

November 6, 2017
School Council Meeting - Minutes

1. Successful Fall season with sports, with our girls' basketball team winning tonight to be Tier 2 East Region Champions; Girls' Field Hockey lost in semi-finals; Senior Boys; Volleyball are in the finals for City; boys' rugby hosted a tournament at Bethune and placed 3rd.
2. Upcoming Winter Sports: Swim Team (first one is many years), Girls' Volleyball, Boys' Hockey, Boys' basketball, and Co-ed Curling and Wrestling.
3. This Wednesday, all students will be involved in classroom learning to do with Aboriginal Veterans Day, and then on Friday morning, there will be an assembly for Remembrance Day. Parents are welcome to attend. 1st assembly is at 9:45, 2nd is at 11:05.
4. Planning is beginning for Sept. 2018! Grade 8 parent information night will take place on November 15. Bethune has not been notified yet if we will be open for optional attendance.
5. Counsellor Jim Karygiannis will host another community meeting at Bethune for the Terry Fox park plans (including skateboard park). Next meeting is on Dec. 11.
6. MPP Soo Wong successfully passed her private member's bill to have Dec. 13 designated as a day to commemorate the Nanjing Massacre. Bethune has been invited to be involved in the first Commemorative Day at Queens Pk on Dec. 13. A small group of students may do a presentation on the work they've done through their social justice action plan to raise awareness of the Nanjing Massacre. Our band or choir may be there as well.
7. 1st term report cards will be distributed on Friday, November 24. Parent-teacher interview night is Thursday, November 30, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Parents sign up for appointments on-line beginning at 4:00 on November 24. Sign up ends at noon on November 30. Parents are also welcome to do "walk up" interviews if they haven't made an appointment, but this is subject to the teacher's availability.
8. Grad photos will take place the week of Nov. 20. Students will receive information tomorrow. Bookings are on-line.
9. Bethune hosted a delegation of educational leaders from Mexico. Students spoke to them about the opportunities they have at Bethune. They were very impressed with the level of student involvement and student leadership in Canadian schools.
10. The Enhancing Equity Taskforce Report is available on-line through TDSB. Report is still in draft form as the Director is still getting feedback from stakeholders. On-line feedback will be open till November 20. Recommendations include looking at more equitable access to Specialized programs; Director has gone public to say that there is no plan to 'phase out' Specialized programs. There is also a recommendation to delay the decision for Applied or Academic pathways until after grade 9 (maybe even grade 10). Currently, students in grade 8 have to choose between applied programming and academic programming for their core subjects in grade 9. The recommendation is that ALL students will go into the Academic programming (this is not considered "de-streaming"; it's being referred to as "Delayed Pathway"). Research shows that the Applied stream (particularly in math) limits pathways for students, and that expectations are lowered for students in Applied classes. Research also shows that students, when given the opportunity and support, will raise to the expectations set out for them.

11. Concussion Presentation: Whitney Aziz, ACL of Phys.Ed and Athletics, did a presentation on concussions, and the protocol the school follows. An information pamphlet was distributed to parents.
12. Guidance Update: A schedule was given to parents for upcoming college and university presentations
13. Community Report: Sophia Chan from the Gibson centre provided information on community and youth programs available at the Gibson centre.