

Introductions were made first, and parents were invited to step forward to chair or co-chair council. Darlette Seymour will remain as chair. Rebecca Bodor offered to take minutes for the meeting. If anyone is interested in helping in either capacity, feel free to email saltfleetschoolcouncil@gmail.com .

As there were no student representatives present at this meeting, principal Kevin Graham gave the student report, speaking of the Grade nine student parliament elections. Anyone is free to join the cabinet for their particular grade. Higher grade level elections were held in the spring. There are approximately forty members in the Grade nine cabinet. He also reminded council of the parliament run grade 9 dance, happening Thursday, October 1. This dance is open only to grade 9 students, parliament members, and STORM LINK leaders, as a way of welcoming grade 9 students to Saltfleet.

Ann Tyrell gave the PHN (Public Health Nurse) report. The 2nd HAT (Health Action Team) meeting was held Monday Sept 21. Meetings are held Mondays @11:30 (first lunch - grades 9 and 11) and 12:05 (second lunch - grades 10 and 12) in the library. 29 students attended the 11:30 meeting, but more are needed for the second-lunch period portion. HAT meetings discuss issues that involve the physical, emotional, and social well-being of students, building leadership skills, improving confidence and promoting academic success. Previous successful initiatives were discussed including the "love not hate" anti-bullying campaign, which included the use of thumb rings, flash mobs and a photo booth to promote the message that Saltfleet strives to be completely inclusive and to foster a safe and welcoming school environment. There was some discussion about how students may be made aware of the HAT meetings and the role of the PHN at Saltfleet. Current initiatives include displays in the atrium, morning announcements, the photo booth, and the efforts of teacher advisors like L Brown and L Scocchia who identify students who might benefit from "having a voice". All students who attend HAT meetings will receive one half hour towards their volunteer hours per meeting attended. Ann Tyrell included a print out of student identified concerns. Mr Graham spoke about approaching new staff to make them aware of the program and Stephen (student) spoke about the KAHOOT games (diagnostic testing using cell phones, etc).

Principal **Kevin Graham** gave his report starting with the state of the football field. Currently the field is deemed unsafe, as it has been for the past 6 years, and home games will be played at Mohawk Sports Park. There is no junior football team at Saltfleet (not enough interest, more of a rugby school) therefore Grade nines playing football do not get field playing time due to safety concerns. Saltfleet has been bumped up to division one (higher level of competition). The board has approved funding for field upgrades for all secondary schools, including one artificial turf field per cluster. Saltfleet is part of the south (mountain) cluster. The new Nora Henderson secondary school being built at Upper Sherman and Hwy 53 will get the artificial turf field. There was some discussion about the cost difference (\$650,000 for grass vs 1.2 million for turf) and how funds might be raised to upgrade Saltfleet from the intended grass field to turf but the point was raised that pushing for turf might "push back" the intended completion date of Sept 2016. The track will also be redone with the field and football home games will resume at Saltfleet with its completion. There was a question raised about field maintenance cost. If anyone has any ideas about community partners for quickly raising the additional funds needed for an artificial turf field, please email saltfleetschoolcouncil@gmail.com

The new addition is now open, with ten new classrooms increasing school capacity by 210 students. Original capacity in 1996 was 953 students and there are currently 1200+ students: therefore some portables will remain. If population growth continues as expected one of three things may occur: a porta-pac may be added (provisions are in place for this); school catchment boundaries may be re-drawn; or (currently just a rumour) a new secondary school may eventually be built in Binbrook.

During the summer, all 100 heat pumps at Saltfleet were replaced, so our heating and air conditioning systems should be working properly in all classrooms. Also, rooms B255 and B257 were renovated for our eventual Graduated Support Program set to begin in September 2016.

The on-going rumour that returning "Grade 13" students will be forced to pay is still untrue. Secondary schools are currently funded for 34 credits per student. Returning students with 34+ credits will be assigned seats where available, with an age cap of 21.

All secondary schools will have new (scrolling electronic) signage out front. The previous hand-lettered sign is slated to be replaced by the end of October. All rooms in the school will also be re-signed with new room numbers for emergency purposes. The rooms in the new wing already meet the new standards. Two new 60" tvs will be added to the cafeteria in order to better provide students, staff and visitors with announcements and updates. All this and more can be found on the principal's blog on Saltfleet's website (hwdsb.on.ca/Saltfleet).

New business was discussed as follows: next school council meeting will be held Thursday, Oct 22nd at 7 p.m., which is directly following parent-teacher night. Council meetings are usually held the third Tuesday of each month, except in months where there is a parent-teacher night (October and May), when the meeting will be held directly after the interview portion of the evening.

Margaret Reid, PIC (Parent Involvement Committee) co-chair, spoke about the upcoming tree-planting event to be held Saturday September 26 at the Rymal Rd community church. The Friends of the Eramosa Karst has received a \$60,000 Heritage Trust Grant and 900 trees will be planted. Students attending will receive volunteer hours.

Ms Reid spoke at length about a variety of topics regarding the Parent Involvement Committee. It has been suggested that she should have her own spot on the agenda, along with all who are currently listed.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 22, 2015 - 7:00 p.m. - Saltfleet School Library