

Clarke Parent Council Meeting Minutes  
for Thursday, May 25, 2023 at 7:00pm

In attendance:

Silvia Grdovic  
Chris Scott  
Trevor Stone  
Maya Wade  
Arnold Monstert  
Cassandra Pearson

Regrets:

Robin Blesse

Call to order at 7:01 pm

1. Approval of last meeting's minutes. Motion to pass minutes: Trevor 1<sup>st</sup>, Chris 2<sup>nd</sup>
2. Principal Report:
  - We have completed working on the timetable for the school for next year based on the staffing the Bard gave us. Our staffing allocation for 2023-2024 is slightly less than this year with approximately 10 full-time equivalent teachers.
  - Those staff members who are leaving at the end of the this school year include:  
Mr. Beaumont, Ms. Berry, Ms. Bock, Mr. Burnet, Mr. Donnelly, Mr. Gillian, Mr. James, Mr van Oostveen
  - At this point in time, we welcome Mr. Cullen who will be part time (SERT and teaching Careers/Civics) next year. We will still need to fill the positions of French (2 classes), Co-op (2 sections), and Chemistry (1 class) for semester 2.
  - We wish all the teachers named above the best as they move on to new adventures.
  - We also welcome a new principal to Clarke for September 2023: Vikki Dunn. Vikki is currently the Systems Principal, Safe and Caring Schools / School Operations and will keep this portfolio with Clarke H.S. As an additional responsibility. It has been wonderful serving the Clarke community in my role as principal and I am sure that Vikki will enjoy the experience as well. My best to the new members of school council in the Fall.
  - For summer school information please contact Miss Elchyson in guidance
  - We still have a few grade 12s who need to complete their community hours despite a number of reminders from guidance/SST staff. These hours are a required component of receiving a diploma. The deadline is the end of the month.
  - EQAO on-line math assessment will take place on June 16. We have 1 Class writing the test. It is important that students are present on this day.
  - On May 12, a group of teachers (7) continued to participate in professional development around de-streaming with one of the board's de-streaming consultants. OSSLT results will be out mid-June.
  - As a school, we have completed our fire drills for the semester and year.
  - Approximately 40 students participated in Treetop Trekking trip on Tuesday. Grade 9 Science students are also participating in an outdoor trip on Friday, May 26. **\*\*CANCELLED** due to staff illness. Thanks to Ms. Berry, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Lobster for organizing these trips.
  - Enjoy the spring weather not that it finally has arrived.
3. No teacher rep
4. Student Council report from Claire Stone, Student Council PM:

- In May, student council hosted a student dance. The dance was on May 4<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 9pm. We didn't have as many students attending this dance. But it was still a good turnout.
- Cram the cruiser:  
We are currently fundraising again this year from cram the cruiser, which we took part in last year. Each morning class has a bin they are able to donate food or items into if they would like to take part. Students will be able to donate until May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- June Spirit Week:  
Student Council is planning to do a decades spirit week again this year some time in June. We will be doing the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s. Students enjoyed this spirit week last year and have been requesting to do it again.

#### 5. Regional Council Report:

- No new meeting since the last parent council meeting

#### 6. New Business/Questions/Comments from parents:

- Yearbooks:
  - yearbooks have not been around for the last few years, partially due to Covid but also before that. The books require teacher involvement through either a relevant course offered at the school or a Yearbook club. One year there was a yearbook created for grade 12 only.
  - Many other schools have experienced similar issues and also haven't had yearbooks. Some businesses aren't producing them anymore.
  - There will be a photography course offered for the 2023-2024 school year. This is offered to the older grades due to the nature of the equipment being used.
  - This new course may result in a yearbook depending on the teacher facilitating the class.
  - A parent volunteer can also help in partnership with the teacher.
  - Canva and Mixam are companies to look into for next year.
- Grants: Work will be done over the summer to prepare for the applications of grants in September. Mr. Mills will be consulted for the music grant.
- More involvement in school from parents and parent council. Let teachers and student council know that the parent council is available to support and assist.
- Parent council to think over the summer to come up with ideas for ways to assist students and teachers and ways to get more parents involved. Also, consider new fundraising ideas.
- There will also be a new Principal at the Pines. This could create a possibility for a new relationship with both parent councils, possibly even Newcastle Public School.
- Would a private Facebook group be a good idea to keep parents informed on things that are happening at the school, that they may not otherwise be aware of, and want to be involved in.
- We wish all the best to Silvia in her retirement and Claire for her next chapter in education. Thank you both for all your hard work and involvement in the council over the years.

7. Next virtual meeting will be September 28, 2023 at 7pm

8. Meeting adjourned by Trevor, seconded by Arnold

Concluded at 7:41 pm