

Regular Meeting of Medway School Council Monday May 13, 2019

Welcome and Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Attendance: 5 parents were in attendance including the chair and the secretary-treasurer. Mr. Howard and Mrs. Farquharson were also in attendance.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes were circulated via email.

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

Principal's Report - (Mr. Howard)

- An additional VP is coming to Medway in the fall of 2019 – Nancy Howe – currently Head of Special Ed at East Elgin
- Kevin Howe (OPP officer assigned to Medway) was presented an Award of Distinction from the Board.
- Medway applied and was approved for extra support for grade 9's and grade 12's who are at risk. The teachers will have scheduled times to work with students one on one or in small group situations to receive extra support.
- Hiring:
 - round 2 of teacher-initiated transfers – there were several open jobs in this school
 - Leslie Smith and Diana Hughes will be returning from the Board Office
 - 3 developmental classes posted, one line of science and 4 lines of tech. Hiring is on-going for these positions.
 - Overall Medway is in good shape because it didn't lose any teachers because student numbers were up.
- Teachers have been embracing PD – more funding was just secured to further professional learning
- Retirements:
 - Kathy McNaughton in music
 - Eileen Daniel in English
 - The Music teacher from Laurier has been hired to replace Kathy.
- Sports Field project is stalled because of weather
- Parking lot needs to be done for fall – municipality has said that students are no longer able to park at Weldon starting in the fall.
- Courtyard:
 - Hunter Home and Gardens did a prof plan – for free
 - It will be a great outdoor space for kids – flowers and plant will bloom fall and spring – not in summer – when no one is here.

- Next year – classroom space is needed due to increase in numbers
 - Combine student success room and resource room – gets rid of the stigma between the 2 rooms, helps with supervision and teachers to work together
 - Co-Op will be taken from their classroom and use the library or the SST room
 - Computer labs will be shifted with Business classes. Net result is 2 extra classrooms available.
 - PE teachers are moving from the “storage closet” into the boys changeroom in the far hallway. Gives some storage back.
 - The barn out back doesn’t belong to the school – belongs to facility services –
 - Mr Howard has requested to have it given back to the school
 - engineer needs to asses safety so students can go in there
 - will allow for storage of equipment for outdoor sports in season.
- Parent inquiry about the Vaping / Smoking letter that went home to parents:
 - With vaping, lung damage results from the oil inhaled into the lungs
 - The concentration of nicotine in the vape “juice’ is not regulated, so many kids are vaping more potent nicotine concentrations than if they were smoking.
 - Other kids don’t feel safe in the washrooms
 - Medway is leading the way on this issue
 - Mr. Howard hosted a round table discussion with many stakeholders from the board and from the community (public health, law enforcement, facilities, etc.)
 - Health and Safety and Facilities are looking at special sensors to detect vapors
 - signals a cell phone where the vaping is happening
 - Medway will pilot these devises for the board
 - Ms. Seifert and Mr. Howard are enforcing as follows:
 - If you are caught vaping on school property – suspended for 3 days – automatically.
 - Paperwork gets sent to tobacco enforcement – option to charge or educate said student
 - in lieu of a ticket, student has to meet with the school nurse to talk about cessation techniques or to establish another caring adult to talk to them about what might be going on.
 - There has not been a single repeat offender who has been handled this way
 - Discipline, enforcement, education and the facilities piece seem to be working so far – the problem is getting less and less
 - Constable Kevin Howe and Mr. Howard have spoken to every grade 10 PE class about marijuana and vape
 - It is a huge issue across the Board

Guidance Report – (Mrs. Farquharson)

- Thank you to School Council for the work they did in pushing the board for a second VP for Medway.
- Every week the admin team meets to talk about specific kids in the school and how to support them.
- Parents are emailing teachers telling them they have “dropped the worry ball” on their kids so that they will no longer be in charge of their kid’s academic success.

- Schedule is being built right now
 - ahead of schedule compared to other years
 - schedule is tight and there won't be much room to move around.
 - Next step is to slate kids into the timetable.
 - Kids with conflicts will be dealt with next.
 - Students with IEP's need to have their schedules looked at
 - Hopefully schedules will be available to kids first week of June (i.e. what classes are in each semester) – changes not made until August / September
 - No new registrations until August
- Commencement June 13th at the school
- Bring World to Medway will be held again next year – Thursday, October 13th
 - Call going out to parents looking for parents with interesting careers that could present about their pathway leading to that career.
 - Mrs. Farquharson knows someone who does conference registrations that could look after the registration for the event at a discounted price
 - Waiting to hear about funding for this service
- New Guidance website –
 - looking for feedback on the design and format
 - an area for kids to sign up for events they might be interested in attending
 - looking for grade 11 and 12 feedback on certain sessions around graduation, scholarships, and post-secondary
- School Nurse and Resource officer will be meeting with the grade 12's about "spring safety" this week because prom is on Thursday night.

Financial Report

- Current Balance in Parent Involvement Account is **approximately** \$600.00. Many expenses from PROgrant night have yet to be processed, so the exact balance is hard to determine at this point.

Motion – to set aside the remainder of this year's parent involvement funds to pay for the grade 9 orientation night in the fall, and the Grade 8 night in December. (Tracy, Deb) Carried

New Business

- PROgrant Assessment and Feedback
 - Feedback for PROgrant night was shared and input received for submission in follow-up to this year's grant.

- Letter about educational cutbacks
 - A parent shared a letter from West End Parents for Public Education that can be modified and sent to the Ford government expressing concerns about the cuts to public education.

Motion to send letter from West End Parents for Public Education on behalf of School Council in protest of Education Cuts made by the Ford government – (Deb, Shannon) Carried

- Letter will be sent by Ange

- Grade 9 night
 - Thursday September 19th, 2019
 - School council will be involved in the following ways:
 - Providing grocery store boxed-cookies, lemonade, water
 - school council display
 - The chair speaks to parents – informing them about council and inviting them to attend.

Motion – to make up to \$300 available to purchase supplies for the grade 9 orientation evening. (Tracy, Deb) Carried

- Secretary for the fall meeting
 - Tracy will no longer have a student attending Medway
 - Shannon will be secretary for the first meeting in the fall so that Tracy does not have to return for that meeting.

Next Council Meeting

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

Adjournment – *Motion to adjourn* (Ange) Carried

Chair – Nancy Blackwell

Secretary - Treasurer – Tracy Loessin