

Parent Council Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2022

In attendance:

David Brooks

Tracey Galbraith

Leslie Blot

Cheraldean Duhaney

Lynane Newton

Melissa Wilson

Elizabeth – student representative

Faith – student representative

Quorum was met.

Leslie Blot made the motion, Lynane seconded the motion and Cheraldean made the 3rd motion to pass the minutes of the Parent Council Minutes for February, 2022.

The next Parent Council meeting dates are: **May 26th** and **June 16th, 2022**

Elizabeth and Faith student report:

We celebrated women's day – we made announcements.

We are doing sexual assault awareness this month as well as inclusive.

Band has started back up and the Garden club, where students can get student hours and we donate the produce to The Loft, which feeds 50 – 70 people who are in need of the produce. This club is run by Sherry Morrow. This club will be run throughout the summer, so students can obtain community hours throughout the summer and after school and at lunch in the spring. Students are assigned and can choose a group to work with throughout the week with Ms. Morrow.

Announcements are made to advertise sign-up for the club and Ms. Morrow runs it. Administrators can also help students connect with Ms. Morrow. Students get hours for going to and from the Garden club and while they are doing the gardening.

Band is back up and running. There won't be shows as we've run out of time. We also have a guitar club, both beginners and intermediate leveled clubs. We have a Science club that runs labs. They were able to dissect a fetal pig.

We also celebrated Earth Day.

We aren't running exams this year. However, we are running French proficiency testing. We are running the Waterloo Math contest.

Student Council, which meets every Tuesday. We have extended the merchandise sales. Students are able to buy. SAC is also coordinating the Graduating sweaters. They've also been planning end-of-year activity.

We were able to elect the cabinet members of student council this year. The positions included . These positions needed to be elected by students.

We are listing a list of fund-raising and other events for next year that we weren't able to do this year that we hope to do next year.

Prom is running. Yesterday the flowers and centre pieces were chosen. The tickets are on sale currently. We have a maximum of 150. There are 10 people per table. Students can choose the table they sit at. The tickets are \$90 each. There will be a Gelato table there this year.

Future Aces is a leadership club. We are doing a food drive in May to donate to Helping Hands. We are also making Pride bracelets to be ready for June representing the 2SLGBTQ + which we will donate to students. This will be done in association with The Net, which is a club and safe place for gay students to be. The club used to be called the Gay/Straight alliance club. It is now called The Net, which is a derivative of a "safety net". The bracelets will be given away in June, which is Pride month and they will be a conversation starter. We will set up a booth at lunch to give them away.

The Net club meets Wednesday after school.

The Games club meets Wednesday after school. They follow strict Covid protocols with wipes.

Sports:

There is currently co-ed volleyball at lunchtime in the gym. There is also drop in badminton at lunch.

The senior boys basketball team won the GBAA championships this year.

There is a baseball team, slo-pitch team, ultimate frisbee, tennis, and track and field team running, girls soccer team.

Jelka Pernar:

Mid-term report cards will be out on Friday, April 29, 2022.

David can include how to access student report card information in the next newsletter.

Elizabeth mentioned the student-led tutoring program here at BDHS. It is not being utilized. We will put in the newsletter and email the information. The benefit to peer tutoring can be used a piggy back for students who are getting help from teachers.

We have the resource room 112 open before class and during lunch and after school.

Leslie Blot: had a concern that assignments were not being posted on D2L. Students need that support when they are sick and isolating.

David answered that 2 years ago, teachers were told to use the D2L platform and needed to learn it quickly for the blended learning that was offered. The expectation is now that teachers are posting assignments on D2L and course outlines and some teachers are adding enrichment opportunities. The assignments are posted for those students that are absent.

Melissa noticed that there wasn't as much activity on D2L since students have returned to school in-person.

Principal's report:

We are struggling securing supply teachers. In the teachers' collective agreement we can give emergency on-calls but it is capped at 2. Most teachers have been given more than 2 emergency on-calls, up to 8. It has been incredibly hard on staff to fill the absences during their prep periods. The other frustration is that student council has so many ideas and we cannot run with their ideas because the staff are struggling.

Another struggle is that busses are not available and are expensive. Buses run at about \$1000 per trip. There are not enough bus drivers to take students on field trips.

Lynane asked if carpooling is possible.

David answered that the entire school board has had to revamp field trip policies. We called and asked if we can get parents to drive other students. We cannot circumvent the Board's policies.

Melissa: do you think we jumped off into the deep end a little too quickly. We were eager to get together and run extra-curricular programs too quickly. Should we have gradually introduced things.

Vandalism is still happening in the washrooms and signs are still taking down the signs around the school. Many students are socializing in the washrooms. It's a lot of social retraining.

There is an improvement to the fighting. We have made headway to stop students hanging out in the toilets. Vaping is still an issue. We caught someone today and he was suspended and will be fined \$305.

The Tobacco enforcement officer came to the school last month. He said he hadn't been to the school in about 7 years. He will be running some assemblies and educating students on vaping.

This is a cultural reality that has emerged. It was around several years before the pandemic, and there needs to be relearning with consequences. The school board follows the same rules as the government.

We are trying our best to address the vaping.

We have ordered more tables for the cafeteria. We only had seating for 172 students. David purchased 20 tables for \$11,000 to add 80 additional seats. Therefore, I have to lessen the budget in other areas to provide a space for students to eat. The Board gave us an additional \$6000. So we have put in an additional order. Melissa we remember your concern of students sitting on the floor, we listened and addressed this issue.

Lynane offered to search for grants for the school.

David answered that we need some help:

- 1) Scholarship reserves cannot be used except for scholarship money. We need to start a scholarship-generating committee next year to generate funds for the students.
- 2) David understands the needs of the Athletic department. We need a weight room and we don't have money to replace this. We don't have enough money for co-curricular. We don't charge students for athletics. Most schools charge students between \$90 and \$100. Basketball jerseys cost \$2,500. We make it work, but when parents ask why we don't have certain teams, it's because we don't have the money. We can start a fund-raising tradition here. The parents at the meeting were passionate about this.

Things we're proud of:

The township has given us \$10,000 for our Art students to do art around the city. We have a tremendous art department. We will be doing murals around the city of Bradford. That is an initiative that we are proud of.

There is a school climate survey to listen to student voice.

We are cold-calling students to see how students are doing and how we are doing as a school with respect to communication. Some parents have expressed a concern that communication is lacking.

Lynane stated that things have improved in the communication department in this last year 200 percent since David Brooks came on board. David said he will continue with the newsletter.

We've received projections of our We have 1, 277 students currently. September 1st, we will have a 1, 322. That is the minimum projection. We've seen an increase in registrations from other school boards. We are working with the school board to streamline this process.

Lynane asked about a projection for another highschool in Bradford.

David answered that there is a plan for Bradford obtaining another high school. That is under way. The school board voted on that and we are waiting for the ministry to approve this. We are getting 2 additional portable to the 6 we already have. That will be a fraction of what we will have in years to come. We are also on the cusp of having a 2nd lunch. We are trying to avoid that still at least for another year.

We are going to have a very different staff next year. We are losing some staff next year.