

**NGDHS Parent Council**  
**Tuesday, November 22, 2022 @ 6:30 pm**  
**In Person**



1. Welcome and attendance - *Shahrzad Kandalajt*  
Attending: Ann McNab, Chris Bourne, Shahrzad Kandalajt, Colleen Fitzpatrick, Rhonda Clifton, Andrea Hossack, Kimberley MacLeod  
Regrets: Amy Ivany, Leah Ward and Don Hickey
2. Acceptance of October 4, 2022, meeting minutes
3. Acceptance of agenda - *Shahrzad Kandalajt*
4. Principal's report (intermediate) - *Don Hickey reported by Chris Bourne*
  - Student support - ELS 2.0 literacy classes (for students struggling with reading based on prior results and diagnostic). 16 students are put in courses that teach the Empower program. Runs after school & it gives them a high school credit to start HS.
  - After school tutoring for intermediates, reach out if you want tutoring for your child. Amy Zetting does Literacy & English; Ashley Swenson does Numeracy. Mme. Labosso & Mr. Preston have also been running sessions with their classes
  - Sports & club: Successful fall. Soccer & X-ctry went to UC cup. Girls soccer won. Boys went to semi finals. X-ctry was hit by sickness on meet day. They still did well but we had too many illnesses to contend for the banner
  - VB (G&B) and numerous teams for both. Regional tournament Dec 2
  - Intermediate Intramurals will start in next week or so. 30 min block carved out during lunch
  - PRIDE club, NERD club, KnightFit (30 attended 1<sup>st</sup> workout). It runs Fri until 3:30pm
  - Health & Wellness: social media issues.... We booked Paul Davis (who did a presentation at St. Mikes earlier this year) and very effective. Kids respond. Dec 14<sup>th</sup> for 2 school presentations that day in the gym (Grs 7-9, and Grs 10-12). We will have a parent night as well. This will act as a 1<sup>st</sup> step. We are noticing maturity gap (1-1.5 years behind) due to Covid so we have a huge uptake in social media issues. Will look at further workshops in the new year
  - Grade 8 grad is put on by teachers. There is a graduation ceremony and a dance. It is not to the same level as prom but there normally is a dance (either same day or day before...around the same time). More details to come.
5. Principal's report (secondary) - *Bourne Christopher*
  - Tutoring going on. Math, English, and Science. Drop in or referral. There are also ads that went out from the board and then the tutors reached out to families. Many students coming to take advantage.
  - Health & Wellness: social media issues but also, vaping has become a big issue in HS mainly ... Health Nurse will be coming in for presentations. Aware and working on issues in the bathrooms, recognizing that cold weather tends to increase people in the washroom. Students are very aware of the consequences and we have had a number of students even coming for help for the addiction.
  - We have single use bathrooms for some students that are not comfortable using public bathrooms. One boy's bathroom is presently closed (back) due to

vandalism.(broken toilet, mirrors taken, graffiti) When they re-open next week, it will be all fixed. Before opening it, Chris will go around talking about treating the bathroom properly.

- Musical drama (HS musical) for credit; we will be looking to get a 2<sup>nd</sup> teacher for that (40 students) and we'll have 2 options.
- African drumming (36 students) so we'll look to split this too.
- Clubs: Student Activities Club, Our Voices, dance club, nerd club
- Sports: Sr Girls BB (3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at EOSSAA). Sr Boys VB (ended up losing to Regi in Semi-Finals EOSSAA). X-ctry very successful with OFSAA. Football – 1<sup>st</sup> year playing in Ottawa league a great learning experience. A much better league (higher competition & closer travel); ski and snowboard club coming, details to come.
- Anti-discrimination training as a school: football team had an incident (bad behaviour from both sides). Two main issues with our students: a lot knew what was going on was offside but didn't know how to address it and many people said they only meant that comment towards the person I was mad at, not realizing that it hurt others as well. We put together a program that we'll roll out to the whole school. In the coming weeks, we'll work with football leaders, then we'll roll it out to rest of football team. The investigation helped us realize where we were and where we want to go. The boys involved wanted to be part of the solution as they didn't recognize how wrong their action was – a complete level of unawareness. We are excited about the buy-in from students that we've had. Two areas: music that students listen to and then what they see on Tick-tok (social media). They don't understand the racial undertones.
- PROM: School sanctioned proms have a list of things that have to happen. We had really good discussion with our grade 12 students. All gr12 students were called down to the caf and explained the difference between the 2 types of events. If school sanctioned, it would have been in the school. The group wanted more of a wedding venue about 40 min away. Over 75% of students who responded to the survey wanted a non-school sanctioned. We can't advertise directly but we can inform students/parents where to get the information, let them know of major fundraisers etc., but we can't be involved directly. Fundraisers already started. Each year we will have students decide. We'll send them a survey (we had ~50% response, which was expected). We had some parents come forward saying they wanted to take it on. They have to have police and a certain number of chaperones. Group is really taking it seriously and there is an Instagram page already set up. Students were directed to that Instagram page and we will send out communications through the board channel to parents that they need to go look there.
- Kim asked if school sanctioned events must happen in the school, Chris responded no, it is not a must, but more a recommendation for a few different reasons
- Colleen asked if we could do a mock-up of what the café could look like for future years; Chris suggested we could look at some of our media arts students creating one if they are interested.
- We are looking at Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> being a semi-formal dance (Link crew & student council taking it on) to help students see what the facilities could look like.
- Leadership class came back all pumped up and had a successful trip. We have already paid our fee for next year.

## 6. Discussion items:

### a. Fundraising Idea (If needed)

- athletics working on ideas to raise some funds to replace jerseys.
- busing is a struggle still. It is a little better but still \$600-\$700 to get to Brockville. All our ministry transportation funding is gone and we are in November.
- No action needed by council at this point

b. Liam's mom found a sheet about a field trip to EY centre for Trades ("PowerUp") She asked if it was open to everyone. Announcements were made but unfortunately there was limited space. Gretchin Bimm (HS) going with Keith Kelsey (Intermediates) tomorrow. It is a full day of events. School has a slot from 9:45-11:45, open to everyone that is in the trades. First come, 1<sup>st</sup> served for busing but parents can drive up. We are working on a way to get announcements out. We have a new TV and waiting on programming so they'll scroll on a loop. We are working on some other forms of communication.

c. Progress reports went home a month ago. Midterm reports go out this Thursday for high school. Intermediates went out last week.

d. Both Boys' BB teams are being coached by Sean Kelly.

e. Sickneses is at ~20-25%. Staff about the same (especially if it is their kids). It isn't all Covid that we are aware of but the mixture of colds/flu/RSV and Covid going around. We need to notify the health unit if it reaches 30%.

## 7. New business:

a. pro- grant – it is being presented on December 6<sup>th</sup>, details will be shared as soon as they are received.

## 8. Adjournment of meeting at 7:30

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

Tues, Feb. 7, 2023 (Virtual)

Tues, April 4, 2023 (In person)

Tues, May 30, 2023 (Virtual)