

Nepean High School School Council Meeting - Final Minutes Tuesday 20 April 2010

Present:

- Teachers/staff: Rene Bibaud, Chris Goodsir, Jean Fulton-Hale, Tracy Shapiro
- School council executive: Barb Mitchell, Laura Davis, Paula Roy, Sinjin Dixon-Luinenberg, Gilles Mayost, Becky Judges, Neil Knudsen, Lynne Oreck Weiner
- Total present: 20

1. **Call to order, introductions and welcome:** 7:05 pm

2. **Approval of agenda** – m/s NK, CW

3. **Approval of 23 March Minutes** – SD-L, CW

4. **Teacher Rep (Chris Goodsir)**

- Stratford trip 7/8 October: still spots available; cost if book before 30 April: \$295, after 30 April: \$330. Checks to Ms. Meldrum. Students will see “Evita”, “Kiss me Kate” and “As You Like It”. Students who attended last year really enjoyed the trip.
- Claudette Phillips and her Living and Working with Children class worked with young children at the Public Library. Attended story time for 2-4 year olds, and lecture on early literacy. Made up ABC books, laminated them and donated them back to the library
- Phys Ed students involved with SAIL program (Student Athletics Inspiring Leadership), visiting elementary schools to deliver motivational talks about benefits of athletic involvement
- English classes saw “Clash of the Titans”
- History classes going to see Diefenbunker
- One grade 10 history class going to the Holocaust museum in Montreal 31 May.
- Career fair in the cafeteria 13 May.
- Summer school registration starting soon – online registration will make this easier
- Counsellors have results from grade 11 Jackson vocational testing – will meet with students individually and suggest changes to timetables if warranted
- Mr. Tenthorey – Mission Employable
- French class – attending theatre presentation of “Rage” 27 May.
- AP exams 3-11 May
- A number of student teachers are currently working with NHS staff
- Musical “A Funny Thing Happened on The Way to the Forum” 5-7 May, dinner and theatre 5 May, Cappies 5 May. Food needed for the Cappies judges. Please contact Barb Mitchell if you can donate baking etc.
- May 27 and June 3 – Music nights
- CORE students running leadership symposium for 260 elementary students April 21 and also on April 29 at WE Gowling
- Chamber choir received gold at Kiwanis competition today
- Hip Hop team won 1st and 3rd places in their competition

5. **Treasurer’s Report (Sinjin Dixon-Luinenberg)**

- Taxes being prepared, \$1000 PRO grant received and deposited, \$55 donation from Ottawa Jewish Community Foundation. Still have a number of NHS bags which need to be sold.

6. **Principal’s report (Rene Bibaud)**

- In addition for “Forum” presentations 5,6,7th May, students will perform a ‘teaser’ for the feeder schools 4 May at 12:30.
- 27 May – hosting grade 8s from feeder schools for “Navigation Nepean” – coming to various classrooms. Feedback last year was very positive – helped decrease tension for the incoming kids
- Course allocation and staffing being considered for next year – can’t run every course that is requested, but must consider academic pathway for all students, including for those in certificate programs (environmental studies, French immersion)

- 19 students currently registered in Environmental program – one student will graduate with certificate this year. Kids from outside school have requesting transfers so that they can obtain certificate. Strategies for accommodating these students are being considered.
- Transfer requests and appeals keeping staff busy
- Planning ahead for Celebration of Excellence for the fall. Some changes will be made to improve ceremony, including more types of awards being offered.
- Graduation – 250 graduates this year, 24 June at 10:30 am at Centrepointe Theatre. Office staff busy preparing packages, diplomas, etc. Hope, at some point, to be able to host graduation ceremonies at NHS, but graduating classes are currently too large.
- CBC News came and interviewed music teachers and some students and aired short segment on evening news
- School improvement plan – how can we look at two smart goals and implement them school wide. 65 administrators from NHS, Ridgemount, Canterbury etc. – comparing goals, strategies, student involvement, etc. Two year plan – two areas that will be worked on
 - Portfolio – “log of their lives” – students will start these in grade 9 and 10 and will summarized volunteering, academic goals, professional goals. Like a resume. Great way for teachers to connect with students. Easier to help students if we know them better.
 - Learning skills – reinforced in all subject areas. Results from CATT testing, learning interest inventory – these will go in portfolio. Will be useful for parent/teacher interviews
- Unfortunate incident in NHS washroom. Police investigation still underway. Incident occurred early in morning – teachers, administrators and custodial staff were present in school at the time. Fortunately, the student was not physically injured and was back at school the next day. The incident was dealt with immediately: student calmed, police summoned, police arrived and cleared the school, other schools notified, etc. We are a very safe school; however, we are (of course) reviewing practices and procedures. Roundtable discussion planned with other schools: Are our kids safe in the schools? Incident, response, possible changes will be discussed at upcoming Safe Schools committee meeting and staff meeting.
- Budget for Board has been delayed. Final numbers not available until 22 June. Hard to plan, spend, buy necessary books and supplies.

7. Chair’s report (Barbara Mitchell)

- Magnets with school contact info will be printed for distribution in new school year. Some discussion on magnets vs. business cards. Sinjin will find out costs.
- Townhall meeting planned for next fall – “Impact of Social Media”: texting, cell phones in class, Facebook, Twitter. This will be similar to this year’s event, which was well-attended and very helpful.
- Another part of the roundtable discussion will be Restorative Justice in schools. Stresses responsibility vs. punishment.
- Volunteers being sought for Knight@Nepean fundraiser. Please contact Colleen Westeinde or Jennifer Miller.
- Food donations being sought for Staff Appreciation Breakfast May – contact Diane Merhi or Katy Burnett

8. New and Emerging Issues

- Rene – New York trip was great – kids had a great time and performed very well
- Rene – Group of Principals considering writing a letter to universities, urging them not to send out acceptances too early as it is difficult for schools to keep students motivated.
- Jean - Dress code – please review dress code with your children. See newsletter on school website for details. Now that warm weather has arrived, remember to wear school wear, not beach wear. Students inappropriately attired will be sent home to change, or will be provided with Tshirts to wear for the day.

9. Adjournment: 8:35 pm

Note added 12 May 2010: From Nancy Lockwood.

At the last Parent Council meeting, you asked me to email you the names of Parental Control software, in case you decide to discuss this at the info night in the fall. We have tried two, Kidswatch and Safe Eyes. We

originally purchased them on-line because we were tired of arguing about how long our son could stay up using the computer. We wanted "timer" software. Both of these have the timers. You can set up a schedule and blocked or allowed programs for each family member, and each person has their own password to log on. Only the administrator (the parent) can make changes. You can schedule when the computer and/or the internet can be used. You program it for each hour of the day, so you can have it turn on and off many times a day, and you can change it any time you like. You can load it on multiple household computers.

You can also block programs and websites on your computer, such as youtube, MSN, porn, etc. Safe Eyes takes it a step further, as you can allow "clean" things on Youtube, and block "R" rated content on Youtube.

There are many other brands of software such as these, but we have had good luck with these two. We purchased and downloaded both on-line.