



## NGDHS Parent Council

**Tuesday, April 5, 2022 @ 6:30 pm**  
**Virtual**

1. Welcome and attendance - *Shahrzad Kandalajt*
  - *Andrea Innanen, Shahrzad Kandalajt, Donald Hickey, Katherine Culhane, Hiren Narsai Kole Wollenschlager, Jocelyn Grant, Ann McNab, Amie Ivany, Dan McRae,*
2. Acceptance of February 8, 2022 meeting minutes - *Shahrzad Kandalajt*
  - accepted
3. Acceptance of agenda - *Shahrzad Kandalajt*
  - accepted
4. Principal's report (intermediate) - *Don Hickey*
  - DH enjoying time at NGI, cohorting lifted in yard - & students really enjoying playing together (kids relieved),
  - clubs (nerd club on Tues & Thurs with Mr. Wilson has 25-30 students after school; Pride club on Friday with Ms. McHaffie, Track 'n field on Mon & Wed after school with D. Preston & C. LoBasso (just being active, not the track team. 50 students out last night)
  - In person open house tours will be up & going in May with leadership club with Mrs. Prosper; very successful Mar 3 (80 attendees) virtual presentation of the school. Many grade 7 & 8 teachers joined in. Well received by parents & community; video made and posted on social media class
  - Graduation in person Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> at 4pm (last day is Mon & Tues is PA day)
  - Gr 8 class trips being talked about
5. Principal's report (secondary) – *Christopher Bourne & Dan McRae*
  - Refreshing new energy with covid restrictions peeling back.
  - Student & staff absences are being dealt with – slight uptake but haven't had to cancel class (we are tight, though, but DH & KC doing a great juggling job! The board sent information out.)
  - **In-person** meetings returned....Parents watching sports again at school
  - **Sports:** Badminton, Track practice, soccer soon (B&G), baseball, softball, tennis, open gym at lunch & weight room after school, drumming for credit (performing at a couple festivals & board retirement celebrations)
  - **clubs:** student council, Our Voices, Nerd club
  - **new clubs:** Eco club and DISABILITIES club (student led)
  - **EQAO** started now. We've started 2<sup>nd</sup> write. All gr11 wrote (virtual) test and it was significantly shorter. Not the same challenge (not the length nor the difficulty but still

testing basic literacy skills). Great pass rate in gr11s. Some will have to rewrite but we only got a pass/fail (not how they did on each style of question), so we don't know exactly how they did on the types of questions; so some will rewrite & others not. 2 classes write in each long block (double period).

- **Graduation:** June 28<sup>th</sup> @10am in gym (PA day). 170 graduating students. We'll graduate in a double cohort (parent of A-M watch live and then switch after intermission so N-Z can watch their children). A secondary location will be available for parents to watch the rest of the ceremonies. Students stay in gym & see it all, but parents take turns according to surname.) This follows fire code regulations without restricting # adults that can come at a time. Live streaming it out will also happen so family can watch from home. Letters have gone out to local businesses for bursaries etc. There is a memo from the board that Chris is waiting on (will have it by end of week) and then Chris will send out more details in a letter to parents. We are adding some additional enhancements to this ceremony.
- **Prom:** Schools are not going to be associated with proms anymore. Community members can still put it on; parents' groups are taking it on (booked caterers, DJs, site etc.) We as a school will direct students to where to go (website) and direct them to the community person. All schools in our board will follow this general idea, although some differences exist for this year as different schools had varying levels of involvement. Chris working closely with family that is heading this. This information will be going out as soon as Chris receives the memo from the board.

Dan McRae: (Principal of Equity & Inclusion for UCDSB)

- "We all Belong" survey- all students in UCDSB will be asked to take part
- Survey to identify systemic barriers in our schools (some based on language, indigenous identity, socioeconomics & race)
- Currently we don't have data that identifies these barriers
- Survey is voluntary, but most effective if everyone responds
- We did a pilot project (99% of student responded at PPCI). Great response!
- Plan is to work with admin and find time where DM can talk with individual classrooms (if we know why we are doing things, then we'll set a time where students take survey. Students in computer labs, the email in inbox will provide permission. Students can answer as many or as few questions as you like. Knowing *a little* about students is better than knowing *nothing* at all.
- A range of accommodations (e.g., students that are non-verbal) ... parents have the option of completing the survey for said student....ESL accommodations will be provided as well. Data will be most effective the more we do it.
- Why: to improve our schools as we recognize there are barriers, but we need good data to support our decisions moving forward on how to address the barriers.
- Question from Amie: re reporting of results. Will there be follow up to communicate tangibly the results of survey? DM responded that info is downloaded and then a person (a position for an educational researcher has already been posted for a job in UCDSB, so we will try to bring someone in-house to do the work). A big task as there are 27000 students and several sets of data.... researcher must clean the data that doesn't quite fit, validate data to make sure it is all accurate, analyze data and then publish it). It will take a couple *years* and may look like a published document that technically isn't anonymous; however, researcher needs to adhere to "suppression threshold" .... if less than 15 students, then analyst must say "too few students reported so you can't tell which students are reporting."
- OCDSB and Limestone have both completed reporting.

- If you have a low response rate, it is not good data, and you end up with more questions! It isn't helpful data and stories are missed of some families, so it leaves more questions.... consequences of pandemic. We have decided to slow down to get a completeness of the data.
- Andrea suggested we, as members of parent council, spearhead asking ("push" people) as many people as possible "Did you do the survey?" to encourage others to complete it to have that personal connection to drive them to do it.
- Amie commented that she loves the life/work balance being displayed by Dan (happy to see this flexibility for PC participation)

## 6. Discussion items:

### Workshop with Dr. Allyssa Scklar - Andrea Hossack

- Started working on it in 2019.
- Guest (PhD doctor Allyssa Scklar has room for 500 people to join in a virtual workshop
- Runs a group called "Risk within Reason" and is not an alarmist (she's very practical)
- Workshop is "Are you worried about screen time" **April 28<sup>th</sup> @7pm** (Thursday)
- Chris leading from school and Andrea will hope the local radio station will do an advance interview
- Basically, practical suggestions for all ... for vulnerable teens (who's lives can be enhanced by technology) who may get into habits they can't break if life gets out of balance
- SK will welcome speaker; CB will be there. Intro short and then we'll get right to the speaker. We need a lot of participants, and we need "plants" (participants who are tasked asking specific questions – points that are relevant to our age groups and area).
- Andrea Innanen asked if there is one question that you'd like addressed.
- Chris B. pointed out that when people register, the questions can be submitted in advanced so we have the questions ahead and we can collate the questions. Also, if 500 people is a lot, are we thinking we want to open it up to feeder school parents or see what the registered from our school 1<sup>st</sup>? Andrea fully supports opening it up to feeder schools.... what about community (that doesn't even have direct connection to schools). If she has a good zoom membership, you can minimize threats but as soon as published link, it does open it up. Amie is in favour of opening it up to others. ...Chris suggested NDDHS
- SK pointed out registration will not be published for everyone. Link only sent out to those that register.
- Andrea to check with Alyssa to see details and inform us.
- Andrea asked if they would like to ask a question and be part of it. Chris will be there and talk with DH & KC about it too.
- Chris shared screen of what the registration looks like for webinar registration.
- Andrea asked about inviting students. Chris thought it was a great idea.

## 11. New business:

- a. Graduation grade 8 and 12 – see above.

12. **Adjournment of meeting.** Next meetings tentatively scheduled for 6:30 pm on the following dates: Tues, May 31, 2022