

NGDHS Parent Council

Tuesday Oct 4, 2022 @ 6:30 pm via TEAMS



1. Welcome and attendance - Shahrzad Kandalaft

- Shahrzad Kandalaft, Ann McNab, Chris Bourne, Ronda Clifton, Colleen Fitzpatrick, Emily Last, Leah Ward, Katherine Culhane, Amie Ivany, Geoff Hughes, L Drew, Lena Sadeghi, Jack Mehoff, MB Melody
- Don Hickey sent his regrets

2. Principal's report (Secondary) - Bourne Christopher

-Shahrzad was acclaimed to be chair again this year. Thank you! Nobody expressed any interest in any position.

- we are "back to normal" feeling of hustle/bustle

-gr /8 in caf and recess protocols; had a sickness blip but we are sensitive to this as this has been usual for the gr7/8. It has just been regular colds (no high number of COVID or anything).

-gr7 adjusting very well. 10 classes total plus a power up (Spec ed) program; 280 students on gr7 (3 classes core), 2 FI class, 2 gr

Madame Harvey & Madame Davidson (French) and McArthur (power up program)

-630 high school students

Overall, over 900 mark for population and just under 100 staff....courses are pretty well settled now.

Athletics & Clubs

- 2 clubs (PRIDE & NERD) on intermediate on weekly basis
- Int: X ctry (overall winners at the meet last week – yay!). St. Mike's "Turkey Trott" tomorrow.
- Camp Bonnefont for Gr 7s will happen at same time.
- High school: 1st open house (not the main incoming open house, just an open doors night. We will still have one in January for those picking courses. Some parents had never been in or met teachers so we opened doors. Attendance was fantastic. Very well received.
- Progress reports go home on Oct 17th and PT interviews will be in Caf at 5:30-7pm on Oct 20th
- Tutoring & Reach Ahead: Literacy is big push this year. "Right to Read" report gaps. We will not forget about numeracy, but literacy is big focus. Gr 7/8 we have had some assessments. We can see who is at grade level, who is needing help etc. We got an extra teacher for an hour a day where their only focus is literacy.
- After school credit courses for Empower program. It will help student with dyslexia. There is a criteria. It is a very expensive program. 1 teacher for a max of 8 students. We still need to hire people. It will be an hour after school every day (90 lessons). This gets them an ELS credit, which is a high school credit so they are already starting high school with a credit plus the benefits of the empower program. We will contact families in the next week or so. We will be one of the first schools doing this.
- African drumming starting – permission forms going home now. For gr7 and up.
- Tutoring supports will continue again this year. There are 3 secondary tutors. We need to post intermediate tutors again as we didn't get the staff needed there.
- **Secondary:** transportation still the biggest issue (cost and availability of buses; missed 1st football game last week due to IPM; struggling to get a bus for VB next week. Fees: \$65 starting point and then adjusting it with coach after this. We don't get funding from the Ministry so it comes out of the school budget.
- Xctry: both intermediate & secondary going well
- Football: we are now playing in the Ottawa league. We are one of the only high schools in Upper Canada that is still playing football. Arnprior is also playing in Ottawa league. St.

- Marks' beat us (played better and had more experience) but boys are enjoying it. Most games are closer (Barrhaven & Kanata)
- VB & BB are going too; Soccer for Int also going
- Clubs: NERD club, Our Voices club started back up
- Student council will attempt to have someone at our meetings.
 - Terry Fox run went well.
 - Looking at dates for Parent Council: Tues nights ... Nov 22nd, Feb 7th, April 4th, May 30th
 - Kimberly MacLeod asked if meetings are always on Tuesdays around 6:30. Answer: yes.
 - We will alternate between in person and online.

Dress Code

- Current dress code was shared from student handbook (will get emailed out).
- Wanted to keep inclusive language; judgement ultimately is left with the parents
- Last year there were big instances in dress code in media
- Free of profanity, underwear should not be visible, not revealing or inappropriate images
- Chris asks us to consider to add "students have the right to wear clothing needing to observe their religious beliefs." Multiple parents said they support that. Colleen Fitzpatrick, Leah Ward, Jack Mehoff, Shahrzad, etc.

4. Discussion items:

- Shahrzad: any news about the strike? Chris feels nobody wants interruptions for students

-Amie I: Academic awards later this month: gr10-12 students...notices have gone home to parents. We are separated in grades to ensure we have enough room in cafeteria. They will be coming later this month.

-Leah Ward: FB page is really great for news and coverage. Even schedules ... Chris will talk to Sharron about this (she has been delegated to work on FB);

-Kimberley MacLeod asked about Science fairs: Chris said yes. Regional science fair is what we are invited to (gr7/8). We do have a new push for real world learning. We have a teacher in gr7/8 Keith Kelsey to do this in every class and will be happening in the next week or so. Additionally, we have a big investment on technology (LASER cutter, 3D printer, sticker cutter in the lab and we have a few teachers that do this for fun. We have training coming up for them in the next week... see what STEM can do)

-Kimberley M commented re a trade Show to introduce gr10 & 11 to career opportunities and wanted to know if we could invite our students to this as well. Chris is in favour of inviting our students to this and mix the school populations for opportunities like this in the community. Women in the Trades were in the school today and we have no issues inviting St. Mike's too.

- Shahrzad asked if we are in need of any fundraising for transportation: Chris said it is a combo of both fees (it has come down from last year ... about \$600 a bus to Cornwall... but the real issue is a shortage. We talked to athletic dept about uniforms. Some are looking a bit ratty. We are looking at fundraising as an athletic dept for uniforms. Chris would like athletic dept to take it on. Athletics has talked about spaghetti dinner and cake auction for fundraising too.

OSLC: leadership conference (gr 11 & 12) for a weekend. This will happen in November. They will be doing Little Caesar's fundraising.

5. Adjournment of meeting

Next meetings to be Nov 22nd