

King City Secondary School Council

Minutes

2015 February 12

1. Welcome and Meeting Start
David Cooper welcomed the members, and guest Julie Morris.
2. Approval of Agenda
Motion to approve agenda Whicher/Bocknek
Motion carried
3. Declaration of any conflicts of interest
None declared
4. Approval of the Minutes of previous meetings
Motion to approve minutes of 2014 November 20 Radell/Cooper
Motion carried
Motion to approve minutes of 2015 January 8 Radell/Cooper
Motion carried
5. Business arising from previous meetings
none

6. Student Council Report

Ms Benazzi reported that the Council had been busy this week selling individual roses (\$4), buttons, and bundles of roses (\$10). Council sold 200 roses. Members went to home rooms selling for \$2 with all money going to charity: either UNICEF Make a Wish; or Oxfam. Tomorrow is Spirit Day, with upcoming events like Kissing Day (with Hershey's kisses), Pink and White Day, etc.. Council is planning a New Spirit Day (A- Day) in between spring and winter. Planned events include mini sticks tournament at lunch and a Beavertail truck at lunch (Council will split profit with Beavertail truck). The Love Connection is not going forward after discussion with Student Council.

The Coffee House will be sponsored thru Student Council and President's Council, to try to include everyone. Mr. Dungey further discussed the Coffee House. It will be a celebration of the arts. April 16 is the tentative date. It is planned for the evening, and will be in the MPR. Students can come and do what ever they want to: guitar, art, poetry, monologues, comedy sketch, etc. Anyone is welcome, not just art/music students. Everyone would audition for "appropriateness" but want it to be as inclusive as possible. There will be a minimal charge with proceeds to a charity. April 16 was the best possible date, with the School Council perhaps to visit at end of our meeting. Right now, only current students would be performing, with alumni invited as guests. Bands would also be invited. Selling tickets before hand, to deal with seating...Mr. Cooper asked about pricing, but Ms Benazzi indicated that no price has been set yet. A price range of \$1-2 per person is being discussed.

7. Presentation on Student Success initiatives Julie Morris

Ms Morris is one of the members of the student success team, which includes Jeff Masterson and Wendy O' Quinn. Ms Morris and the team work with the school administration and Special Education. Mr. Masterson also coaches, and teaches Physical education.

Student success is not always linear. Often somewhat messy. The goal is for everyone to end in same place but they may take just different paths. Ms Morris displayed a quote by Michael Jordan to remind Council about the fallacy of expecting constant success:

"I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed." --- [Michael Jordan](#)

Failure is not the end of something, just one step in the path. The Pyramid of Intervention was designed to try to help every student be successful. Two examples are credit salvaging, and credit recovery.

Credit Salvaging: this occurs during the semester to help students reach their goal for a given course. The classroom teacher may make referrals for quiet space, one on one support, improved computer access, assignment and research assistance, and/or extra time for tests. Any at-risk student receives a referral from the teacher for assistance from the Success Team. The Success Team then looks for feedback from the student's other teachers, attendance tracking, and counseling. The Team also begins communication with and between student, home, and school. Academic support is offered during the school day, at lunch, or after school. If all those efforts are unsuccessful, then the student moves on to Credit Recovery.

Credit Recovery: this can take one of four forms: 2 week reinforcement summer school; differentiated summer school; after school credit recovery, or day school credit recovery. The intent is to allow the student to fulfill credit requirements without the need for another semester.

The Student Success Team also provides attendance and social/emotion support: at any time, a student is welcome to meet with a student success teacher to discuss difficulties in any of these areas. The additional support is for situations such as: returning from illness or injury; returning from alternate programming; or if a student is experiencing anxiety or and depression.

As well, the Student Success Team provides support for transition: ensuring students have a safe, smooth arrival to their time as a student in high school, as well as a purposeful exit strategy. This support takes several forms, starting in Grade 8:

- Take our kids to high school day (Nov);
- Elementary School Parent Information session (Nov-Dec);
- Course Selection/registration (Jan);
- Grade 8 open house/info night (Jan);
- Transition Learner Plans (May/June).

Transitions day -grade 9 only (Orientation Day for the grade 9 students on 1st day of school)
ROCKing Camp (Rookie Orientation Camp) 60 mentors (Grade 10-12 students) and 11 staff attend ROCKing. KCSS has the largest geographic area in York Region District School Board. The incoming students have very diverse experiences. The ROCKing trip is designed to provide the incoming Grade 9 student the opportunity for a little risk taking, a lot of communication, and a lot of trust. The camp provides canoeing and kayaking, a polar bear dip every morning, high ropes, team building exercises,

exam extravaganza, and workshops. The sessions are led by mentors and student success team members.

In January, Grade 9 students are offered workshops on exam prep: introduction on what to expect; strategies; reducing stress; and answer writing tips. There is also a MINI-ROC King reunion. OSOC mentors (our school, our community), work on anti-bullying, etc. The puzzle (40 feet long, created at ROCKing and displayed in the hall) is a constant reminder of what the student wanted to do.

As well there are a number of on-going strategies for all grades, such as the Grab 'n Go Program which served over 15,000 snacks in first semester!

Ms Morris then accepted questions from the Council members:

Cooper asked about the different types of summer school.

The type of summer school offered depends on why the failure, and result of meeting with administration and looking at the students progress during term. The credit recovery is for those students who need to pass a course but may not have extra time available in future timetables. The credit recovery programme is generally very successful. Cooper asked how successful those students have been in following courses. Dungey indicated that those statistics haven't been available. But if a student appears on the list more than once, they may be directed to further assessment, or other types of intervention.

Cooper suggested that not many parents are aware of this programme, and how extensive the effort is to salvage a course for a student. Meikle agreed that there is a great deal of effort on the part of the classroom teachers, the Success Team, and the administration. Dungey also reiterated that the issues involved may be very complex, and go far beyond the school: family, health, work, physical abilities, etc. Bocknek also indicated that ESL is becoming a bigger issue. Bocknek has one class that has almost 1/3 ESL students. Currently, the administration and classroom teachers are working with the Board on these issues. The teachers approached admin about the new programme which is to develop teaching strategies for ESL.

Ms Morris finished with a video created by one of the mentors who was asked to take pictures at camp.

8. Teacher Report

David Bocknek

Building upon his earlier comments, Mr. Bocknek indicated that ESL is becoming a bigger issue. Teachers are working to develop strategies for assisting the students as well as allowing better focus on the core curriculum. More information will be available in the future.

There was a snow day last week. Mr. Bocknek wanted to remind parents that when there is a snow day, or PD day, teachers are, in fact, working. Even in the event of a very bad snow day, if a teacher can't make it to KCSS, the teacher will attend the closest school to assist in what ever way possible. This happened to Mr. Bocknek who attended a school in his neighbourhood and was put on yard duty. The Board makes a decision on school closing early in the morning. The Board must project not only the weather from 6-8 am, but also from 2-4 in the afternoon. In all such situations, the safety of the students and staff must be the highest priority.

9. Co-chair report

David Cooper and Jim Streb

David Cooper asked the Council whether the group would want to have an outside speaker for next year. If so, that should be discussed at the next meeting to get things moving.

9.1 Regional Parent Symposium

The Board is holding a parent symposium on April 15. Each of the Councils are able to send four representatives to the evening's symposium. This year, Cooper and Streb will be attending along with Leslie Whicher and Patti McLaren. The Council representatives will participate in a keynote address and four breakout session. The attendees will report back to the Council following the symposium.

9.2 Radon testing

19% of homes tested had radon levels above suggested limits. Does Board have any policy on testing? Dungey indicated that he was not aware of any such programme. Cooper gave a brief overview of what it was and where it accumulated. Dungey indicated that he would pose the question to the H&S committee about it. Bob indicated that southern Ont. is not an area of high risk.

10. Administration Report

Tod Dungey

10.1 OSSLT - info and prep

Meikle indicated the the administration is working toward the literacy test. Teachers identify students that might be at risk. Each was invited individually as well as a blanket invite to all grade 10. The training session have two English language teachers plus two more teachers available. EQAO is supposed to be consistent from year to year, After 10 plus years of this consistency, the test is changing this year. Used to be two booklets, each 75 minutes. IEP students have twice the allotted time plus regular accommodations. This year there will be four booklets. Two question booklets, two answer booklets. This is the format that has been adopted in the math test already. Bocknek indicated that organization was a problem, but that the teachers did take a full period to prepare the students on how to organize the test. Security is a big issue, with Dungey's office being taken to guard the test. Next Tuesday and Wednesday, the school is holding a preparation assembly to show what the test will be like and explain the scoring, and now also explain the new process with two booklets. Also each grade 10 student will have 25 minutes on how to write a newspaper article. The teachers are trying to build literacy into all course work. Some students, e.g., ESL students, are still at too low a level. 97% of academic level students did well on literacy test. Also included is a graphic literacy component.

10.2 Student Attendance Procedures - adjustment

Schmidt is focussing on getting students into class. Analyzed course marks vs. attendance. If a student has more than 13 absences the score was below provincial average of 70%. Even arriving 10 minutes late means the student has missed the overall introduction. Accurate reflections are also important. Yesterday the school installed a new printer in the attendance office to print attendance reports. The new procedures will automate and update the records. Teachers will get status reports daily. Also make it easier to follow up on late arrivals, or students who don't make it to class after coming in late. The administration will communicate with parents the importance of being on time and at school. Tardiness is not a huge problem, but it does seem to be a consistent problem with some students and parents.

10.3 One Match - proposed clinic

Dungey approached the Council about a proposed stem cell swabbing event. The program, run by the Canadian Blood Services, is looking for stem cell or bone marrow donors. Board is not officially encouraging all students to participate, but asking each Council for opinions. Currently, there are 313,000 donors on the list. The programme is for individuals 17 years and older. In particular, the programme is looking looking for young male donors. The procedure is a do-it-yourself cheek swab. The swab is then sent to Canadian Blood Services. Testing takes 21 days. Following the testing, a letter is sent to the student. Once in the database, the individual is contacted if a they are a match for an individual in need of a donation. Wanted to bring it to KCSSC first. Also going to deal

with Student Council. What is the feeling of Council? After some discussion, it was generally agreed that this VOLUNTARY programme would be worth offering to students who want to participate, after informing parents.

10.4 Mental health

Dungey took all feedback from here, student council, and health team, to ask what a mentally healthy school community would look like. Schmidt took all responses and created a WordWall. With this, administration has determined a number of courses of action. One thing that came out clearly was creating a welcoming supporting environment. For example, consider physical environment. When entering a building, form an impression quickly based on first view; is the space clean, is it organized, do the colours look appealing, is the building inviting? Dungey is asking everyone to take a walk-around and look to see what you observe; what is welcoming, what isn't? Please forward any suggestions on improvements. Council members will forward observations to Streb who will compile and forward to Dungey.

10.5 Coffee house covered earlier

11. Meeting adjournment
Motion to adjourn meeting
Motion carried

Cunneyworth/Radell