

PHS School Council Minutes

Date: September 25th, 2019, 8:00pm – 9:00pm

Present: Linda Boland, Jeevan Viveganathan (PHS School Council Chair), Jessie Johal, Jenn O'Connor, Shaheen Sheikh, Paula Bender (Principal), Linda Brennan (PHS Staff Rep), Kathilee Porter, Iram Abbasi, Christina Dukes, Jeff Dukes, Corey Kimpson

Next meeting: **Wednesday November 6th @7pm, Library**

1. Welcome & Introductions (Paula Bender)

A great parent turnout for the first meeting with many returning faces and many new.

2. Council Chair Election / Appointment (Paula Bender)

Jeevan Viveganathan elected as chairperson for 2019-2020. Linda Boland (past chair) will support if Jeevan is unable to attend a future meeting.

3. SAC Update (students Ashley Mayhew & Krishna Persaud)

Preston is off to a great running start with many activities already concluded or underway.

- **Preston Colour Run** - In a new event for Preston this year, over 200 students participated in the charity Colour Run raising over \$500 for Ronald McDonald House.
- **Grade 9 Orientation Assemblies** – In another first for Preston, a series of assemblies aimed at helping grade 9's adjust to high school life took place. The speakers covered a variety of practical school life tips. Google Classrooms were setup to share the information with students.
- **Orange Shirt Day** – A day to honour Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools took place on October 1st, 2019.
- **Harvest Bowl** – as a fall kick-off for the Thanksgiving Food Drive, a football game on October 3rd at 7pm took place. Donations of food and \$2 cash were collected in support of the food drive.
- **Food Drive** – The annual food drive is underway leading up to Thanksgiving. Students are competing with GCI by grade to see who can raise the most.

Parents asked **how students apply to join SAC?** Students apply at the end of each school year to participate in the following school year (SAC is comprised of grade 10-12 students).

4. Staff Update (Linda Brennan)

- **New to the Area School Lunch** – Guidance held an introduction lunch for 65 students who were new to the school area, region and the country to help them get comfortable.
- **Post Secondary Education Planning** – primarily aimed at grade 11 and 12 students but open to all grades, university and college representatives attend PHS over the year in a series of lunch time sessions (see schedule at end of minutes)
- **Google Classrooms** – New for this year, Google Classrooms have been created this year to share information and announcements. Past usage of social feeds such as Twitter and Facebook have been hampered by ever changing technology and student preferences. Since students are all armed with Chrome Books, Google Classrooms

seemed like a natural way to share information with students and presented a single common platform.

5. Principals Report (Paula Bender)

- **Clubs and Extracurricular Activities** - Principal Bender noted that getting boys in Grade 9 and 10 to participate is the most challenging but that PHS offers a huge range of activities from sports to arts to hobbies. And if an area of interest is not currently active, students can raise it with staff. The school is open to new clubs where possible.
- **Grade 12 STEM English Pilot Program Continues** – a program that focuses on English skills for students headed to a university track STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) field is in its second year. Next year, the program will include Grade 9's and then will expand to others grade levels in the future.
- **Facility Upgrades** – the library, newly renovated in 2018-2019, recently got several MAC computers to complement its computing suite. The library is a very heavily and well used space often having a large number of students using it right from its opening at 7:45am. The front foyer got a makeover during the summer and the windows in the Visual Arts rooms were all replaced. An all persons, all access washroom with lift was also installed this summer.
- **Grade 9 Transition** – as the SAC reps also noted, the principal noted that a series of 4 assemblies were held once per week to help grade 9's learn helpful info e.g. safeguarding money and phones in the gym, leaving school property at lunch, being a PHS representative in the neighbourhood, SAC run activities etc. This is the first year the program has run and feedback so far has been very positive from students. A suggestion was made by the parents to reshare this information and resources with parents of higher grade students as helpful practical reminders.
- **2019-2020 School Improvement Planning** – Paula Bender noted that groups of 4-5 teachers were focused on improving student outcomes. The areas of focus include gap closure on literacy, executive functioning, problem solving and risk taking as learners. Professional Development (PD) days are used for this purpose.
- **Safe Caring and Inclusive Schools** – meeting bi-weekly on about equity and inclusion.

6. Parent Raised Topics (All)

- **Smoking and Vaping** – Parents asked the principal about whether anything could be done about students having to pass through a “wall of smoke” where students are officially off school property. Principal Bender replied that while the smoking ban is enforced on school property (\$385 fine to student for smoking on school property), there was not yet a way to handle smoking off school property. Concerns around vaping and the relative lack of detailed knowledge amongst parents was discussed. Principal Bender described a worrying trend of “zeroing” where a student inhales from a vape and holds their breath in class. All noted that we are on a cusp of a public health crisis and would like to learn more and to possibly take action.
- **Remembrance Day Ceremonies** – parents asked whether PHS students officially participate in the official wreath laying ceremonies at the Preston Cenotaph. There is apparently a PHS wreath. Cadets from PHS already participate.

7. Planning for Future Meetings

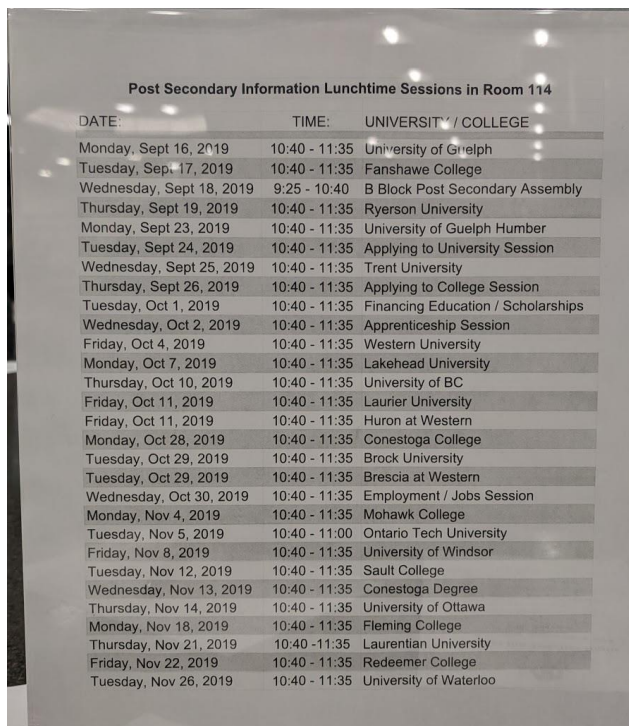
Please contact Jeevan if you have agenda items or topics of interest that you would like to raise. Suggested topics from our last meeting include:

- **Name Tags** – will be brought for the next meeting. Thank you Linda Boland.
- **Vaping** – limited materials at present, searching for resources including WDRSB, Public Health nurses
- **Parent 2 Parent Communications** – open forum for experienced PHS parents to help other parents with useful information they've picked up. Kathilee Porter offered to start us off next meeting where she came across additional opportunities for students including French exchange programs.
- **Clubs and Extracurricular Activities** – Paula Bender to highlight the various extra-curricular programs and clubs that are available to students and to share resource materials.

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Additional Reference Information:

Post Secondary Information Schedule



DATE:	TIME:	UNIVERSITY / COLLEGE
Monday, Sept 16, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	University of Guelph
Tuesday, Sept 17, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Fanshawe College
Wednesday, Sept 18, 2019	9:25 - 10:40	B Block Post Secondary Assembly
Thursday, Sept 19, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Ryerson University
Monday, Sept 23, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	University of Guelph Humber
Tuesday, Sept 24, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Applying to University Session
Wednesday, Sept 25, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Trent University
Thursday, Sept 26, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Applying to College Session
Tuesday, Oct 1, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Financing Education / Scholarships
Wednesday, Oct 2, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Apprenticeship Session
Friday, Oct 4, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Western University
Monday, Oct 7, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Lakehead University
Thursday, Oct 10, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	University of BC
Friday, Oct 11, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Laurier University
Friday, Oct 11, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Huron at Western
Monday, Oct 28, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Conestoga College
Tuesday, Oct 29, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Brock University
Tuesday, Oct 29, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Brescia at Western
Wednesday, Oct 30, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Employment / Jobs Session
Monday, Nov 4, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Mohawk College
Tuesday, Nov 5, 2019	10:40 - 11:00	Ontario Tech University
Friday, Nov 8, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	University of Windsor
Tuesday, Nov 12, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Sault College
Wednesday, Nov 13, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Conestoga Degree
Thursday, Nov 14, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	University of Ottawa
Monday, Nov 18, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Fleming College
Thursday, Nov 21, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Laurentian University
Friday, Nov 22, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	Redeemer College
Tuesday, Nov 26, 2019	10:40 - 11:35	University of Waterloo

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