

Clarke Parent Council Meeting Minutes
for Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 7:00pm

In attendance:

Silvia Grdovic
Chris Scott
Robin Blesse
Trevor Stone
Maya Wade

Regrets:

Arnold Monstert
Cassandra Pearson

Call to order at 7:04 pm

1. Approval of last meeting's minutes. Motion to pass minutes: Robin 1st, Chris 2nd

2. Principal Report:

- Back in March, we held our Parent-Teacher interview evening. Went well but attendance dropped from semester 1.
- Mid-term report cards available through Edsby but copies were distributed today in homeroom.
- We welcome Allison Coffey as our new attendance secretary, effective May 1st. Andrea Meszaros has accepted a full time job at Longworth in Bowmanville.
- Sports: Badminton has completed. Badminton Club still running Thursdays at lunch. Track and Field try outs have been called.
- The second round of EQAO Literacy test took place on April 5. Results of the OSSLT will be communicated to students in mid-June.
- Friday, April 28 is a PD day: Topics include: live virtual presentation on Islamophobia; health and safety training; departmental activities on de-streaming/culminating activities.
- A number of field trips are being scheduled this spring including a trip to the Oshawa courts, AGO, outdoor education day trips, just to mention a few.
- Earlier in the month, we hosted a Music Festival. High schools across KPR attended the full-day festival.
- Clarke hosted elementary sport events including basketball, volleyball, and badminton.
- We are beginning our initial stages of developing the school timetable for next year. On record, we are seeing approx. 32 grade 8's coming to Clarke from The Pines.
- Clarington Character Awards will be held on May 3rd at Clarington Central, 6 p.m. Robin to attend and represent council.
- Prom is scheduled for June 2 at the school in the gymnasium. Prom committee has been busy planning the event.
 - Council members expressed concern over location of prom and how it was selected. Suggestions were made for more involvement and communication with parents and parent council in future years.
 - Having a teacher representative on parent council would assist in bridging the gap between students and parent council.
- The secondary moratorium begins on June 12 to the end of the school year. No activities outside the classroom are planned during the day, as per Board direction.
- Final culminating activities begin on June 19 (for senior students) during their class period. Grade 9/10s begin on June 22. Schedule has been posted in Edsby.
- Commencement is scheduled for June 28 at 2:00 p.m. in the gymnasium.

3. No teacher rep

4. Student Council report from Claire Stone, Student Council PM:

- March Spirit Week: Before March break student council decided to put on a spirit week with different activities Monday through Thursday. Friday was a P.A. Day.
- Parent-Teacher night: For the parent-teacher night Claire created a poster board to showcase what the student council has done over the last two years. The poster board contained information about the student council as well as pictures from student council run activities. The poster board is now showcased in the front display of the school.
- April Easter Egg Hunt: The student council planned the annual Easter egg hunt which took place in the Learning Commons. Each class was down and had a chance to look for as many eggs as they could find. The student with the most eggs found in each class won a chocolate bunny.
- Spring Fling Dance: On May 4th student council will be hosting a dance at the school from 6pm to 9pm. Tickets for the dance are being sold until April 28th for \$15, \$12 with validation sticker or \$17 at the door, \$15 with validation sticker.

5. Regional Council Report:

- March Regional Meeting:
 - Presentation on supporting children's mental health was given. Action plan was explained to promote mental health in learning and work environments. Offered ways to support mental health resilience and well-being of students and staff.
 - 70% of mental illness starts in adolescence. 1 in 5 4-12 years olds have a mental illness.
 - Schools are to have Mental Health Clinicians. These workers are to offer short-term counselling and offer crisis intervention support.
 - Minister Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, visited with Newcastle schools. He made no promises but asked for school board for resubmission application for new school.
 - School board met with Clarington Town Council. Town Council in support of new school.
 - In order for new school proposal to move forward there must be minimum 300 students at Bowmanville High School that should be at Clarke. When new school is built no one from Newcastle will be permitted to attend Bowmanville H.S.
 - With the board's new four year strategic plan new school boundary rules will be examined.
 - Defibrillators (AEDs) will be installed in all schools.
- April Regional Meeting:
 - Colin McKeen, Sr Finance Manager stated funds raised by parents councils are to be used to enhance learning experience.
 - Reminder of Strategic Plan and two topics in the Thought Exchange:
 - Wellness and Belonging
 - Planning and Learning
 - Share thoughts, post and read comments, prioritize ideas until May 5.
 - Go to kprschoools.ca and click on the "Your Voice Your Place" icon.
 - Positive environment, toxic threads and comments are deleted.
 - May 4 is the Trustee Dialogue night. Two members of parent council from each school are able to attend.
 - There is a decrease in school funding with only \$66/student next year.
 - Bill 98 has an unknown impact at this time. Back to Basics would focus on core subjects and see less funding for sports, arts and special learning programs (islamophobia, anti-semitism, anti-Asian, anti-black, etc).

- Discussions about other schools' issues:
 - Maple Grove school has been empty for several years can it be reutilized.
 - Incident at Courtice Secondary School involving Koran being defaced and it being spread on social media.
 - Clarington Central Secondary School dealt with three threats towards school in one year. Police were involved. Questions about what to do next are being asked.
- Transition between Newcastle Public School and Pines Senior Public School offering ideas to limit space being used at Clarke High School next year.
- Suggestion for easy fundraisers are Movie nights held at school for students and community.

6. New Business/Questions/Comments from parents:

- Two accounts: first one contains \$100 and doesn't roll over, second one contains \$500 and rolls over to a limit. First account can be used to engage parents, either to join the council or educate them on some relevant topic, often times with a guest speaker.
- Ideas for increased parent involvement:
 - Possibly change the day of the meeting, or return to in-person meetings.
 - Have Pines and Clarke councils join. Pines will have a bigger council with the younger grades joining next year. If this happens meetings will be longer as each school will have their own agendas to discuss.
 - Have a Clarke family council meeting. Invite board trustees to discuss in demand and relevant topics (how to increase enrolment, etc). Have something the parents can take home with them.
 - Clarke host a free movie night and invite schools in the area.
 - Fall event for Clarke and Spring event for elementary schools as well.
 - Student run event, students could earn volunteer hours.
 - Raise money by selling snacks, popcorn and water. Rent popcorn machine and buy snacks from Costco.
 - Money raised could go towards next year's graduation or prom.
 - This is Robin's last year on parent council. She has given her time, experience and energy to the schools in the area for 16 years.
 - The need for more parent involvement is a priority.

6. Next virtual meeting will be May 25, 2023 at 7pm

8. Meeting adjourned by Trevor, seconded by Robin

Concluded at 7:48 pm