

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Council

Minutes for November 14, 2018 Meeting

Present: Tanya Boisvert, Chris Boulay, Sharon Brinkos, Kris Baird, Lisa Parish, Vanessa Meraw, Chris Duchene, Ann Harrop, Jennifer Sharp, Siddhi Shah, David Waito

Regrets: Jessica Noble, Heather Kauffeldt

Welcome: Sharon Brinkos

- Motion to approve October 9, 2018 meetings minutes by Lisa and Vanessa
- Agenda approved by Lisa and Vanessa with additions
 - Constitution
 - PRO Grant

Student Report: Siddhi Shah

- Siddhi Shah is part of the Leadership Course
- Scare week, I give a shirt campaign
- Participated in Water Festival
- Leadership Class attended cemetery and placed flags on graves of WWI veterans
- Organizing Wellness Week and Holiday Week & Assembly
- Looking into opening a school store (similar to a tuck shop)
- Semi Formal around December 7
 - Fundraising events for the dance: movie night, bake sales
- Link Leaders for Grade 8 visits

Extracurricular Updates: Chris Duchene

- Interact Group:
 - Joint event with White Pine before Christmas
 - "We Scare for Hunger" food drive raised more than \$370.00 for 4Cs
- Athletic Council:
 - November 22: Hockey Home Opener & Red and White Spirit Day
 - Intramural sports at lunch
 - Winter Sports: Curling, Wrestling, Hockey, Volleyball and Basketball
- Guidance:
 - College and University application presentations are complete
 - Amy Klose lead university and Fleming College visit (grade 11 were invited)
 - Grade 8 teacher meetings
 - Grade 8 student optional course day (pick 2 or 3 courses to try out)
- Library:
 - Promote books on Canadian War for Remembrance Day
 - More inviting floor plan with food, colouring books etc
 - Increased time open at lunch
 - Have approx 50 students in library at lunch time

- Library continued:
 - White Pine
 - Meets 1 per month (more often on a non-official basis)
 - Have 2 sets of the books; requested a 3rd due to increased interest
 - Students divided into 4 houses
 - Trip to Toronto for “Forest of Reading” in Spring
 - Instagram @HalHighLLC

HHSS Principal Update: Chris Boulay

- Oct PD day started with Math Fundamentals in morning
- School Improvement Plan (October and November PD Days)
 - Began with surveys and staff brainstorming at beginning of year (Aug/Sept)
 - Used feedback to charter direction
 - Not just academic gains but staff & student wellness
 - GETTING TO KNOW THEIR LEARNERS
 - Based on grade, stream, subject, strengths etc.
 - Oct PD Day: Department heads lead staff brainstorming sessions: what this means in each subject
 - Nov PD Day: learning skills & strategies to benefits in all subjects
 - staff teams: how to teach, assess & branch beyond to bridge the gap?
 - Learn from hitting or missing targets
 - Paying attention to student voice but adult (staff) driven
- Second Semester Structures (Changes)
 - Dual credit offerings: Arts (Painting), Ecosystems & Applied Tools: Plumbing
 - Leadership Course added to second semester (due to success of 1st semester)
 - Tumble Schedule changes
 - Not yet determined (looking at versions & how they impact the school)
 - Factor in implications on learning, sports/attendance, staff schedules
- Other information:
 - Jamie Schmale visiting Friday November 16th (open visit with pizza lunch)
 - Report cards come out Monday November 19th
 - Chris met with Jason Jackson of Fleming College to see how the college and the Haliburton Home Builders could partner and offer more pathways for students
 - Hosted G7 leaders from TLDSB Nov 1st: how to become leaders in school, community and Board
- “Power of Ideas” Tour:
 - Science exhibits tour across Ontario
 - Coming Nov 14 and 15 public 6-8pm, students will attend during the day
 - Open exhibit
 - Grade 7 & 8 students from feeder schools being bused in for exhibit and presentation
- **Morning Announcements included on Home Page of HHSS website (click on the yellow star to access current day’s announcements)**

District School Council (DSC) Updates: Jenn Sharp

- November 8th meeting (meeting notes included)
 - Larry discussed the Board initiative of Building Higher expectations
 - Presentation from the Student Services Attendance Counsellor (SSAC)
 - Explained supports in place (proactive and reactive)
 - School Council Procedure Overview and Annual Report
 - Parent Engagement Fund spending ideas
 - PRO grants on hold; will let us know as soon as a decision is made
- Next meeting January 17th at 7pm (Haliburton County Education Centre)

School Council Constitution:

- What is the status of HHSS School Council Constitution?
- If one exists it should be reviewed/revised
- Council was provided with Board template
- HOMEWORK: review & make notes (recommendations/agree/disagree/comments on procedures)
 - Email notes to jennsharp2@gmail.com to compile list
 - Will review at December's meeting
 - Polish document for January's meeting

PRO Grant:

- Funds are on hold (government has not confirmed either way)
- Discussed sending a letter from the Family of Schools (HHSS, JDH, SBES, ASES, WES & CES) to help plead our case
- Moving forward in Parent Engagement: how do we figure out what parents want to do versus what we think they want to do?

Council Discussion: Goals & Direction:

- Council will continue to work with Chris and staff, as needed, in conjunction with School Improvement Plan

2017 Climate Survey Presentation (David Waito):

(Background: The Climate Surveys are a ministry requirement, and TLDSB has enlisted a third-party agency to conduct our surveys with us so all secondary schools have the same questions.)

- Climate Survey sent out every two years
- Examined results from November 2017 survey
- Student response rate was 75%, 12 parents completed the survey
- Student forums with Board consultants to dig into the motivation behind the response
 - Board consultants chosen so students could be anonymous, open, transparent and honest
 - 80 students participated & presented feedback to staff to create an action plan

- The six key areas of focus were:
 - i. Gender-focused support
 - ii. Social/Bullying
 - iii. Hallways
 - iv. Student use of cell phones / social media
 - v. Anxiety/Depression/Mental Health
 - vi. Public Confidence / Community / Parents

- Staff brainstormed short and long term solutions, asked questions of students
- Some immediate action/response:
 - Anxiety/Mental Health PD day training in Spring (importance & destructive nature of stress)
 - Dr. Alex Russell “Drop the Worry Ball” creating resiliency by changing the narrative of a struggle (available staff, students & parents)
 - More student space
 - Foyer couch- immediate
 - Change in library space driven by students (allow food/open all lunch break)
 - More Point in Time Counsellors
 - 3 days per week
 - Move support room to a more private space
 - Always some support in building between Point in Time, MH & Addictions Nurse, SSAC)
- Cell Phone Use
 - Polling & discussing in class
 - Always changing the conversation (case by case)
- Social Conflict
 - Students asked for transparency on resolution of conflict
 - Creating clearly defined decisions and responses (Restorative Practices, Progressive Discipline etc.)
- Parent Forums resulted in moving smoking area
- As parents we need to recognize the importance of directing concerns to the School (Administration/Staff) for resolution

Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm

Next Meeting December 11th 2018 @ 7pm

- **Feel free to bring a treat to share**
- **Constitution Homework**