

HSS School Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 5th, 2023
HSS learning Hub 7-8:15pm

2 min Call to order and welcome – Margie Steingart School Council Chair
Introductions 7:02 PM

2 min Acceptance of minutes as circulated from February 2, 2023 meeting
• Motion to accept minutes as circulated - Taryn Theissen accepts

2 min Additions to the agenda/acceptance of the agenda
• Additions to agenda - none
• Motion to accept agenda as circulated - Candace Carter accepts

2min HSS school council financial report – Pam Barker School Council Co-chair
• HSS School Council Funds - Pam couldn't make it tonight
- Margie is presenting
- Account \$3003 - used a Grant to do our learning Modules this Feb/March

15 min Presentation of School Council Plan April 2023-June 2024 – Margie Steingart
• Review our learning journey driven by the question “What are we supposed to do?”
- Discussed 3 module workshop
- An awesome collaborative process
- 15 parents, plus admin
• Report on ASCA (Alberta School Council Association) collaborative learning Feb/Mar and how we created our school council plan. This is who we are and what we do.
- Looked at our school, created a plan
- Created 3 broad goals:
1. Engage Parents (involved in classrooms, with kids, reading school emails, PowerSchool, etc)
2. Connect with Classrooms
3. Enhance School Culture

Based our plan on the HSS and CESD School Plans (same format)
- Includes our mission statement
- Creating Engagement that leads to Enhancement of HSS

3 KEY GOALS - broken down more specifically on our plan

Strategies to get there also listed

Examples: parents to complete surveys, create parent opportunities outside of these meetings, advertising, text messaging, present at events like orientation, etc.

Education kit ready to roll-out: we will be creating one, ordering a banner,
Sending welcome emails to new students/families (grade 5 and new to Carstairs)

Encouraging parents to.... PowerSchool, Police Checks, Google Classroom

Role of School Councils as per Education Act: School Council to collab with Admin with the School Plan (for example)

We identified the uniqueness of our school (Grade 5 to Grade 12) - huge span
Need 4 new roles on School Council: representatives from Grade 5/6, Grade 7/8, Grade 9/10, and Grade 11/12

Shared additional appendices of our plan which will be on the website

Suggestion: Call us the Parent Advisory Council?

- Motion to change/accept HSS School Council Plan as presented - Terralee Penner motioned, Candace Carter adopted
- Motion to spend school council funds on pop-up banner as presented - \$225 from Vista Print - motion to accept, Jessica Potter
- Nomination/voting for 4 new roles described: parent representative for grade 5/6, 7/8, 9/10, 11/12

Nominations: Darren Owen will let his name stand for Grade 11/12, Liesel Wilson Grade 9/10, Grade 5/6 Taryn Theissen, Grade 7/8 Candace Carter. Motion to approve nominated parent reps was accepted by all.

Potentially a communication person needed for next year

Change to all Google Doc format, change our email to @gmail

5 min Report on current places for parent involvement at HSS – Margie Steingart

- Please get current police checks to the office to be able to volunteer for any activity
- HSSMA (music association) – Andrea Morton hssma.pts@gmail.com
- HSSEF (enhancement fund) – Terralee Penner hssef@gmail.com
- HSS lunch and breakfast programs – Yvonne Tempany ytempany@cesd73.ca
 - Always need more volunteers
- Kodiak Booster Club (support school athletics) – Lindsey Good
 - Coach Senior Boys Basketball team
 - Mr Evans (came on this year) - inherited a huge role
 - Volleyball didn't go great, coaches stepped up to help prepare/run basketball
 - Basketball went better, but no home tournaments were held
 - Athletic Direction would need to plan 6 weekends of tournaments, he needs help
 - So... create non-profit charity: Kodiak Booster Club

- Want anyone to be able to participate, and our teams to be successful
- Believe in the benefits of sports - want to huge sports to be better humans
- Going to create the club, under that, every sport will have a representative (a parent and/or student...eventually would like it be a student)
- Representative will create the plan for the year, submit annual plan by the end of the school year, see how much \$ is needed
- They'll direct the fundraising
- Host tournaments, send kids to camp
- This year, we had an olympian come in and host a one-day camp
- Want to keep doing these things, in multiple sports
- Help address some reffing issues, problem in volleyball and basketball
- Create a pool of parent volunteers
- Currently, drafting by-laws. Will have that in place. Then will share with Mr Evans
- Bigger goals, have band play at half-time for example. Athletes attend drama night. Etc
- Build better community within the school

Lindsay had an idea: Get all the best basketball players from the division to play (grade 12), invited universities to come, 4 universities came to see the kids (18 kids)
Plan to do it again. Feels like the school has turned a corner from an athletics perspective

- Other – field trips, classroom, hall supervision, coaching, creative programing, driving
 - Need to have police checks in to do all this

10 min Student leadership report from middle school and high school representatives

- Request from teams that parents read Kodiak review and support leadership plans from your home - Samantha from Grade 10
 - Setting up for a Mentorship Program - job shadowing
 - Visited the Senior Centre - played board games, going back to garden
 - Went to the Mustard Seed
 - Talent Show tomorrow (Thursday), 1:45 pm
 - Planning Drive-in Movie possible and other activities as the weather improves

15min Principal's Report – Mr. George Thomson

- Parents came to supervise, so staff could eat together
- Another opportunity to come supervise soon (Margie to notify parents)
- Guest speaker came - Melissa Copley
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- Hugh Sutherland School budget and staff update 2023/2024
 - Mrs Hrabok is off on a medical leave
 - George Thomson is leaving at the end of this year (after 13 years), moving to Ross Ford Elementary
 - Mr Jesse will be moving to Didsbury High School (after the Spring Break)
 - Dean Nielsen will be the new Principal next year (he will be stepping in as VP now till the end of this year)

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Kurt - shared that Student Achievement has been high at HSS, the staff is very sad to see George go. Kurt will do his best to support Dean and set him up for success.

Principal's Report presented by George Thomson

Budget will be done right after Spring Break (staffing, etc)

Many logistics to plan for in the fall, increase in High School numbers

740 or so kids projected for next year

New Curriculum coming in for Grade 5/6

Planning Orientations coming up

Luna Centre coming in, in May to do a presentation for kids, parents invited

Indigenous Flags coming in the building (later May)

- Educational Programming for 2023/2024
- School tours, orientations and transitions for 2023/2024

Staff Survey: Asked a couple key questions

23 staff filled in out of 58

Teachers

55 overall positive comments

12 things to work out

Staff, more visibility, follow-up, consistency

Cell phones better, respect, etc

To work on: Inconsistencies between classroom policies/rules

Swearing, respect, discipline

EA's (8 or 9)

Not as positive outcomes

Happy with leadership, presentations, etc, culture building

Some improvement in discipline

Improvement: respect issues, consistency, cell phones

In general: diverse staff perspective which is common in most schools

How can parents help: Supporting the school (teachers are happy with that and appreciate that)

They want to be on the same team, communicate, volunteer, support us, work together

5 min Trustee's Report – Ms. Melissa Copley

- Capital plan - number 5 on the Capital Plan list (middle school is listed)
 - Which is good....but things will become more serious and become more refined when we get to number 2 or 3
- Planning for 2023/2024 including budget - lots happening, April 19th is when the Admin gets their budget, 131 million dollars for CESD - quite a process
- General updates coming out of April 5th school board meeting - busy meeting at the board
 - Cyber security, technology
 - Survey on the CALENDAR that came out
 - Next year's calendar has to be adjusted (2023/2024) - took the feedback from parents
 - 2024/2025
 - April 25th - Parent's Matter (will be discussing the Education Plan)
 - Karen, Jason Drent will go thru that for the next year
 - Looking for feedback
 - Google Meet (reach out to Melissa to get on the list)
 - Recently out at Neudorf Conference
 - Melissa is also attending Alberta School Councils
 - Edmonton Public Parent Council - they have structure on their website to engage parents, who's available, etc
 - Grade 6 Democracy presentation: Melissa did this at HSS

15 min Roundtable discussion

- Discussion of areas of success and/or continued growth in smaller groups; place where parents can bring concerns (described generally with no teacher/student specific details) that enable further discussion/resolution outside of this meeting; a recorder in each group will give a quick group recap to the room; create action points for parent groups and administration if required (did the roundtable as a big group)

Budget: Will be presented to staff, admin can provide a overview of the budget, Kerry/Nathan to go over it

Presentations that occur each month (parents will like input on these)
Admin would like that feedback/suggestions

Melissa said: Two public people to review the CESD budget (happens once a year)
Two year terms - something to think about for parent's that may be interested

Grade 9/10s - message isn't getting to kids that they need to seriously select their streams
(Lindsay Good)

There are athletes that could get into university but have not gone into the right streams
Taking -2 etc and then come Grade 12, not set up to pursue post-secondary

Something to think about: educating parents on the High School streams
Bus loop, pick up/drop off issues

1 min Next meeting

- Late May or early June date to be decided at meeting – cap off this year and prepare for next fall

Next meeting is the Wrap Up Meeting: no date yet

Adjournment - 8:40 pm