

PHS School Council

January 19, 2022

7:00 - 8:00pm

Virtual Meeting

1. Welcome C. Kimpson
 - 17 attendees
 - Full remote meeting

2. SAC Update SAC Students
 - Thank you to Pirsinia J and Andrew S from SAC
 - Spirit Wear is in! Can pick it up in-class.
 - Spirit Day next week - Monday “sports jerseys”, Tuesday “twins”, Wednesday - “maroon and grey”, Thursday - “comfy day”
 - Grad photos Week of Feb 11
 - Instagram link for signing up may not work - checking
 - Picture retake Feb 16
 - Spirit Day on Feb 4th anything but a backpack (but school appropriate)

3. Staff Report L. Brennan
 - Course Selection
 - Begin in February and are due Tuesday March 1
 - Guidance counsellors have created different videos for each grade giving specific information about choosing courses
 - Each grade has a FAQ sheet giving answers to common questions
 - Students can join Google Meets with guidance counsellors to have their questions answered; a schedule of dates will be posted under Course Selection Tools tab
 - On School Day parents verify that they reviewed course selections
 - Students can indicate their interest in going to Summer School during course selection time by filling in a google form at that time
 - Official Registration for Summer School does not happen until April 2022
 - Post Secondary Update
 - University Application Deadline January 13, 2022; 140 students (out of approx. 215 grade 12 students) applied to universities; a third of PHS students applied to 6 or more programs on their application. The initial application allows 3 program choices and all other programs added are an added expense. Guidance

counsellors are curious about this trend and hope to learn something from these students to improve their guidance practice.

- *Update 25-Jan-2022: K Cove-Shannon PHS guidance counsellor found out from a representative of the Ontario University Admission Council that there was an 8% increase in the number of programs that university-bound students applied to this year.*
- College Application Deadline February 1, 2022; still meeting with students
 - There is a limit of maximum of 5 colleges but there are technically no limits for universities
- L Brennan to find out if universities / colleges get a cut of the application fee students pay to apply
- Ranking 1-2-3 for university applications should be thought of as “preference of attendance”

4. Principal's Report:

P. Bender

- Covid 19 Health and Safety
 - In-person learning kicked off Tuesday
 - The two major measures are the screening tool and then in-school masking.
 - Temporary remote - approximately 200 students in that now. Up to February 11th and can return any time prior to Feb 11th. Majority will return February 3rd to start aligned the next semester kick-off. Temporary remote students stay in their cohort but are in asynchronous link with teachers.
 - No remote learning planned for Semester 2. Only under exceptional (medically recommended) situations.
 - Lunch protocols shifted again - moved back to in-class room only.
 - Parents and students in a class where someone who tested positive with COVID in the relevant classrooms will be directly notified. No website or general notifications.
- Semester 2 Update
 - Still on track for a 4 period day in Semester 2
 - A transition for sure, especially for grade 9 and 10 students who only know 2 classes per day. Teachers will pay attention and help students make the transition.
 - The school day will end later as a result. The exact time is to be decided but will be no earlier than 1:55pm.
 - At the moment, no large gatherings and social events planned.

- Unlikely that we'll return to back online Principal Bender doesn't have a crystal ball. We're in high COVID numbers now but still in-person per the government and board mandates.
- Signals from the ministry that kids benefit from 4 periods per day so this is likely to be the standard going forward, remote or in-person.
- No timeline on the resumption of sports. The only hopeful point is that there is a stretch between end Feb and March before next sports season starts so that might increase the chance of sports resumption.
- Questions about PROM for example - no crystal ball to know.
- New Course GLD201
 - Single stream math in grade 9 and 10
 - This course is for the reinforcement of math skills to help them improve prior to grade 10. Will run as a summer school program primarily or as an elective course in Grade 10.
 - Math teachers are generally supportive of the de-streaming.
- Parents Reaching Out Grant
 - One submission is to put safety decals on glass. Turning that into a fun "welcome" in many languages - nice way to welcome all. Parents all believe this is a great initiative.

5. Other Business / Parent Questions / Future Agenda Topics J. Vivegananthan

- **Safety Alert!** There was a serious incident where a student was observed falling into the river, breaking through the ice, thankfully at a shallow, waist high point. The student got out although it was noted to not be in an ice safe manner. A very potentially serious incident but thankfully no one appeared to be injured. Principal Bender is following through with staff and students.
- Enhanced program has not been offered for next year - can't run it.
- Literacy test results - when do they come out? Not sure yet given the late and unusual test time.
- Scholarships - at the same time as university applications, Grade 11 students are targeted to go and start looking at the scholarships. Work on them during the summer. Put scholarships on the April council agenda.
 - <https://phs.wrdsb.ca/guidance/scholarship-information/>
- **Awesome Alert!** A Preston student competed in a national math competition - came in 6th out of Canada!!! Fantastic result and a proud moment for Preston.
- Parents - if you have questions please call! We have an awesome front office staff who will help with any inquiry.

Next Meeting Dates:
Wednesday, April 27, 2022