

MINUTES

Charles Spencer High School Parent Council

11/15/2023 6:00 PM

In Attendance: Janis S, Crystal C, Jason W, Spencer P, Sharon B, Jenelle F, Reagan D, Joanne, Melanie, Donna

Regrets:

Meeting Minutes

Call to order: at 6:00 p.m.

Introductions:

Review and approval of past Minutes: Reagan motions to approve past minutes, Jenelle seconds. Carried

Approval of/additions to Agenda: Melanie motions to approve the agenda with no additions. Joanne seconds. Carried

Administrator's Report (Jason Wall)

Highlights:

Remembrance Day Assembly – Outstanding level of respect and dignity shown by all students, participation from our Orchestra and Choir, Six cadets attended, significant work from our Gr 9 leadership classes – two grade 9 students let the ceremony as our emcees, high level of community participation.

Strategies to support a safe and caring learning environment at CSHS – RCMP School Resources Officers – Constable Ool and Miller Thursday November 30, professional learning for staff in November – Nov 10 focus on racialized discrimination and gender minority discrimination, Life skills group for grade 9 and 10 starting next Monday it will run weekly until Christmas, advisory focus related to ensuring a safe and caring school on November 23

Focus of Professional Learning – for our staff. In what ways can school leadership teams increase teacher capacity to assess in a consistent, fair, evidence informed manner supporting student growth and achievement? – Use PowerSchool to communicate student achievement in clear and consistent ways

Student use of ChatGPT – The school is finding several students each week trying to use ChatGPT, the school is having conversations with parents & students, possible solution is to have students re-write assignments with pen and paper. Vretta as a possible solution (locked browser).

Musical Theatre and Arts – Our numbers in band are dropping to four in semester 2 – Ms Ceron is exploring the idea of running Band as an AM block. – Carrie the musical auditions are coming up from Dec 11-14. – Our Arts community is hosting a holiday market at the school on Dec 14.

Athletic Update – Volleyball season for 7 of our teams has ended. Our senior Boys and Girls teams have zones Nov 15 – 16 at the Comp. If they win they are off to Calgary for 4A provincials next week. – Grade 9 boys Vball – Zone Champions and also awarded the sportsmanship banner – Grade 9 girls Vball got bronze. – Comp/Spencer football team finished up their season in Edmonton on the weekend. – Basketball season is upon us. Sr and JV boys and girls teams have been selected. The senior teams travel to Rocky Mountain House on Nov 24-26. – We are running 2 grade 9 boys and 2 grade 9 girls teams again this year. Tryouts are happening this week.

Grad – Students will be voting on the theme for the senior formal event. Student grad committee have selected 3 for the grad class to vote on. Parent grad planning committee will be holding their next meeting on Nov 29. Grad fashion show planning underway Feb 7 2024.

Chair Report (Janis)

Highlights:

None

Trustee Report (Donna Koch) donna.koch@gppsd.ab.ca

Highlights:

Priorities for GPPSD – Recruitment & Retention of staff, Predictable funding, public education & private schools, Curriculum. -

Student Rep (Sam & Layla)

Sam:

Charles Spencer is overall a great school. There is so much school spirit at the school, there are many fun and spirited days that the student council and the directors plan for us. We also have many possibilities for options classes, such as trades, computer sciences, languages and arts. We also have the french immersion program, we take pride in being a bilingual school, however it can still be developed. There is a lack of resources, such as text books, teacher availability, and help outside of class. Since this problem is occurring the number of immersion students is decreasing. Not only are French immersion students doing the same curriculum as the rest of the students, most of us are doing it in our second language. Due to the lack of French students, core classes aren't offered more than once per year. This makes it near impossible to make changes to schedules no matter how small the change needs to be. Often, a French student must choose between which classes to take or they may have to remove certain option classes because of how strict the French schedule is. We also do not have easy access to french books in the library, there are a few in the library but we must go up the stairs to a separate area.

- Music classes should be more promoted, it takes a lot of students to fill a band or fill an orchestra, and most students aren't aware of the benefits to participating in a music class.

Layla:

Throughout our past three years at this school we have had access to some wonderful teachers, a large range of clubs and groups to join, and great guidance counselors. However, it has come to our attention that there is room for improvement in the area of preparation for post secondary education and in general the future for the students. We can recognize that there is a smaller percentage of those who chose the path of post secondary education at this school. Even though university and college isn't always the correct path for some students, we believe that opening the discussion and educating students on the endless variety of opportunities they have access to can only benefit their futures. Students who struggle in certain classes or thrive in dash two dash three classes should be aware of the opportunities that are still accessible to them in the post secondary direction. Trades is an important aspect of our society however it is not the only option for these students. A strength of our school lies in the fact that each student is different, therefore we should develop the resources available to each and every one of them. We should start the discussion of the future as early as grade nine, not in the sense of deciding what you have to do, but showing the variety of possibilities there are for them so that when grade eleven and twelve comes around there is less stigma, confusion and fear in regards to the future and students may feel more prepared and aware for what's to come.

- There would be an improvement in morale at the school if we decreased the amount of pressure put on students, the support for stress management should be developed as well as let alone made aware of the students. I know we have counselors for students but not many of them actually know about this.

Just in case they want us to bring up safety:

From the feedback we have recently received from conversing with our classmates. The majority of them feel completely safe and comfortable at our school. However some of them have discussed the groups of people who vape and do other things in the bathroom other than go to the bathroom. This has made students feel uncomfortable and uneasy and has made it inconvenient and difficult for them to actually use the washrooms.

Highlights:

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Questions/Concerns

None

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned 7:00 pm