

HHSS School Council September 18, 2023

Introductions

Erik Gordon, Principal and Alexandra Wright, Vice-Principal kicked off the introductions. Each attendee introduced themselves and the grade of their student.

Erik asked if anyone was interested in taking a role on the School council. Tim Greenwood spoke of his experience last year. Nominations were put forward and accepted by the meeting attendees and the nominees were elected as follows:

- Co Chairs: Nicole Meltzer and Sarah Carter
- Treasurer: Rick Wilson
- Secretary: Marg Orr

President of Student council, Omari Youssef spoke to the group and advised that this year there is a focus on time management and organization. Omari also mentioned the following upcoming events are in plan:

- Selling discount cards
- Semi-formal (November 2) Mill Run
- Spirit days
- Halloween booth
- Running music will be changing to Mission Impossible from the Lone Ranger, William Tell Overture. The significance of the change will be shared with the school at the time of the announcement on Truth and Reconciliation Day.

Staff Report

Erik provided the Staff report. The staff found the start of school last year to be frantic. This year has been a very positive start.

Tim Greenwood provided a School Council report from 2022/2023 school year. See attached.

Erik gave an update on the following Administration Reports

Improvement plan: This year 'Building Community' will be the key focus. The following events are in plan to kick off the year in support of the Improvement plan:

- grade 9 day
- Speaker next week: Wali Shah
- Future speakers may include: Dwayne Morgan; Glen Murray
- The administration is looking for opportunities to bring the students together (grades 9&10, 11&12). This may include a pep rally mid October
- Maybe fundraising can help support

Cafeteria - Compass was the company with the contract. There have been released and 2 companies have been hired by the board. Trios has been assigned to Huron. The opening date is TBD. The barriers to opening the cafeteria have included staffing, cleaning and bring the cafeteria up to meet the health code. Once these barriers have been addressed, microwaves will be purchased and available to students.

School Council Meetings

Erik asked the group if there is a more engaging venue for this meeting?

Action for all: share ideas about where else we could host future meetings

The idea was put forward about hosting a tour of the school for parents in advance of a meeting to encourage more parents to attend the meeting. Other suggestions raised by the group included:

- Host the event by grade so parents meet other parents that have kids in the same grade

Alexandra asked if members coming from grade 8 school councils like the idea for the H.H. council to meet with the grade 8 councils coming in

- Nicole liked the ideas and wants to expand it to non resident schools

HHSS Teacher Family Conference - Thursday, October 26, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Families are welcome to book time to meet the teachers.

The idea was put forward to set up a fair similar to the one Alexander Mackenzie High School hosts which invites everyone in the gym on the family conference night to say hi to the teachers. This could reduce the number of 1:1 conferences.

Extra-Curricular Programs

Erik asked the group to encourage extra curricular engagement as it makes it more fun for everyone.

There was discussion on how parents can find out about the timing of practices, etc.

The administration will encourage teachers to use teach assist for team engagement. Parents can also find information on the website and through the biweekly Warrior Bulletin.

Fundraising - the question was asked if we could get ahead of all the fundraising asks so we can avoid multiple asks at the same time. Erik will mention this at the teachers meeting.

There was a discussion about having a central fundraising team that then divides the funds and allocates to where it is needed most. This could be welcome if someone was interested in leading it but there was thought that some programs would still want to fundraise for their direct needs, e.g. the Theatre Program lost funding in recent years.

There was discussion about the Food bank depot in the school. The model and how to track who's accessing it is still TBD.

The question was asked if we can do a thrift store year round. It is hard to manage year round. The suggestion was put forward that maybe the school could be used when it of open Saturdays.

Start-up Forms

Erik will give the Board the Feedback that the email was confusing for parents. The links weren't opening the forms and it shouldn't be a requirement to log into the child's account.

New Business

There was a discussion about kids hanging out and vaping in the bathrooms which makes it uncomfortable for others to use them. Erik advised that there has been an effort to dissuade this behaviour and that there are penalties for vaping (fines and suspensions). Members of the student body are encouraged to report vaping if they see it.

Tim Greenwood mentioned there is an app called 'Quash - Quit Vaping' that helps people quit smoking or vaping and could be promoted at the school.

The Administration mentioned there will not be a yearbook this year and that it is not known if kids would want it or if the need have changed now that social media is so prominent with the students.

Next meeting - Monday, November 20, 2023

Meeting Adjourned