instagram (Reels/stories and boosting engagement)  
-Coming up: Spirit week (w/Leadership for Movember)  
Christmas assembly  
Semi-formal in Feb 2024 & Spring fling

4. Principal's Report Mike Moore (*Principal*)

5. 'Any other business' Mike Moore

**Present:** Heather Snow (*Co-Chair*) Melanie Taylor (*Co-Chair*), Amber Wadsworth (*Staff Rep.*), Paige Balogh (*Student Rep.*), Mike Moore (*Principal*), Melanie Moore, Jessica Lang, Lynne McCausland, Sonja Sonnenberg, Kari Ferguson-McCaw, Julie Meyers, Angeleta Henry (12)

**Adjourned:** 8:12pm

**Principal's Report**  
**School Council**  
**November 15, 2023**

**UPDATES:**

**1. Morning Announcements**

- this is the best (and sometimes only) way students hear about events/opportunities available to them
- in homeroom every morning + update: *binder in the main office with paper copies so no one misses information*

**2. Midterm Report Cards**

- in the process of reviewing, signing and printing them; to be put out in homerooms ASAP; M. Moore will call home to say exactly when
- Mr. Moore emphasized this process was very well done – only minor things, all went well and he was pleased
- this data will be collated and will be the first data of the year to show us actual, real 'pass rates' for the school
- This will provide true values/and data filtering to equal actual pass rates as indicated in above comments

**3. Final Evaluations / Students are asked not to miss! (\*\*5-15% worth of your mark\*\*)**

- Friday, January 26 (*Period 1*) Monday, January 29 (*Period 2*) Tuesday, January 30 (*Period 3*) Wednesday, January 31 (*Period 4*)
- There was some confusion last year – students must attend on these days
- Mr. Moore advised that students speak to their teacher to confirm exact times/details
  
- **all students will come to school to complete some kind of final evaluation on those days – if they have a scheduled class**
  
- no exams in grades 9, 10... will have presentations/projects/discussions/etc. on those days
- grades 11, 12.... may have exams or presentations/etc. on those days
- this day will be part of the final 30% of the grade for the course

**4.'Communiy Action Network Plan – 'Substance Prevention' Session (as mentioned at last mtg.)**

- was held at the Sr. Centre on Oct. 12; discussed youth addiction, stats... and the 'icelandic model'
- M. Moore and Angeleta Henry attended (incorporate pamphlets? Mr. Moore has copies)
- Here there was discussion about curfew for hang outs and opportunities for substance abuse
- Icelandic model was introduced which shows how drug use was reduced from 62% to 9% by things like access to support programs, talking to kids, gyms for kids to play and get active like a community centre.

**5. Parent-Teacher Interviews**

- Tuesday, October 17 5:00-7:00pm
- Mr. Moore mentioned this was well organized overall and wonderful to see big numbers in attendance
- Booking appointments rather than a gap of time was discussed and it was decided to leave current method in place with a few minor adjustments.
  
- does the Council have any feedback?
- There was some confusion about who should or shouldn't attend (student or no student), some delays and line ups.

- Teachers can always reach out and communicate with parents and vice versa if unable to see that day.
- Table arrangement in cafeteria to be set up in linear fashion with spacing for lineups
- It was decided to be left up to parents to choose whether or not students attend

## 6. New Gym Bleachers

- tremendous expense... but a 25+ year investment
- took 4 workers + one electrician an entire week to install... *and they had to return on Nov. 13 to do more repairs!*
- Mr. Moore confirmed ongoing repairs are happening but we'll get there! Short term pain/long term gain

## 7. Supports for Students (Repeat from last mtg.)

- whatever the concern, whatever the issue, whatever the need – we have staff in the school students can talk to
- 60+ teachers + guidance counsellors (*Watson, Wadsworth, Wolfe*) + social worker (*Morris*) + Resource Teachers (*Cumberland, Littlejohn*) + Student Success Teacher (*MacMenamin*), + Administration (*Moore, McLean, Hodson*) + secretaries (*Coombes, Williams, Derrough, Turvey*)
- Mr. Moore reiterated the importance that students/parents reach out and communicate as per above to utilize these great resources and to help wherever possible in all aspects of student's lives.
- one skill we are continually working on is 'self-advocacy' for students; "we can only help if we know"
- Parents are expressing concern over students who still don't feel safe using the washrooms.
- A new proposed layout was discussed-more to come (open alcove or area with sinks/mirrors and individual closed in stalls (gender neutral))

## Discussion Items:

- M. Moore's Weekly Phone Messages to Parents/Guardians*
  - School Council's decision from last meeting was to have M. Moore call "when necessary"
  - Continue with this plan? Is information getting out?
  - Parent feedback is positive for phone messages with reference to the website for further details
  - It was decided to continue and that the set timeslot of 6-9PM is still good
- Traffic Situation Near Parkside*
  - *Parkside Drive has been paved... and we wait for official word that it is now 'open'*
  - *Will help with bus/car traffic – finally / now that we have 2 entry/exit points*
  - Was designed to be narrow like Talbot to calm traffic through residential area
  - *One-way traffic around the entire school has been good... but new signage would help.*
  - No lines and signage outdated – to review/discuss at next meeting/more to come
- Grade Nine parent feedback ('The Good, The Bad... and the Confusing')*
  - High school is different, Mr. Moore encouraged Council to send an email with parent feedback as gr. 9 parents
- School Entrances & School Safety*
  - Discussed leaving access points at all doors open or instill restrictions? (Like front and back stay open and all other doors are locked)
  - Discussed setting closing times like 9am
  - It was decided locking only some of the doors would not be effective
  - Access to scanning badges, will this be an option/the best option? Would be a massive undertaking but the most effective
  - Difficult to assess with changing times, sense of open community vs. school safety

- e) *Night Football ('The Good, The Bad... and Next Steps')*
  - Mr. Moore thought it was a great atmosphere, a great recruiting tool and fun for all ages
  - Police presence not mandated but will be in place for all night games to ensure proper supervision for high population (600+ people) and as a contingency plan to keep everyone safe
  
- f) *Course Selection for Next Year (Opens Jan 16 – details up on our website/Parkside Updates)*
  - *Process begins in December with Guidance class visits (Gr. 10, 11, then 9)*
  - *Actual course selection continues until late January*
  - *Course Codes to be discussed...(numbers will make a difference in if a course is offered-all years)*
  - *It is important to select in a timely manner, including electives to ensure you get your 1<sup>st</sup> choices*
  - *Please reach out to Guidance Dept. should you have any questions*
  
- g) *Student Dress Code (created and implemented last school year)*
  - *See handouts (insert copy provided by M. Moore)*
  - *Council has been asked to review/provide feedback if needed for next meeting*

### **Any Other Business?**

- A message is coming from Mr. Moore and faculty regarding rule reinforcement for conduct and expectations / things everyone should know by now
- Frequency change to Council meetings was discussed, voted in favour of monthly meetings held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed month/at 6pm in the Library, starting Jan 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- Fountain – has been checked
- Entrance to the parking lot – Signage needs improvement/to review further
- Parking – To be continued...ideas are percolating/to review further
- Football schedule – Have our home games earlier in season? Mr. Moore will speak to coaching staff/convenor
- Swim team is recruiting! Starts up in London; see Mrs. Wadsworth for more information