

DVSS School Council Meeting

Tuesday November 15, 2016 @ 6:30

Location: Library

1. Welcome and Introductions: Meeting chaired by Anne Hampson, co-chair Nancy Watt.

2. Approval of Oct 18, 2016 minutes: Dolores Lammers and Nancy Watt

3. DVSS School Prime Minister's Report: Nick Mitchell not present. Provided video "monthly report". Murder mystery Halloween a "big success". Formal Dec. 8th in planning stages. P.M. petitioning to be on morning announcements. Principal Delsordo addressing this request- are now using twitter/slide show/website for communication. Meeting with Prime Minister- discuss need for strong leadership to implement new culture. Discussed possibility of announcements on smart boards in am, snapchat or video story- would need teachers to vet. Will be able to go on PA for brief reminders of announcements, but will continue with "new culture" for communication.

4. Teachers report:

-SHSM-Specialist High Skills Majors-Ministry wide, at almost all schools in board. Two offered at DVSS in Manufacturing and Arts and Culture.

-New consultant at board-meets with teachers re: budgets and programs.

-Grade 9 and 10 students with interest in SHSM will be identified, then enter into program in gr. 11 and 12

-First big trip-Stratford play was sold out! "special day" a celebration of newly structured Arts Department. Human Rights and Digital Arts funding from Stratford due to focus of play.

-Co-op: Possibility of co-op placements in summer between grades 11 and 12. Conversation with guidance counsellors encouraged to coordinate placements.

-MacNab has a SHSM and Tier 3 program in performance Arts which is a co-op program.

-Some colleges interested in giving grants for programs/students. 25% of students in Gr. 11 and 12 could be enrolled in SHSM- all pathways.

Nancy Watt mentions that her husband is the head of technology program for Mohawk and McMaster.

-VIVE night a "great success". Fun activities including dinner, dance, singing "lip syncing", choreography. Great involvement from senior students. Showing great leadership and high level of responsibility. Majority of grade 9 students participating.

5. Principal's Report

-marks due this week. Report Cards to come home Nov. 25th.

-Waterloo Math Contest Nov. 23rd.

-Gryphon Luncheon planning:

Greatness, Respect, Youthful, Phenomenal, Honesty, Outgoing, Nurturing key characteristics. Teachers nominate students, and invite parents for lunch and plaques given.

-Dec. 2nd-Keynote Speaker from University of Waterloo- to talk about increasing math literacy, conceptual and procedural understanding of math, planning and building the capacity of Dept. heads. Math strategy/problem solving/mind sets/ math biases/phobias/changing culture. John Mighton, Jump math and David Chen mentioned.

Dates for calendar:

-Dec. 6th- Music Dept. Winter Concert in the West gym.

-Dec. 8th- formal.

-Dec. 12-16th-Christmas Tree of Hope, started 30 years ago in 1986.

-Dec. 21st- Media Arts Film Festival “red carpet day”

Tip off “Antibullying week” next week- will be on Announcement slide show screen for entire year. Student voice surveys to determine if kids feel safe in school environment (board wide initiative).

-Graduation rate discussed. DVSS has 88% grad rate. Some students with accommodations will get grad certificate in lieu of diploma. On a 5 year track. Statistic of “if student has 16 credits by 16 years of age, drastically reduces risk of not graduating” stated.

-EQAO mentioned in relation to students with IEP, IPRC assessments. Developmental delay and Special Needs class with 18 students. Difficulties for students with IEP who require manipulatives are unable to use them during EQAO testing.

-Dr. Bruce Ferguson and Dr. Alan King’s report on secondary school reform and “student success” strategies discussed to increase graduation rates. Board wide initiatives implemented with an increase graduation rate from 54% to 75% since implementation.

-Mike Smith to coach track and field. Engineering looking at track area, and model similar to Sir Allan MacNab track should start in April. To have partnership funding from the city.

-Next meeting: Jan. 17th, 2017 at 6:30 pm in school learning commons.

Submitted by J. Nash