

Regular Meeting of Medway School Council

Monday February 25, 2019

Welcome and Call to Order: 7:11 pm

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

Agenda: Motion: to approve the agenda. (Tracy, Ange) Carried

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were circulated via email.

Motion: to approve the minutes as circulated (Ange, Becky) Carried

Principal's Report - (Mr. Howard)

- Track and Field
 - Football posts are leaning heavily – they need to be fastened properly
 - Met with Lion's club – on pace to get everything done
 - Rubberized track and jumping pits will be installed in July
 - They've raised enough money to do the entire surface in rubber.
 - There will be an indoor donor wall by the weight room and an outdoor one as well – North end off the parking lot – there will be a gate with pillars and plaques on the pillars and a low brick wall with bricks recognizing donors
 - Sept. of 2020 will be a full opening of the entire field – needs a full year to properly germinate and settle in order to get the turf established.
 - School Council supports the track being named Roy Davis field – a student that excelled in track while he was at Medway.
 - Asked the board office to look at ownership of the barn in the back – currently belongs to Board Maintenance
 - Would be good to be able to store equipment – but needs some upgrades before students can go in there.
- New courses and programs offered next year:
 - Hockey academy – for grade 10 – ice time and dryland training will take place as part of school – Co-Ed
 - Working closely with Lucas to co-teach the course and reach appropriate skill levels.
 - International certificate
 - Developmental class added – brings to 5
 - ESL levels C D and E – comes with staff and extra lines to do that
 - Board is trying to decentralize the ESL at higher levels so that kids can attend their home schools
 - Work internship – experiential learning – grade 9 and 10
 - Medway is running low on space in the school to offer these extra classes. Will have to get creative with space utilization.
 - Medway is still taking out of area students.
 - The school is at 105% capacity – 1290. Currently sitting at a little over 1300
 - May have to reclaim the staff room as a classroom
- Exams were a bit of a challenge with all the bus cancellations
- Credit Accumulation:
 - Grade 9 - 98.5%
 - Grade 10 – 97%
 - Grade 11 – 98%
 - Grade 12 – 97%
 - Focus will be to move kids in the 50% - 60% range over the 70% line (provincial standard)

- Equipment:
 - New café tables have been added and more will be coming – students are using them to study and do some group work
 - Computers – Mr. N's computer lab is now fully updated
 - Class set of laptops has been purchased
 - Upgrading and adding to the surveillance cameras in the spring
- Vaping Issue:
 - Constable Howe is involved, London Middlesex Health Unit, and one student has been charged
 - Is getting a lot better than it was 2-3 months ago
 - New issues with kids adding THC to the vape liquid
- School improvement Team Retreat
 - School Goal – Improving student achievement at Medway
 - Has been centered around Core Competencies
 - thinking critically and problem solving has been distilled as the most important competency at Medway
 - Improve student's ability to acquire skills and analyze information to make informed decisions.
 - April 5th PD day:
 - staff will be looking at some strategies and some measurement tools to look at progress in this area
 - Also Medway has the honor of hosting Vietnamese educational agents that day. They are visiting 7-8 boards in ON, and Medway is the only school in TVDSB they are visiting. The choir will perform for them.
 - International students bring additional money as well as diversity to the student population.
- Semi Formal – Feb 28th
 - Ticket sales online are going well
 - Students can have it in the gym this year (previously in the cafeteria)
 - Constable Kevin How will be here as well as some security guards
- Staffing:
 - Some teachers on leave, some LTO's have been hired for the semester – 2 FT science, 1 line of French, 2 in Math, and 1 in Autobody Tech
- Mid October next year will be “Bring the World to Medway” day.
 - A letter will go out to Medway parents seeking people who are willing to present.
 - Possibly acquiring a scheduling program to slate students into sessions.
 - Hopefully Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir will be able to come.
- “Empower Reading” program
 - Students work with a teacher to improve reading
 - Incredible results are showing from this program.
- School Council's Vice Principal request letter has been passed along to the Associate Director's desk
 - Sheer volume of tasks that are required of admin is too much for 2 administrators
- 3 wrestlers qualified for OFSA and 16 swimmers as well
- Rugby and track will be starting up soon

Guidance Report – (Mrs. Farquharson)

- Thank you to School Council for the grade 8 Family Night refreshments
 - Parents appreciate the friendly atmosphere
- Registration:
 - Guidance goes through every registration form to make sure pre-requisites are there, right number of courses are chosen, etc.
 - 3 days in June for last minute registrations, and then course changes last week of August and first week of September
 - Idea that might be pursued - Kids get preliminary schedules first week of June and major issues can be dealt with at that time.
 - Accurate numbers are critical for getting the proper staffing
- Progress reports after March break
- Guidance Tab on website – parents can see what presentations have been given to students
- 5th years have to sign a contract in order to return – basically stating what their reasons are for returning.
- Scholarships
 - Presentation was given to grade 12's
 - They can start applying anytime
 - Financial consideration form needs to be downloaded and printed and handed into guidance.
 - Deadline April 4th
- OSAP presentation on April 24th

Financial Report

- Current Balance in Parent Involvement Account is \$852.24. There is one outstanding expense for \$50.00.
- Parents Reaching Out Grant balance is \$1,000.00
- Parent Engagement balance is \$1,000.00

New Business

- Grade 8 Parent Night
 - Admin will reach out to see what parents want to know
 - Supply Notes:
 - Need recycle bins for the plastic cups
 - 24 lemonade cans were used, ran out 45 min before the end
 - Ran out of cups
 - Coffee was not a great seller (even with the decaf sign)
 - 6 boxes of cookies were used from Hollandia

- PROgrant Update

Dr. Russell - resiliency

Dr. Folino – mental wellness

April Laithwaite – internet and technology use

Motion – to use \$700 from the Parent Involvement Account to pay for this year's PROgrant night.

(Tracy,Becky) Carried

Next Council Meeting

- **Upcoming meeting date:** Monday, May 13th 2019 @ 7:00 p.m. in the library.

Adjournment – *Motion to adjourn* (Ange, Shannon) Carried

Chair – Nancy Blackwell

Secretary - Treasurer – Tracy Loessin