

Grimsby Secondary School Parent Advisory Council Minutes

Tuesday September 18, 2018
7:00pm

In Attendance: Sue Rapin (Chair), Carol Grimm (Co-Chair), Jennifer Coote (Secretary), Ruth Mote, Andrea Eby, Monica Lewis, Laura Davidson, Tara Bovenkamp, Rosi Zirger, Daniel Schltz, Renee Jacobs, Barb Smith, Mat Miller (Principal), Teri Thompson (Vice-Principal)

Regrets: Jane Bond

1. Welcome and Introductions

Sue Rapin introduced herself and welcomed the group. Each member introduced themselves and shared the name & grade of their child in the school, and what their goal is for being on council this year.

2. Principal's Report

Mat Miller introduced himself to the group and shared his background. He's excited to be at GSS.

Grade 9 BBQ – Tried a new format this year. More of a social gathering with the teachers being available for casual conversations. Received good feedback.

Classroom visits – Instead of Welcome Back Assemblies, the Principal, Vice-Principal and Guidance Counsellors visited the classrooms over a four day period to talk to the students about the code of conduct, expectations, volunteer hours and provide the students with the opportunity to ask questions. The agenda this year has been aligned with Beamsville District Secondary School's agenda in anticipation of the merge to provide the same format and information in regards to operations.

Camp Eagle - September 24th-26th, 75% of Grade 9's and 14 teachers are going. Re-introduction of water activities has taken place with a new DSBN procedure for water activities. Permission form to be signed and a swim test will take place on site.

Dance – September 27th from 7-10pm

PD Day – October 5th

Current Sports - Tennis, Football, Field Hockey, Girls Basketball, Boys VolleyBall, XCountry, and Golf. The first Football Home Game is October 4th with pep rally before the game.

Chess

Jazz Band has started - Winter Concert December 13th, Spring Concert May 2nd, and Jazz Night June 5th.

Parent & Teacher Interviews on October 11th with sign up online

Early Release Day learning - Prevalent Medical Condition and Literacy

Global News Story

A) Learned about the details of the story:

- mark drop stats are based on the 2-4 students GSS would send to Waterloo Engineering in a given year
- only approximately 8% of Ontario High Schools are on the list, meaning 92% of Ontario High Schools did not send students to UW Engineering
- list used internally only and was not intended to be released - result of a FOI request

B) Learned about our students, and their performance

- do our in-school assessments and evaluations match up with provincial and board results?
- English and Math results - exceeded board results (generally 5-7 %) - validated by EQAO which have had a similar trend
- looked at engineering core course marks (Advanced Functions, Calculus and Vectors, Physics, Chem, English)- over 5 years, 4 years above Board average by five percent or less, 1 year below board average by 1 percent

C) Learned about UW Engineering

- This is an extremely small sample size, and not a fair way to characterize a whole school
- in fact the UW Engineering Department did not intend for these factors to characterize the whole school, just be one of a few tools used to determine admission to a very competitive program
- demographic factors also impact on the “adjustment factor”
- the impact of the adjustment must be minor as, despite the factor, GSS students regularly gain entrance to the program
- despite these adjustment factors - GSS students consistently get in to elite programs such as U of W Engineering
- this factor does not apply to other UW faculties

* GSS staff use the Ontario Curriculum Expectations and use the achievement chart, and Growing Success, to assess and evaluate student learning - what students “deserve” is not part of our work

* We are confident in our teachers, confident in our students and know they will continue to be accepted by universities of their choice, and thrive once they get there

3. Student Council Report

There was no student in attendance to report for this meeting

4. Chair’s Report

PAC position to be filled: secretary – Jennifer Coote has agreed to take on this position for this school year.

Eagle Award \$250 – This money will come from the PIC Fund

PIC Conference – November 7th at Eden High School from 4-8:15pm

Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grant – Speaker Event 2018/19: Building Resiliency & Self Motivation in Our Teenagers. Will take place April 2019. Looking for suggestions for a speaker.

Future Council Meetings: November 20th, January 22nd, April (speaker), June 4th

5. New Business

One member had a question regarding the funding for the new school with the new government now in power and a concern as to whether the funding would be impacted. There may be a little delay but the build will still happen.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40pm