

Regular Meeting of Medway School Council

Monday October 1, 2018

Welcome and Call to Order: 7:03 pm

Attendance: 9 parents were in attendance including the chair and the secretary. Mr. Howard and Mrs. Farquharson were also present.

Agenda: Motion: to approve the agenda. (Bernice, Mr. Howard) Carried

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were circulated via email.

Motion: to approve the minutes as circulated (Bernice, Nancy) Carried

Election of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer

- Nancy Blackwell is willing to sit as chair.
- Tracy Loessin is willing to sit as secretary.

Motion: Until elections next year, combine the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. (Tracy, Nancy) Carried

- Chair and secretary-treasurer were elected by acclamation.
- It is hoped that a parent will step forward and take over the role of secretary-treasurer for the final meeting in May as Tracy's son is graduating.

Principal's Report - (Mr. Howard)

- There are 95 teachers this year.
- Counting EA's, custodial staff, office staff etc., there are 120-125 staff.
- With some reorganization at the TVDSB, we have a new superintendent - Rose Anne Kuiper. She is hoping to spend more time in the school given that the role is more streamlined.
- Medway continues to focus on Global Competencies – skills and abilities to face whatever comes down the road – transferrable skills. There are 6 from the ministry; Medway is focusing on 5 of them.
 - Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
 - Innovation, Creativity and Entrepreneurship
 - Learning to Learn – Self-Aware and Self-Directed Learning
 - Collaboration
 - Global Citizenship
- Each department is to look at 1 competency and then break it down into objectives.
- The ministry will have global competencies on the report card in the future.
- Students should be aware of what competency is being worked on in each class.
- Oct 26th PD day – Math focus for that day
- Athletic enhancement project started out 2 months behind start date, but it is almost caught up!!
 - The school will continue to have only ½ the front parking lot until the spring because the other half is being used for construction purposes.
 - The construction crew worked over the long weekend so that the school would have parking for the first week of school.
 - The construction company has been great to deal with.

- There will be asphalt around track and around the jumping pits, etc. There will be red synthetic rubber on the track and the pole-vaulting pit and steeple chase pit as well.
- Project cost is 1.5 Million at this point.
- The Lions are still fundraising to do the rubber around the jumping pits.
 - It was suggested that an email go out to parents to let them know the Lions are still fundraising for some final additions.
- The school is purchasing the score clock.
- They are seeding the field in successive layers of grass and sand to give it a natural turf finish that is very durable.
- The field and track will be open for next September.
- Track teams have been going to Western or Strathroy for practices, and Weldon Park for some running.
- Football teams are practicing on the soccer field and there's a lower field they can use.
- Girl's field hockey – Centennial or Commissioners and Highbury – bussed for each practice.
- All Football games are away games
- Courtyard:
 - There is a group of staff keen on rehabilitating the courtyard.
 - Some classes want to get in there and do some work as well.
- Lines in back lot are re-done and there are extra 4-6 spots available for staff.
- Volleyball and basketball are up and running.
- Gym door is currently broken but should be fixed in the next week.
- Medway is looking at co-operating with Lucas to have combined school dances potentially in the future. Many of the feeder schools for Medway and Lucas are the same, so many of the students know each other.

Guidance Report – (Mrs. Farquharson)

- New Website
 - Not all the content is updated – it's happening slowly.
 - Guidance tab – shows your student's counsellor, how to book an appointment, what guidance is doing with each grade
 - All forms sent home are available there
 - Grade 12's have a "remind" group they can subscribe to – to remind them of cap and gown, OSAP presentations, scholarship opportunities, etc.
 - Grade 12's should be registered for OUAP. Guidance will touch base with them again when they get their PIN's in November.
 - Post-secondary applications should be in by the end of December. Most are due mid/end January, but students get busy with finals, so it's best to do it earlier.
 - Once the website is all populated, a synervoice will go out to let parents know what's available there.
- Grade 10's and 11's should be researching post-secondary schools and programs.
- Individual Pathway Plans:
 - Grade 12 presentations have been done.
 - Grade 10's will be next, then 9, then 11
 - Must meet with students 2x/year to meet ministry requirement.
- First week after exam break – registration will begin, and they'll have 2 weeks to register.
- Nutrition Program:
 - Medway received a Healthy School Award for the program last year.
 - In the mornings there is a breakfast program – fruit, Tim Horton's muffins and bread products, cheese sticks

- Guidance will accept donations:
 - Packaged Dad's cookies, cheese strings, pure apple sauce, 100% real juice boxes, yogurt tubes
- OSNP supports the program and a woman's group in London provides gift cards to purchase food
- There was a hamburger lunch provided by the school on tractor day.
- Stats:
 - 1300 students are registered at Medway this year.
 - 275 on IEP's – 15% gifted students, 85% are students with disabilities
 - Guidance changed 538 schedules in the first week of school – various reasons, but guidance is looking why this is happening and how it can be mitigated in the future.
- Bringing the World to Medway:
 - Looking at the global competencies across various sectors
 - Some international students are even presenting.
 - Keynote speaker is from WE Organization – has biked across 5 continents.
 - Students can show up that day and join sessions at the last minute or do quiet work.
 - Common lunch period that day and food trucks on site. Students can purchase lunch.
- Upcoming:
 - November 5th: University Information Program – in the gym in the morning – all the Universities comes and set up booths
 - Upcoming Grade 8's:
 - Grade 8 Family Night – December 13th (snow day of the 19th)
 - Guidance Lead Teacher Grade 7/8 luncheon Friday Nov 23rd. (There is a GLT at each elementary school.)
 - Grade 8 tours will be 2 weeks after the luncheon.
 - Spirit week in December
 - June 13th is Commencement.
- All council meets once/month – each club sends a representative. Student representatives can coordinate amongst themselves and help each other with events. There is great cooperation going on at these meetings.

Financial Report

- Current Balance in Parent Involvement Account is \$500.
- There are expenses from Grade 9 night – approx. \$115 – that need to come out yet.
- Tracy is to check with Deb in the office regarding carry-forward funds.

New Business

- Goals for 2018/2019 School Council:
Mission Statement for School Council: The Medway School Council shall provide a forum for parents, educators, support staff, students, and the community to actively participate in the improvement of student achievement.

Motion to adopt 3 goals for council for the coming year:

- *Provide refreshments at Grade 8 & Grade 9 Parent Nights*
- *Host a PROgrant event to help prepare parents & students for the future.*
- *Actively recruit parents for council or PROgrant.*

(Bernice, Rebecca) Carried

- Review of Grade 9 Night
 - Nancy gave a short talk during the session with all parents.
 - 5 new parents are at the meeting because of the Grade 9 Night and Nancy's speech that night.
 - From registrations left on the tables, it looked like ½ the parents didn't attend.
 - Update the School Council tri-fold and have a sign-up sheet there for parents to indicate interest.
 - Supplies Used:
 - 2 bags of ice
 - Purchased 24 lemonade (12 pink and 12 lemon)
 - Used 16 – we limited the kids' access better than last year.
 - Cookies:
 - 8 dozen home made cookies (some were Rice Krispie squares)
 - 21 boxes of cookies of various flavors.
 - We policed the kids better than last year – could've used only 16.
 - Handy Supplies to bring:
 - a large pitcher to refill the water dispenser
 - another pitcher to mix the lemonade to add to the dispenser
 - T-Towels (there are never enough in the Guidance kitchen)
- Grade 8 Night, December 2018:
 - Dec 13th (snow day is the 19th)
 - It was decided through discussion to serve Hollandia cookies, punch, coffee, and to ask Foods students to bake cookies.
 - Bernice will get the cookies at Hollandia.
 - It was suggested that Nancy should speak to parents again to promote school council as she did at the Grade 9 night. She will arrange with admin.
 - We will figure out who can work at this event at the next meeting.

Motion to make up to \$250 available for supplies for the grade 8 night. (Tracy, Angela) Carried

- PROGrant Committee
 - Angela
 - Shannon
 - Rebecca
 - Deb (not present at this meeting)
 - Tracy
 - Nancy
- Letter Requesting Another Vice Principal
 - A parent contacted a trustee and she encouraged school council to write a letter to the Superintendent stating our position.
 - Other schools in the area of similar size have at least 2 VP's.
 - Admin pulls in guidance to help with the workload, and then guidance isn't as available to help the students.

- Admin is busy helping kids, and there's so much volume, they aren't getting into classrooms to support the 95+ teachers as they'd like.
- Admin is about supporting the learning agenda and currently they aren't able to focus on that as much as they'd like.
- Council would like to see admin in the classroom and engaging with kids.
- Shannon volunteered to help Nancy write the letter.
- The letter should go out within a week if possible.

Motion: School Council will send a letter to the Superintendent requesting a second VP for Medway.

(Tracy, Rebecca) Carried; Administrators abstained from the vote.

Next Council Meeting

- **Upcoming meeting dates:** Nov 26th, Jan 28th, May 13th 2019 @ 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Adjournment – *Motion to adjourn* (Nancy, Angela) Carried

Chair – Nancy Blackwell

Secretary-Treasurer – Tracy Loessin