

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SAUNDERS SCHOOL COUNCIL: October 3, 2018

- Attendance: Student Council Rep Ainsley Jeffery; Teacher Rep: Samira Chams; Staff Rep: Catherine Berry; Administration Rep: Travis Kartye, VP; PRO- Grant Chair 2018-2018 Sherry Steuer; Meenakshi Sharma and Cathy Sydor – Co-Chairs, Saunders School Council 2017-2018; Parents/Guardians of Saunders Students: Mary Saunders; Janette Wan, Laurie Sickles, Osama Kadi; Gary and Susan Herrfort.
- Regrets: Mr. B. White, Principal.
- Minutes: Taken by C. Sydor

Call to Order at 7:03 PM: Distribution of Agenda for meeting; Administration Report; Teacher Report.

1. Introductions and opening of the meeting. No changes to the agenda.

2. Review of June 6, 2018 Meeting. The final meeting of the 2018-2019 School Council was hampered by lack of attendance. C. Sydor; Mr. WHITE, Ms. Chams and Ms. Berry were sole attendees. Minutes will not be formalized as a result of inadequate attendance. Regrets Received in advance of Meeting: PRO-Grant Chair 2017-2018 Sherry Steuer.

3. 2018-2019 Elections – Mr. T. Kartye

- One self nomination form received for Chair: Cathy Sydor. Acclaimed to the position for 2018-2019.
- One self nomination form received for Vice-Chair: Meenakshi Sharma. Acclaimed to the position for 2018-2019.
- Secretary: No self nomination forms received. Position will be left vacated but open to filling should a volunteer step forward. Minutes will be taken at meetings on a volunteer basis or by Chair or Vice Chair for the duration of the 2018/2019 school year.

4. School Reports:

a. Ainsley Jeffery:

- Spring elections were held in 2018 for 2018-2019 Council Executive consisting of Co Presidents (2) Vice President And treasurer/secretary and grade reps. Mr. Usprich and Ms. Clairmont staff representatives.
- School Council has had their first meeting with Grade 9 students and representatives of that year have joined the council. Very inclusive composition to Saunders School Council.
- School Council will be organizing Spirit Sabre Wear; old stock and securing new product stock.
- Clubs week – less clubs in the Fair this year but in the school as a whole, many clubs operating.
- Events that are in the plan: Bake sale; Dance with Winter wonderland theme, November – Semi-formal; Pink Shirt Day (February 2019); School Dance: Winter wonderland theme being consider for November (Semi Formal);
- Considering Mental Health Initiatives, as an advocacy role.

- Exciting! Expect new things from Student Council this year: Student Voice Day – two days of surveying student body on what they want to see and how to get more students engaged in Saunders life.

b. Teacher Representative: Samira Chams, Filed Staff Report: Department Updates (attached).

- Parent Question: How to get into Co-Op program – speak to your student’s Guidance Counsellor; Please note: there will be Realigning Guidance Counsellors in the near future so there may be some flux in who the student’s Guidance Counsellor will be during the 2018-2019 school year.
- Parent Question: How is the school coping with out auditorium: Use of space in the school has been creative but manageable. Events such as awards night have been rescheduled to occur in the new year, when the Auditorium is available. Looking forward to having the auditorium back – the renovation was a major project.

c. Administration report: Travis Kartye; Vice Principal, Filed Report from Administration (attached).

- Parent Question: Vaping on bathroom/property/change room – not yet and not permitted. Remind students can set off alarms and to be environmentally sensitivities of others. Is vaping allowed? School property – not allowed, similar to school tobacco rules – no smoking or vaping 20 meters from the border of any school property – so at this distance, our Saunders Students must cross road to vape or smoke tabaco. Ongoing education on the rules of vaping and smoking tabaco.
- Parent Follow up Question: If students are smoking at our School sign – not allowed – but Parent has noticed it. Emphasized that this area is patrolled – plus there are consequences if a student is caught. For example, officers of the Middlesex London Health are coming out and approaching students: providing education, reviewing rules – and they will lay a charge against a student if warranted.
- Parent Follow up question: Can we put up a no smoking sign/similar signage? Yes, we can and there are currently signs posted in that area.
- Future discussion: Cannabis.
- Parent Comment: September Event: Meet the Staff Night – in future, consider changing the timing of event. Parents work hours are a problem when late afternoon. Consider evening stretching the time to 6:30 p.m. to allow parents that work until 5:00 PM the opportunity to attend. This suggestion will be taken back to the School Administration.
- Parent Question: Timing of Literacy Test Preparation: Semester 2 is typically the targeted time for Literacy Test preparation for those students that didn’t do well last time. The Need to provide this additional help is on the School’s radar – specifically targeting Kids in need. There is a Literacy Committee that specifically looks at this, in anticipation of the Literacy test which is typically held in March or April.
- EQAO Math – written in Grade 9 (Note: the student’s score helps math grade in the math class; a student doesn’t need to pass the EQAO math test)
- EQAO Language Test is written in Grade 10 (Must have to graduate). If student is not successful, the student can retake Grade 11, 12 and there is a literacy course to support those students.
- New to semester system: EQAO – is always written by the student after the math course is taught so that the student has had the curriculum in order to write the test.

- Parent Question: Remind – or School Messenger? School messenger is mainly the tool for reporting student absences, but messages from School administration can be sent in this app too. Remind is still very much a part of the Communication Plan for the students and parents/guardians. It's a text messaging system to cell phones that register their number with the school – receiving bulletins about school events/issues in a timely fashion via text message. Both apps have a role for an engaged parent. Information on how to register for Remind – Parent will be forthcoming in future bulletin.

5. Old Business:

a. PRO Grant Sub-Committee Chair, Sherry Steuer

- PRO - Grant Dollars: Ministry of Education Money – Granted \$1000.00. Two events: Info Fair – community agencies, recreation/health care/mental health/ cultural info – No PRO Grant Application was completed this past Spring.
- Coordinated Effort between school staff, maintenance, Board office, parents.
- Within the TVDSB there was competition for attendees and a lack of coordination that made it difficult to organize around.
- Future idea would be to be better organized with other schools holding PRO – Grant events.
- Students – events were not advertised to them. Should it have been? We kept it open – but they Preferred to have it Student only – to make it open to them. Note: Ms. Steuer has offered to share experiences/resources with Student Council to help them throw their own fair.
- Future: Keep as a standing item – PRO Grant. Consider doing a mental health proposal every two years, looking ahead to 2019-2020.

b. Update: Saunders music parents association – working group: Three parents with students in the music department are exploring the role a parent association can have in supporting the students Music Council. Meeting will be held November 21, 2018 in the Music office, interested parents are welcome to attend.

6. New Business:

- Review and updated – Goals for this School council – 2018-2019: HELD OVER.
- Schedule of Council Meetings – Presentations/ Speaker Suggestions?
- Presentation from the Music program; some aspect of the legalization of Cannabis and impacting Saunders Students; Athletic Program/Athletic Council
- Other: Parental - Praise for the Saunders School website design.

7. Adjourn Meeting: Time not recorded.