

Huron Heights Secondary School

November 20, 2023 at 7 pm

Welcome and Call to Order

Principal Erik Gordon and Staff Representative Chris Cluff

- Erik noted that the cyber attack on YRDSB has meant email is not working yet

Introductions

Erik spoke of holiday hampers. They are starting up. Last year there were 40 holiday hampers given out to HHSS families. We accept donations on school cash online.

There are 2 letters available. One accepts any amount on school cash online and you get a tax receipt immediately and there are also letters to businesses encouraging donations.

Student Council update - not present

Drama council update:

- Broadway cafe (aka theatre karaoke fundraiser) to enter you had to bring a non-perishable food donation for the school
- school play in December - A Christmas Carole - the Visual Art Department is involved as well as the theatre group and the choir. They are selling ornaments at the event. The show is December 14th at 7 pm, December 15th at 7pm and December 16th at 2 pm. December 12th and 13th are student buy-in shows. All kids are welcome to participate regardless of whether they are in the Arts Program.
- Next semester - “the Fringe” student run performance
- The Theatre Program is selling chocolates as a fundraiser. This is underway.
- Pizza kit fundraiser will happen in time for Super Bowl.

Staff Reports

- HHSS Awesome. Chris Cluff gave a ppt presentation and mentioned he will continue to add to his presentations for each meeting.
- The Music Dept winter concert is December 20th. Tickets are available on School Cash Online
- Chris reached out to staff. Mr. Cameron posts on Instagram for anyone that wants to follow the music updates

- Food pantry is up and running now and donations of non-perishable food items are welcome (we already have a lot of Cheetos, ketchup and Mac and Cheese). We also take toiletries for men and women.
- Any questions feel free to reach out the Chris directly
Chris.Cluff@yrdsb.ca

Administration Reports

- Mental Health and Well-being
 - Erik advised there are many students with anxiety and isolation for many reasons but particularly political and social climate
 - Wellness Wednesday has been created to help with this. There are different events set up through lunch hour.
 - When in need it is common for students to reach out to a staff member to let them know that they are struggling and the staff brings the issue to administration for help.
 - Nicole reminded the group that last year some students wanted quiet areas. Erik mentioned there is a focus on the cafeteria for some small spaces. The White Hall is another opportunity. There is a lot of thinking happening and they are trying to figure out budget for it.
- Caring & Safe Schools
 - Vaping and Washrooms.
 - There is vaping in both male and female bathrooms and many students avoid using the washrooms at school
 - There was an ask for a safe bathroom - could someone monitor 2 bathrooms for those that aren't comfortable could use.
 - Parents are encouraged to speak to the Trustees so they voice this to the Board. Carolyn Butterworth and Pamela McCarthy are our Trustees
 - The majority of the board meetings are public and you can attend in person
 - Chris advised that Candace Moss, a principal at another school, took the approach of asking "What are the reasons that individuals are leaving class?" and then meeting with the students to discuss the reason/motivation.
 - Erik mentioned that he will invite staff to come together to discuss this issue. He is also going to connect with Aline Daniels at the Board to discuss being part of the Vape Detector pilot if it goes ahead.

School Council reports

- School Council Forum
 - Sarah attended the budget session and a mental health session. Margaret attended a Vaping session
 - There may be another one of these in the Spring so it was asked if we could sit with another SS to network and also to see the agenda in advance of the meeting. Erik took those away.
- Parent Teacher feedback
 - Feedback was positive from the group.
 - Erik asked if the time of 6 pm to 8 pm was good and the response was yes
 - Sarah suggested we give the staff food that night. There are 110 staff that attend.
 - Erik suggested cookies at the staff meeting on December 4th 4 pm might be a nice treat. We can source them from outside and home made is also ok but asked that they be peanut free.
- Reunion
 - 1964 was the first graduating class so this will be 60 years.
 - Erik suggested something go out in the school bulletin to see if there is interest.
- New Business
 - No new news on if/when the cafeteria might open
 - The question was asked if we could invite food trucks and the response was no. It would need to be a Board approved vendor and there isn't one
 - The contract is with a small organization and they are looking after a large section of the Board. Erik will try to find more information

Meeting adjourned