

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Sept 26, 2019

- Next parent council meeting October 17th.

Attendance:

John Efthimiadis gr.6, Francesca Alfano Kindergarten, Lori Macnab Vice Principal, Sandie Rowell Principal, John, Carrie, Sarah, Pin Chu, Ahmed, Rachel, Christine, Ian, Adrian, Sherrine, Sana, Rob

Notes:

- Delay of electing parent council chair until next month.
- Looking to continue initiatives of parent council from last year.
- In process of reorganization, opening two classes more than Bennetto currently has.
- Projected enrollment of 486 currently we are at 530.
- Allowed Bennetto to eliminate split classes and have more straight classes.
- Opening new grade 2 and new grade 7 for Monday morning.
- Large gym is done waiting on HVAC unit, city of Hamilton did a walk through.
- Large gym is now cleared for use.
- Small gym is not ready yet.
- Kindergarten class/day care class renovation was put on hold due to government cut back. Class cannot be put in because work can begin on them at any moment therefore no class can be put in.
- Currently there is room for one more classroom and maybe portables.
- Close to 90 new students, school lost 30 students from the previous year.
- From september to december numbers decreased, however by the end of the year numbers went back up.
- Shortage of busses
- Welcoming questions on face to face basis or call rather than through social media (e.g. Facebook)

- Article about Bennetto in the breezes. Focus on Woman in the North End to have contributed to Bennetto. Focus on Mrs. Bennetto of was the first female principal.
- Suggestion about October having a focus on Mrs. Bennetto to raise awareness. Announcements in the morning on impact of women.
- Taught for 50 years. Bring portrait of Mrs. Susan Bennetto from archives.
- Picton street school was the name of the original school.
- Next year is the 100th anniversary.
- Focus on the impact of women in the North End. (Women's history month, status of women website)

- \$1000 approximately of funds in Parent Council account, would it be useful to any families of need? (child care, crafts, games, etc)
 - Province wide School Walk In on Thursday October 10th against Ford cuts to education.
 - Action to bring together parents and guardians from the school community. United voice with teachers against cuts.
 - School Walk In to be done before or after school.
 - Reach out to parents at other schools, contact Chirstine Bingham
 - Can be done as parents of Bennetto
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- Book orders for having teachers do them online.
 - Only three or four teachers are registered online.
 - Issues with sending students to school with money.
 - Challenges of communication only via agenda to let teachers know parents desire to order online.
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- Volunteer for school travel plan wanted to create/distribute proposal to help kids get to school safely.
 - October 2nd wear yellow day (promotion of walking/cycling while wearing yellow to help kids get to school safely)
 - Interest in a Bennetto School travel plan. Wanting to garner interest if other people would be interested. Possibility of extra funding if there is a school travel plan.
 - Travel plan was done for Bike for Mike and yellow plan.
 - Travel Plan expires annually
 - Discussion of using old plan to make a new one.
 - Item of discussion next month to form sub committee for travel plan.
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- Last year there was a parent grant for outdoor ED, funds were put toward meet the staff at night. Arborists came, yoga and other events. Parent library was created with different books and activities you can do with your child outside.
 - Two years ago parents focused on childhood anxiety
 - Conference day was held with babysitters and opportunity to meet and speak with parents.
 - Advice from professionals was given on how to help your child with anxiety. Also assisted parents in how to identify when higher levels of anxiety are being exhibited.
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- Offer of having a co-chair incase someone is absent or cannot attend.
 - Parent council typically has not done fundraising

- If Parent Council is interested in pursuing fundraising proposal must given to principals prior to submission of fundraising plan to the board by October 30th.
- Need for goal oriented fundraising.
- Old tree was assessed by an Arborist.

- Desire to have a built in sound system in the large gym.
- Only public groups could access funds to subsidize sound system in the gym. Students with hearing needs are accommodated in the school in other ways.

- Next month we can share school academic goals.
- Contact armouries for cadet representative at open house.

- Coordinating third Thursday of the month with staff meeting for parent council to meet.

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- Scholastic funding goes into Books and Resources.
- Pizza fundraising goes toward grade and subsidizing school trips.
- Frozen yogurt does not fall into nutrition policy.
- Only 10 days a year where food can fall outside of the nutrition policy.

- Question posed about getting more musical instruments into the hands of students.
- Music teacher reached a program where eventually there will be instruments in every class starting in grade 1. Three year rollout music lessons are also attached to this initiative.
- Suggestion of raffle to raise money. Parents are invited to come in with kids and see if they won prizes.