

Parent Council Meeting Minutes
Oct. 2, 2017

1. Introductions and Welcome
2. Student Council Report (Ryan and Janet)
 - Many activities have taken place in the month of Sept to welcome grade 9's including a club carousel at lunch for students to sign up for clubs, spirit week (with activities every day at lunch), and the grade 9 BBQ.
 - In October, all grade 9's will attend a leadership camp for the day where student leaders will do team-building activities.
 - Grade 9 election (for the grade 9 rep) will take place in October.
 - The SAC is also looking forward to participating in leadership camp at YLCC and are in the process of planning the "Halloween Haunt" event (Oct. 27). This event will feature a movie, pumpkin carving, a haunted house, and other activities.
3. Facility Update (S. Kaskens, Principal)
 - Facilities staff worked throughout the summer to install air conditioning throughout most of the building. This job is now complete.
 - There was an increase in graffiti on the exterior of the school during the spring/summer. The graffiti took place on week-ends. Security presence was increased, and 42 Division took a report. Based on what could be seen on security cameras, it was not Bethune students who were responsible. Additional security cameras will be installed.
 - Wifi is back at Bethune. For 2 years, Wifi was disabled (for personal devices) as there was insufficient bandwidth to support the demand. The bandwidth was upgraded in July and wifi has been re-activated.
4. Community Updates (S. Kaskens)
 - Counsellor Jim Karygiannis is continuing his work on upgrades to Terry Fox park, which will include a skateboard park. His next community meeting will take place at Bethune on October 24. All are welcome to attend.
 - Traffic Safety continues to be a concern. The City Transportation Dept has put up new sign at Bamburgh and Fundy Bay for no left turns, to minimize the number of motorists who drop their children off across the street from the school. We are still awaiting "no standing" signs on Fundy Bay.
 - Concerns have been brought to the attention of the school regarding the number of students who ride bikes without helmets. The school has started a bike safety awareness campaign, to coincide with "Bike to School Week".
5. School Calendar (S. Kaskens)
 - Last year, Bethune staff investigated the possibility of changing the school year calendar at Bethune to include a "wellness week" in November: A one week break, with school beginning one week early in July.
 - This process involves first having significant support from the staff, and then assessing the level of support from parents and students.
 - The staff vote indicated that the support for this change was divided; therefore, we will not be able to move to the next stage. The school year calendar will remain status quo.
6. Upcoming Events/Special Programs (S. Kaskens)
 - Bethune was approved by the Ministry for a "Specialist High Skills Major" in the area of Business. This program began this year.

- A select group of Bethune students will be involved in 5 Social Justice Conference days at Bethune (Next Generation). Approximately 150 students are involved (from specific classes). During these Conference Days (which take place from now to Dec), all classes will be involved in lessons and discussions around social justice issues.
- Awards Assembly will take place on Oct. 5 at 2:15.
- Take Our Kids to Work Day for all grade 9's: Nov. 1
- SHARP Program: Available for students (grade 10-12) in partnership with Across U-Hub. Program has after school workshops, as well as community events. Program aims to develop friendships and connections to the community.
- EQAO results: Math Academic – 93% at level 3 or 4, compared to 80% for TDSB
Math Applied – 41% at level 3 or 4, compared to 28% for TDSB
Literacy – 86% successful, compared to 81% for TDSB

7. Future Topics for Parent Council

- Suggestions for future topics included a session on Math and Misconceptions about Math; English at Bethune vs English at Private School; Option Selection Planning; Parenting: Managing Expectations.
- Bethune was approved for \$1000 for the Parent Reach Out Grant from the Ministry so there is funding available for presenters.

8. Guidance Update (C. Ng)

- Oct. 29 is College and University parent information night.
- Guidance counsellors in the process of visiting all grade 9 classes
- A post-secondary assembly has also been planned for all grade 12 students.
- All grade 12 students are given support and information re: the application process for college or university.

9. Parent Council Co-Chairs (S. Kaskens)

- Terry Koo and David Tan were thanked for their years as co-chairs.
- Parents were invited to express their interest in being considered for Chair for the upcoming school year.
- Parents will have an opportunity to express their interest by letting S. Kaskens know, and if necessary, there will be a vote. If no one else is interested, Terry Koo and David Tan will continue.

10. Upcoming Meeting Dates

November 6

Dec. 4

Feb. 5

March 5

April 9

May 6