

Parkside School Council
Wednesday, February 21, 2024
6:00pm – Conference Room

AGENDA

1. Welcome/Attendance by Mr. Moore

2. Staff Report Amber Wadsworth (*Guidance Dept.*)
 - Just wrapped up the semester, still navigating the new system but progressing
 - Season change for athletics, there are a lot of staff and community coaches involved
 - Course changes are happening/last minute changes to align everything/it's important that that's done right/timetables out near end of June at earliest-before new school year at latest.
 - Christie Rose hockey tourney coming up – scholarship fund buyout
 - Mr. Moore expressed how many successful teams are doing very well, go PC!!!

3. Student Report Paige Balogh (*Student Council Rep.*)

Leadership & Student Council have been working hard since Nov-recap:

 - We had a great Remembrance Day assembly
 - Foodtopia was a success – funds went to each participating club and to charity
 - We had Spirit week / free hot chocolate / movie in caff / gingerbread house competition – did elf on the shelf
 - Holiday assembly went well - big turnout
 - Quarter auction – items on stage draw to win prizes – donated to charity
 - Play – two elementary school shows and 4 public shows and a great way to bring theatre back to the area, smaller cast than usual and Drama teacher actually wrote the script!
 - Gr. 8 open house with tables where you could visit your interests
 - Near exam times support was given to students
 - Prep for semi-formal Feb 15th – smash hit for theme 'Masquerade' almost all positive feedback – sold all 300 tickets plus there was a waiting list/chaperoning opened to parents with background check was new.
 - Spirit week done for colour houses again – homerooms who won got a prize
 - Crush for your crush did well
 - There's new spirit wear avail and on sale... link on school website
 - We celebrated Black History Month - A club ran weekly segments on black excellence (board run event was fantastic)

Upcoming:

 - Trivia day
 - Leprechaun elf on the shelf for St. Patrick's
 - Food truck
 - Working on a video for Senate
 - Spring Fling Dance in the works – smaller, fun and a less formal dance

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

5. 'Any other business'

Present: Moore, Wadsworth, Balogh (student rep.), Sonnenberg, Meyers, McCausland, Ferguson-McCaw (7)

Regrets: Melanie T. & Heather S. (Co-Chair), Jessica Lang

Adjourned: 7:10pm

*Principal's Report
School Council
February 21, 2024*

FROM LAST MEETING(S):

1. Final Evaluations

- went very well; over 98% attendance each day of evaluations; even higher when 'excused absences' are factored in
- Mr. Moore said the 1st day there were a lot less absences than expected (10 or so)

2. Supports for Students (repeated from last three meetings)

- 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 re-iterated the importance of speaking up
- one skill we are continually working on is 'self-advocacy' for students; "we can only help if we know"

3. Midterm Pass Rates

Grade 9 = 996/1097 = 91%
Grade 10 = 833/893 = 93%
Grade 11 = 766/855 = 90%
Grade 12 = 681/746 = 91%
OVERALL = 3276/3591 = 91%

Mr. Moore listed who doesn't count & removes these failures from data:

- if student moved
- if missed 70% of classes
- if you drop the course
- if doing credit recovery

When all these factors are considered true values are shown below:

FINAL SEMESTER ONE PASS RATES (*determined yesterday; Feb. 20*)

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Grade 9 = 1057/1093 = 97% | 36 failed <i>credits</i> |
| Grade 10 = 961/995 = 97% | 34 failed <i>credits</i> |
| Grade 11 = 805/850 = 95% | 44 failed <i>credits</i> |
| Grade 12 = 710/740 = 96% | 29 failed <i>credits</i> |
| Overall = 3535/3680 = 96% | 143 failed <i>credits</i> (down from 306 at midterm) |

-Mr. Moore advised that when teachers/staff talk about getting things handed in on time it made a very big difference in this case on our overall pass rates.

4. Locked School Doors

- At a 'safe schools' TVDSB presentation to all secondary VP and P on February 1, MM asked about "... *Board direction for secondary schools knowing that TVDSB elementary schools and Catholic schools at both levels lock their doors. Our School Council is asking for direction.*"
- The response was "... *we are looking into that discrepancy and I will get back to you once a decision has been made. Right now it is a school by school decision. We recognize how hard it would be to do with breaks, multiple doors, etc.*"
- Presentation from TVDSB staff at next Tuesday's Secondary Principal meeting should give more info.
- Mr. Moore will be addressing this at this upcoming meeting

5. Grade Nine Registration for next year

- **REMINDER:** If student attends *Southwold, New Sarum, Kettle Creek, John Wise, Elgin Court, Trudeau, Cote (7)* they can attend Parkside if they choose – with transportation.
- If student attends any other Elgin school, they are considered 'out of area' and must complete the corresponding paperwork. All depends on their local address...
- "It has been this way for over a decade. This is not a new plan and is not a surprise"
- **UPDATE:** a record high number of '*in area*' students want to attend PCI for grade 9 and have been registered with us
- so many 'out of area' students and families want to come to PCI for grade 9, the TVDSB decided that a lottery would take place to determine who would be registered at PCI for next year for grade 9 (*like other schools in London*) and who would have to attend their home school.
- The school OTG capacity is 984 FTE.... which translates into about 1100 *bodies*
- Mr. Moore is proud to see there is so much interest in our school however there is only so much that can be done in terms of creating learning space.
- The lottery has been completed (*without M. Moore*) and all families have been notified.
- Mr. Moore empathizes with so many potential students that it will get more difficult to get in at PCI over time as our population grows in St. Thomas and area.
- Decisions are final... but recognize that other families move, change their minds, etc. and then we will contact people on the basis of the TVDSB established 'waiting list'.

UPDATES:

A) Washroom message home to parents last week (40)

- After discussions with this Council, 25+ conversations with the individual students, detentions, and vandalism in a boys' washroom, Admin. sent a special message to the parents of 40 male students
- Email to parent & student + my phone message home were the same
- Theme was: "despite several announcements and phone calls, your son refuses to leave the washroom so others can use it in private; discussion has not worked, direction has not worked, detentions have not worked... so the next step will be suspension. Please talk to your child."
- Parents who have called were "shocked" and supported the school's (and School Council') stance on washroom use
- Slight improvement after 5 days... along with 4 suspensions
- Mr. Moore and staff have been working very hard at getting these students to cooperate.

B) Carnaval (Friday, Feb. 16)

- Over 110 students from Cote & Trudeau attended PCI for the day
- Activities with staff and students from PCI
- Congrats to D. Dlouhy and his team

C) Classes For Next Year

- M. Moore will get the number of students who have signed up for each course prior to the March Break (approx. 2 weeks from now)
- *EXAMPLE:* CHC2D1 (Class Cap of 29) = 212 students selected it = 7.3 classes (!)
- *EXAMPLE:* MCV4U1 (Class Cap of 31) = 68 students selected it = 2.2 classes (!)
- Multiplied by every course in the school = Our total number of required lines
- TVDSB Committee reviews our request and makes recommendation to 'Staffing'
- 'Staffing' then gives me our allocation on April 9... then it is decision time!

D) CMHA Guest Speaker (for parents/guardians)

- On an evening this spring; for all secondary schools
- Other details? Thoughts?
- We will wait until Heather Snow can elaborate...

E) Commencement

- In keeping with 50+ years of tradition... and to align with AVSS and CECI plans... and to have all awards, scholarships, diplomas determined for families and students = fall date
- Tuesday, October 15 at 7pm (the Tuesday after Thanksgiving) when most Universities have reading week and when most students could still be home for the holidays
- This results in an increase in attendance which solves the biggest issue for others to attend

F) Upcoming dates:

- March 5 'At-Risk' reports will be sent home
- March 7 Parent-Teacher Interviews (4:30-6:30 = new time!)
- March 9 to March 17 is March Break
- Wednesday, March 20 is next **School Council Meeting**
- March 29 and April 1 is Easter Weekend
- April 8 (Monday) is PD Day (changed from April 19 due to the Solar Eclipse)

ANY OTHER BUSINESS?

- Paige asked if students have anything they'd like student council or leadership to do for them?
- For next parent-teacher night = Line ups for tables or signage to indicate where to wait (Mrs. Wadsworth and Mr. Moore will sort out)
- Who will fill in for Paige on student council? Media communications students will takeover for video announcements of social media / doing small segments for clubs etc...