

Parent Council Meeting Minutes Oct. 13, 2016

Introductions- welcome to all new members. 18 members were in attendance. Our next meeting will be at the end of November.

Role of Parent Council- Communication between school and parents, allows the school to communicate upcoming events, parents can bring questions and ideas for discussion, and at times the school will seek out parent input for proposed changes.

Election Process and PC Roles- We need to elect a Parent Council Secretary and Chair. The role of secretary involves taking minutes during our Parent Council Meetings. The role of Chair involves representing the committee, setting the agenda along with the principal, etc. If you are interested, please let Tammy know. If more than one candidate steps forward, we will move to an election for each role.

Principal's Report

School Snapshot

- Enrollment is up from the projected numbers
- Pathways- English Language Learner Site for St. Catharines, Specialized School to Community, Specialized School to Work Site for St. Catharines. All course levels offered.
- We also host a BRIDGE Alternative Pathway Classroom, 2 Pathstone Mental Health Classrooms, and the Education Foundation of Niagara.
- SHSM- Manufacturing, Arts and Culture, Hospitality and Tourism, and Information Technology

School Budget- Budget allotted by the Board based on # of students and program enrollment.

This budget has increased this year

Operating Budget- \$150,000 for 2016-17 which includes costs like supply teachers, photocopying, repairs, textbooks, etc.

School Cash- Money collected from activity fees, fundraisers, and trips fees.

Any money collected from programs within the school, goes back to fund that program.

Communication- We have a Twitter Account! If you download the DSBN app, you can follow Collegiate and you will receive any tweet that comes from the school @SCCSaints.

Concern from last year- how do we communicate all the great things happening at Collegiate, especially with our feeder schools. We have been given money from our superintendent to focus on the communication piece. As a result, we have hired our secretary to manage this, so she will be updating the website, Twitter, the school calendar, etc.

Feeder schools- D'Arcy is working on the marketing aspect of Collegiate with our feeder schools. In response, he began the 'I am Collegiate' campaign. This campaign celebrates Collegiate and all of the great things that we have to offer. As part of the marketing, posters and website content has been created to share with the public and our feeder schools. Looking to identify famous, former Collegiate Alum to highlight.

Monthly Newsletter- we have been sending out a monthly newsletter that is shared with feeder schools. Our newsletters will accompany our feeder school newsletters.

Festival Fringe, Scotland- \$105,000 was fundraised last year to send a group of our performing arts students to perform at the Festival Fringe in Edinburgh, Scotland this summer. Performing Arts Program Lead, Jaci Robinson, and Drama Teacher Brenna McAllister accompanied the students after our program was nominated along with only 2 other schools in Canada. A big thanks to all of our community partners who helped with the fundraising.

Student Voice Update- Holden Gauthier told us about some of the Student Voice events that have taken place since the start of school, including: Spirit Days, Student Voice Retreat, Grade 9 Retreat to Woodend, the school dance (free event for Grade 9s). Upcoming- Spirit Week in November. Student Voice meets once a week to plan for student events.

PC Question: How do students know about the events? Holden- events are announced on morning announcements, on the school website, and on the Student Voice Board. Suggestion from Tammy: Student Voice to go around to classes to make students aware of upcoming events.

PC Question: How many students are on Student Voice? Holden- about 30-35 students, with 25 who regularly show up to meetings. It is a really diverse group and the number of students involved is great.

Upcoming Events:

-Linda-Online Literacy will take place on the morning of October 20, 2016. This online test in October is a pilot from the Ministry as to the viability of offering the test online. In March the regular booklet test will still take place. October 10th's test will be a regular school day for the rest of the school. Benefits: if students pass October's test, they don't have to write in March, if they aren't, then they can write again in March without penalty so that we can focus our attention on supporting them

-November 2, 2016- Take Your Kids to Work- all Grade 9s will be attending work with a parent,

-Grade 8 Days will be on November 2 and 8th. We will host all potential grade 8 students on those days and introduce them to all the great things that Collegiate has to offer.

-Grade 8 Open House is on November 28, 2016- the theme for this year is #IGotThis!

-December 15, 2016- is the Winter Concert

Literacy and Numeracy

Literacy results from last year- 52% of first time writers were successful. This is good given the work to rule last year and the condensed supports for students as a result. This year we have targeted practice opportunities with the online version and more supports for students with IEPs as a result. We will be interested with this year's result given the tech savviness of our students.

Numeracy- The Ministry's Renewed Math Strategy funding to focus on improving Numeracy scores across the province has allowed us to hire a teacher to come in and work with student's struggling to meet the provincial standard in math through targeted interventions. Jen Ashbury will be working everyday with Gr. 9 and 10 classes to support students. We also have funding to host an After Hours Numeracy program at lunch for students who need help in Math. EQAO Results- 74% of last year's Grade 9 Academic students met the provincial standard and 31% of Applied students met the provincial standard.

School Focus and Initiatives

-We received extra funding to do targeted approaches to literacy all around

-DSBN Strategic Plan- iMatter. Tammy introduced and handed out the DSBN's 5-year strategic plan. The Collegiate staff have received and will continue to receive professional development on iMatter and building positive relationships with students.

-Parent Involvement Conference will take place on November 2, 2016 at Eden High School.

More information will be on the school website

-Chair- no nominations, so we will ask Julie our chair from last year to stand for chair this year

-Secretary- Lori Plumadore will be this year's secretary

Around the Table Q & A-

-Take Your Kids to Work- information will come out next week

-Cash Online- Collegiate will be moving to a cash online system. Parents can pay for registrations, trips, grad gear, etc. online. Rollout will be at the end of December.

-Fundraising for Scotland and upcoming interests- we are thinking about a New York trip in April. It would be geared towards Performing Arts students, then opened up. Fundraising comes from shows that we put on. Dec. 15- Winter Concert. May 25- Arts Showcase, and May 6- Vendor Fair

When will the communication initiative into effect? It will begin next week because we just received the funding. Suggestion- Student Voice and Yearbook could bring the information to the point person (secretary). This should include the promotion of sports and arts to get the community involved in the school

Is there a Prom Committee- not yet. Mrs. McGuchan usually starts that committee closer to the event.

Bleachers for school? Tammy will look into if funding this is possible.

Yearbooks- can we help to get students who can't afford yearbooks, yearbooks. To be put on next meeting's agenda.

Grape and Wine Parade- No, the focus will be on Santa Claus Parade

Horticulture- why don't the students have gloves. A- they are provided, but they choose not to wear them.

Bell Times- Oh Canada is sometimes played before 8:10am. T- the bells are set to one clock, but may not reflect all the clocks in the school

Jolene would like to be involved in Prom Committee