

School Council Meeting January 16 2017

Record of action:

- Members in attendance include:
 - Chair, Jacqueline Knapp
 - Vice Chairs Renata De Rechter and Mary Ethier
 - Secretary Ben Clements
 - Lynette Field
 - Terri Hall
 - Tim Knapp
 - Alexandra Smith
 - Community Rep, Scott Sills
 - Staff Member, Jessie Donner
 - Student Member, Natalie De Rechter
 - Principal, Paul Wiersma
- 1900 hrs, council meeting commences.
- School Council begins with brief introductions of each member and their roles within the council.
- School Council approves agenda
- There are no conflicts of interest
- Principal Wiersma introduces guest speaker Constable Jim McCabe of the Sarnia Police department. Const. McCabe is a member of the History and Memorabilia committee. He is also a member of the Youth Bureau, which consists of 3 officers . Guest speaker explains the youth bureaus role, responsibilities and tactics within local schools. Const. McCabe also discussed his involvement with the community schools and time capsules within the city and answers questions about existing time capsules within GLSS.
- Youth Bureau Contact, Constable Jim McCabe 519 344 8861 x 6167.
- Principal Wiersma raises topic of PRO grant. Wes Harding has agreed to three sessions. Two sessions with the student body, and one evening presentation on Thursday February 16th at 7pm. The presentation will be 60 minutes long followed by a Q&A.
- **Staff Report:** Great Lakes Teachers' have continued the hectic pace as the semester nears an end.
 - December was a busy month! Teachers organized Music Night, the Awards Assembly, and Awards Evening.
 - Teachers also provided entertainment opportunities for the last school day before the Christmas Break: singing Christmas Carols, performing in Canned Food Players, Great Lakes Idol and Alumni Basketball
 - The "Great Lakes Stewardship Squad" conducted a waste awareness campaign to highlight how much garbage is generated by the school in one day.
 - School planning: teachers have been attending transition meetings and

meeting with the architects to give input into the facility design.

- Even though the semester ends in January, we are still engaging in promotional activities such as Gr. 7/8 Parent Night.
 - Finally, we are preparing for exams and getting ready to write the Gr. 9 Mathematics EQAO tests on Thursday and Friday of this week.
 - We are looking forward to a busy start to second semester, the Revue is coming up!
- ***Student Report:*** Student Report to follow
 - ***LKDSB Report:*** PIC in working on starting up a Facebook account for LKDSB PIC Committee and wanting to extend that out to LKDSB Parent Council Chairs. This is to share information on what we are doing as a committee and as a collaboration tool for questions and answers. Hopefully up and running fall 2017. Presentation on Lambton County's Circle Program was done, information shared. It is a community based approach to support and befriend those who want to leave poverty behind. Volunteers are matched with low income families. There are currently 60 families involved in the program, including 111 children. Fifty-one adults are involved with the Circles Program. Of those 31% increased their earnings, 63% enhanced their education, 45% attended post-secondary school, and 49% exited the social assistance program. Circles representatives hope to help bridge and close the gap in some of these problem areas that schools in Lambton County may face. They would like to assist with communication strategies to assist students in need as often conversations with parents can be delicate. The MOE allocated \$10.3 million for Great Lakes Secondary School's permanent site for the construction of an auditorium, First Nations community room and accessibility improvements. The LKDSB will provide School Condition Improvement Funds for further improvements to both schools, including \$5.7 million for the Great Lakes Secondary School permanent site. The total amount of funding for the Great Lakes Secondary School permanent site will be \$16 million. PIC usually has a Spring Event that it hosts for parents in April. Currently looking at hosting an event that will focus on overall wellness/well-being. The four key areas of Ontario's Well-Being Strategy include safe and accepting schools; equity and inclusive education; healthy schools and positive mental health. Proposed format will be to have a panel session and perhaps an expo or store front opportunity with in-house and local experts/service providers. Next PIC meeting February 6th.
 - ***Principal Report:*** Principal Wiersma shows council a variety of pictures illustrating activities and events that have taken place since the last council meeting. Principal Wiersma provides a calendar of upcoming events. School council discuss the "School Letter." Community representative raises some concerns with the council which are discussed in open forum. Next semester,

grade 11 college preparation English will be replaced with Native Studies English. This course fulfills the requirements for the diploma and contains the foundational skills that the regular English course has. The Native Studies English course provides the opportunity for students to learn about First Nations culture. Nine percent of students at GLSS are of First Nations background. Principal Wiersma thoroughly explains the EQAO testing, and reviews charts and graphs surrounding the topic to the council.

- School Council discusses in Open Forum the upcoming renovations at the Murphy Road site. The committee has taken feedback to the design team and architect which will be considered in the new construction. Some sample designs for approval are anticipated in the near future. Action on site is expected to commence June/July 2017 with an opening date estimated for September 2018.
- Identity committee has paused for the time being.
- Next transition meeting is to be announced.
- Next School Council meeting will take place 27 March 2017 at 7:00pm in room 106.