



NGDHS Parent Council

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 @ 6:30 pm
Virtual

Welcome and attendance - *Shahrzad Kandalajt*

Chris Bourne, Don Hickey, Katherine Culhane, Sebastian Yap, Troy Brien,
Angela Jones, Ann McNab, Colleen Fitzpatrick, Amie Ivany, Kole
Wollenschlager, Shahrzad Kandalajt, Jocelyn Grant

2. Acceptance of November 30, 2021 meeting minutes - *Shahrzad Kandalajt*

- correction of name: Amie Ivany

3. Acceptance of agenda - *Shahrzad Kandalajt*

- accepted, with correction of #4 being student council and #8 & #9 being instead of
#11 and #12 (just an ordering of items)

4. Student council:

Troy & Sebastian: new ideas a challenge due to lack of meetings (so difficult to
plan things.... lunch works best for everyone), but they are
talking with Mrs. MacKay and will start with Spirit days.

5. Principal's report (intermediate) - *Don Hickey*

- one week in, appreciates new school; Teachers are working hard; underlying
stressors of report cards mentioned, which are going home next Wednesday; he
finds it refreshing to be in a building like this.
- comes from Almonte area

6. Principal's report (secondary) – *Christopher Bourne*

- expressed appreciation for Brad O'Neil and the work he did
- has known Don for years (hired him years ago into a teaching job as a new teacher)
- changes: nice to have a common lunch & regular "buzz" in the school amongst staff
and students; things are beginning to feel normal again
- Sem 2 start up has gone extremely smooth. Chris had experience with it at NDDHS
and learned from mistakes there. Signs (15) are up, plus 2 digital signs and it's on
social media as well. Common lunch is working well with cafeteria & 2nd lunchroom
(50-60 students spaces there). Health guidelines state students eat with who they
normally hang out with. Students can also eat in halls (benches) and a large number
leave school property at lunch still. No concerns. Cafeteria is at a sustainable level.
-staff absences: occasional teachers are helping out on a daily basis due to absences
of staff Student absences: only 9 or 10 increased, which is very reasonable.
Rapid transmission not seen at the school. Vast majority of students are wearing
mask properly and taking proper precautions.

- grade 8 Virtual Open House Feb 17th over Teams from 6:30-7:30. More information to come. Guidance will take over things and it coincides when grade 8 sheets that go home for course selection (for grade 9).
- Semester 1: wrapping up quad 2. We are about 98.5% successful quad 2 and we hope to be over 99% success rate once credit recovery occurs. We offered about 1100 credits and had only ~1% not successful.
- results available now for the Literacy Test that written in the Fall. Any students not successful will have some targeted work done with them before the Spring (re)writing session. Prep will start in March. We have some leeway as to actual date of test
- Secondary report cards go home Feb 11th (this Friday)
- Extracurriculars: waiting on guidance w.r.t sports and clubs; OFSAA and EOSSAA has both been cancelled... further direction expected in a couple weeks, but we do anticipate sports starting up again
- waiting on word for exams this semester. (balancing value of exam vs. equality of quad 1...is it equitable?) Either way, most courses at the university level will have a final assessment of some sort (even if just a practice & not for marks). There is value in prepping for that if heading off to a post secondary level (eg. University)
- waiting to hear re. grad and prom as well. We can't get involved in prep/planning until we get official word (eg. Fundraising ... we would have to hold on to the money and it's complicated to use a reason outside of intended purpose if it doesn't proceed)
- we tentatively booked grad picture slots for grades 8 and 12 so we wouldn't get stuck without a slot. A lot more information coming soon once we get it (from the board level).
- student wellness: Dan McCrae (coming Thurs and next week) will be meeting with secondary students; Don & Chris know him from prior interactions; Dan is getting student voice- he already met with intermediates. He gathers data via a survey that addresses certain key questions (do they feel there is a caring adult in the building, do they see themselves represented in the curriculum (race, gender, sexuality), do students have choice & voice in how they demonstrate their knowledge in the classroom, what are social justice issues you want to know about and other questions more school specific?). He explains it in a simple way for students and then makes the data useful for the school. We then take that data and see where we can fill in the gaps.

- Amie Ivany mentioned her daughter's excitement about exams as she's never done that.
- Amie also mentioned the single lunch period. Chris mentioned it feels more realistic wrt what we are expecting students to do and act but he recognized all sides at the same time.

7. Discussion items:

- a. PROgrant update \$1000 so we are fine

- b. Workshop with Dr. Allyssa Scklar update- *Andrea Hossack*
 - ready to speak on "Helping your teens helping balance devices and life"
 - speaker ok with \$560 for her workshop

- will do a Zoom webinar for up to 500 people. She will send a link to Chris (who will forward it to everyone) so we can see who she is and what she will be doing. She has a pamphlet and some advertising (video promo for social media & school distribution networks).

-Shahzad brought forth the question of when it should happen (month of May?):

Chris said we're open if it doesn't conflict with an open house.

Once we know when parent council wants to do it, we'll send out invites (and Andrea is willing to contact her once we give a date).

Shahzad opened question up to parents for feedback. Amie spoke & mentioned that the certain time of day is important to consider (evening time?). She mentioned the hockey schedule might be a consideration. Chris suggested around April or May. Chris asked about day of week. Shahzad suggested 3 options and possibly the weekday of Thursday?? Chris mentioned to avoid Easter. Dates of April 21st and April 28th were decided on as 1st preference, and if not, May 5th)

c. Bursaries update

8. New business:

a. (none)

b.

c.

9. Adjournment of meeting

Next meetings tentatively scheduled for 6:30 pm on the following dates:

Tues, Apr 5, 2022

Tues, May 31, 2022