

# Parent Council Minutes

November 7, 2016

1. SAC Report:

Representative from SAC reported on a variety of upcoming student events including:

- DECA Competitions (Regional Competitions were completed last Saturday)
- Geography Awareness Week
- Various Math Competitions
- Upcoming spirit day (PJ Day) on Nov. 17.

2. Community Report: deferred to next month

3. Principal's Report:

Delegation from Netherlands

- Bethune hosted a delegation in October.
- The delegation commented on several difference between Ontario's educational system and that of the Netherlands.
- In particular, they were interested in the level of student engagement and involvement and the opportunities for extra-curricular involvement and for earning credits (night school, e-learning, summer school, COOP).

EQAO Update

- Those students who wrote the on-line EQAO (there were 28 Bethune Students) received a letter today.
- Those who completed the assessment will have it marked. If successful, they will not have to write it again.
- Those who completed part of the assessment will have it marked and there is enough evidence to warrant that they have been successful, then the assessment will "count".

Community Council Meeting for changes to road signs (November 15)

- An overview of all the proposed road sign changes plus the rationale
- No parking on school side of Fundy Bay
- No Stopping on opposite side
- No U-Turns on Fundy Bay
- No left turn (from 8-9 am) from Bamburgh to Fundy Bay
- All proposed changes, if approved, will ensure that traffic flow on Fundy Bay and Bamburgh will have parents dropping students off on school side
- Several parents expressed concern over student safety when parents drop off on the opposite side of the street.
- Parents were invited to attend the community council meeting with principal on November 15 (please email to confirm).

- A suggestion was made to post photo/maps on the website with recommended changes, rationale, and how parents can safely drop their students off. Students need to inform their parents as well.

#### PIAC Conference

- PIAC conference is on Saturday, November 19. All are welcome to attend. Register on-line

#### Parent Academy at Sir John A. MacDonald

- Parent Academy is on Saturday, November 12. All are welcome to attend.

#### Canada 150

- Bethune will be organizing a number of activities to celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>
- Students planted 150 tulip bulbs in front of the school and will do some fundraising for the Highway of Heroes Living Tribute (planting a tree for every fallen soldier along the Highway of Heroes)

#### School Year Calendar (moving forward)

- An article about R.H. King's November "break" was distributed. Bethune will start the process of researching the benefits of having a November Break (and starting school 1 week earlier).
- Staff, Students and Parents will be involved in gathering feedback and information before any decision is made about a November Break.

#### Report Card (Nov. 25)

- Report Cards will be sent home on November 25. Teachers will report on learning skills and there will be comments.
- These marks are not sent to Universities.
- Parents may sign up on line for interviews. Dec. 1, 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

#### 4. Guidance Report:

##### University Application Workshops – Taking place throughout November

- Application Deadline – Jan 11, 2017. Students will receive their PIN as soon as the school received them. All students are aware of the process.
- OUAC transmission #1 – Nov 2. This transmission includes all the courses that students are currently enrolled in.

##### College Application Workshops – Nov

- Application Deadline – Feb 1, 2017
- OCAS transmission #1 – Nov 18

##### Grade 8 Parents Night – Nov 17

- All grade 8 parents are encouraged to attend
- Date is decided on centrally. Conflicts with Port Royal's parent-teacher interviews. Those parents may make individual arrangements to visit the school
- Not known whether Bethune will be open for optional attendance. Will know in January.

Parent-Teacher Interviews – Dec 1

- Parents are encouraged to attend to meet teachers.

EduTravel – Nov 10 @ lunch.

- Students can get information on travel packages that include credit courses. Very popular

5. Director's Message – via video (from tdsb website)
6. Other news: Bethune looking at the possibility of having a hockey team; however it would require fundraising for goalie equipment (\$1000); Jr. Boys' volleyball went to semi-finals today; Girls' field hockey went to semi-finals; Girls' Golf are regional champions.
7. Next meeting is on Dec. 5 at 7:00 p.m. Parents are asked to contribute to a potluck.
8. Other issues: discussed security at Bethune (with respect to all doors being locked during the day); Bethune has a Caring and Safe School Committee and they have this on the agenda for the next meeting; a parent representative is welcome on this committee as well.