Centennial Student Council Meeting —- Minutes—
Jan 26 2022

Attendees: Heidi Holmes, Harish Pawagi, Steve Sherlock, Amy LeRoij, Cindy Desbiens, Courtney Uniac, Julie Turner, Laura Cowley, Penelope Sisk, Waheeda F

Student update from 3 students online:

1. Students happy to have instruments this year.
2. Students were happy to be back in person, and seeing friends again in person; don't like cohorts but understand the rules
3. DPA - every other day, for a breath of fresh air, for 20 to 25 minutes.
4. Intramurals had started up in the fall which is great - classes can play against each other. Hope to get back to those
5. GSA and BSA and prayer clubs had started up again but are virtual again unfortunately
6. One of the portables is pretty cold
7. Students would like to have an event of some sort to acknowledge the Gr 8 transition/graduation

Principal's report:

1. Short term virtual learning concludes on feb 11, hoping to see all those kids back in person.
2. Cohorting and masking and excessive hand sanitizing remains de rigeur, hopefully will be able to lighten up on restrictions in the future
3. Term 2 starts on Jan 31st. Grades 7 and 8 switch from art to music and vice versa.
4. Term 1 report cards come home Feb 16. Parents are interested in parent-teacher interviews in order to feel less disconnected from the school.
5. February is Black History Month. They will hopefully book a guest speaker.
6. Parent teacher interviews are not allowed this year
7. Too premature yet to say whether grade 8 graduation will be online or if it can be in person. Students may have some ideas on a celebration that may not be so formal but can done outside within public health parameters
8. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, grade 8 trip again is not on the plate to be considered.

Teacher's Report:

- deferred

Intramural posters "unlearn murals"

1. There are 6 posters that will be put on the walls in the near future.

Treasurer role will be filled by Harish Pawagi.

Sound system update

1. Genesis Integration to install - huge 15 ft screen, two speakers, etc. Supply chain issues are postponing installation until March 2022.

WRAPSC update

1. Jan 11 2022 meeting - BEP Waterloo region is an organization that helps students find careers, they are seeking out volunteers.
2. Equity and inclusion presentation from school board representatives. Focus is on impact, not intent. Some attendees felt that few practical changes suggested for implementation. Possible agenda item at upcoming Centennial school council meeting. As a school council composed of volunteers it's more difficult to 'action' inclusivity since there is high turnover and there are so few of members as it stands. Cindy Desbiens is involved in the KCI student council and they have discussed this there as well. Laura May Lindo MPP presented at Franklin PS school council meeting last week that Heidi attended last week and she had suggested introducing the school council to other parents that should have a voice at the table.
3. There are some upcoming meetings (Feb) regarding destreaming of the curriculum, as well as meeting for other school council parents from senior schools.
4. For some schools, there is a lack of attendance at these meetings that is difficult to solve
5. School board may be able to help with parent engagement and actively engage as partners in education as per Ministry guidelines.
6. Increasing engagement at school council meetings should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

WEFI has sent out request for HEPA air filter donations

Not clear why Centennial absentee rate is not up on the region website. No one is sure why either - Steve and Julie will look into it.

School council funds:

1. Approximately 23K in the pot right now. 15K will be used for sound system. About 2K will be deducted from the murals.

A memorial tree will be planted from the WRDSB for the staff member that died suddenly in the fall. Steve to provide to Council a suggestion on how Council can support and acknowledge her life and contributions.

Communication from the school

1. With the advent of COVID there has been a huge disconnect in communication and parent-teacher interviews were canceled all around including this year. The PD days were moved to before school started in September. Teachers are actually not allowed to offer parent-teacher interviews due to union rules.

Final thoughts regarding using the remainder 6K in the fund:

1. Steve brought up trying to increase the mix of phys ed offerings - eg pickleball, curling, golf alternatives
2. He will ask the staff if there is anything parents can offer to improve the school experience for kids
3. Improvement to the school yard somehow so kids can enjoy it more during the year - ?new plantings, windbreaks, creative areas

Next meeting - February 23rd, question of March meeting (23rd) - yes most would attend