

MEETING MINUTES

HURON HEIGHTS SECONDARY SCHOOL

Date: November 18, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Meeting called to order by: Erik Gordon, Principal

IN ATTENDANCE

Erik (Principal), Nicole (Co-chair), Sarah (Co-Chair), Anne (Acting Secretary), Julie, Jennifer, Olivia (Student Council Rep.), Cathy, ?, ?

REPORTS

	Student Council Report - Olivia	
	SPCs	Student discount cards are taking up a lot of the council's time and energy right now. There has been concern over the delay. However, the cards will be on sale in the coming week in the cafeteria and they are advertising over the announcements and through social media.
ACTION: Olivia is to ask how Parent Council can assist with any of their initiatives	Holiday Showcase	The last week before school ends in December will be holiday week with a different theme each day of the week (eg. PJ day, holiday character day...). The last day will give students a break in the afternoon with crafts and different stations to attend. Auditions for the showcase are coming up where students will be asked to audition via video. The idea is to try to include as many students as possible, restricting only those that are not taking it seriously or who have shown inappropriate behaviour.
	Dance/Semi	The Dance that was to be in November was moved due to not enough time and the council is debating on whether to hold a winter dance in February or a semi that would include everyone. Julie asked if parents can chaperone a dance. Erik responded that parents could likely do that without a police check.

	Buy-Outs	Not facilitated by the student council, but rather by the Athletic or Drama department depending on the event.
	Best Buddies	Erik brought up the Best Buddies program which connects students with others in the special ed programs. There is a Krispy Kreme fundraiser currently to support the Best Buddy Prom.
	Clubs	Most clubs are acting internally and going very well. The Eco Club recently held a bake sale as a fundraiser.
	Staff Report – Heath Weir (absent)	
	Principal's Report – Erik Gordon	
	SIP	Erik went into a brief explanation of SIP (the School Improvement Plan) which has 3 components: 1) Building Community of which the buy-outs are an example; 2) Assessment and Education; and 3) Equity.
ACTION: Council is to update and/or approve profile	Principal Profile	The Principal profile must be drafted and currently updated by the community. The council agreed to check out the profile available online, provide any comments/updates/approval with a turnaround of Friday November 22 nd . A note that it is designed in accordance with the Ontario Leadership Framework.
	French Immersion Implementation	The school is preparing for about 90 Grade 9 students to start in the French Immersion program next September. This means that in another 4 years, the school population will have increased by about 300-400 students bringing it to a total of 1700 or 1800.
	Recent Incidents	Erik spoke to the recent incidents that occurred at the school when there was a reported threat to the school that took place on Tuesday Nov 5/24.
	Community Supports	<p>Erik wanted to reiterate that the school has several community supports in place beyond the regular guidance avenues: MOBYSS is a mobile mental health service that is available for students should they require; the Food Pantry in Room 311 is being organized by staff members Wright, Newman and Kendall.</p> <p>They are looking for Grab and Go snacks and breakfast food for students but also looking to expand the pantry to include items useful for a family.</p>
	School Council Report – Nicole and Sarah	

	Regional School Council Forum	<p>Nicole attended the breakout session on fundraising and didn't really learn anything new but was able to share some of the fundraising ideas that have been implemented at HHSS</p> <p>Sarah attended the session relating to Equity and access to English and other languages as well as connecting families for whom English isn't their first language. Awareness that many families aren't represented due to English as a barrier.</p> <p>The new portal offers translation of so much more information than ever before. York Region is actually the beta region for the portal so any feedback we can offer in terms of how it's working would be great.</p> <p>Erik attended Safe Schools – mobile devices and vaping. Not a new problem. He reported that at HHSS, many teachers may be relaxing their diligence with managing the mobile device restrictions but that it continues to go well overall. He reiterated that the expectation was that students have their device on them but they are turned off and remain out of sight unless otherwise directed by a teacher.</p>
	Together as One	<p>Very happy with the results, better than last year. 10 vendors and 10 trunk sales, 1 food truck. It happened on a Friday evening during football practice which seemed to be a good time (better than the previous year on Tuesday). It's a great event to support local vendors, and help students with volunteer hours.</p>
ACTION: Nicole and Sarah will inform us of ways that School Council can help	Holiday Hampers	<p>In the past HHSS hosted holiday dinners for the community but since Covid, Holiday Hampers filled with food, perishables, gifts, necessities and holiday items have been compiled and donated to needy families within the school community. Again this year, we are looking at putting together 25-30 hampers.</p> <p>Sarah and Nicole will liaise with the teachers VanderMeer and Walters, who are spearheading the initiative, to see if they need any assistance and how we can reach out to secure donations and customize the hampers for individual families. We will also be seeking volunteers to help put the hampers together.</p>
ACTION: Donations of money and/or treats and gifts are welcome. Nicole and Sarah to contact council	Teacher Appreciation	<p>The teacher appreciation event will be a more subdued affair with treats, coffee, etc. being available in the office during the morning of December 18th for teachers (96) and staff (19). We have raised \$50 so far but are looking for more donations and certainly assistance with putting it all together.</p>

about getting help.		
	New Business	
	Purdy's Chocolates	Fundraising for Drama department, pick up during Little Shop of Horrors.
ACTION: Email Ms. Wright with comments on weekly bulletin	Weekly Newsletters	Put together by staff and spearheaded by Alexandra Wright. She would welcome a note by email to let her know what a great job she and her team are doing.
	Donations	Just a note that donations can be made to Hampers, Teacher Appreciation or any school initiative through School Cash Online. There is an option for donation, be sure to put in the comments what the donation is intended for and any donation over \$25 will receive a tax receipt if desired.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held January 20th, 7pm, Library
Meeting was adjourned 8:20PM