



Uxbridge Secondary School Community Council Meeting

September 17, 2019 – Minutes

In Attendance: Michelle Crawford-Eade (Principal), Erin Oliver (Vice-Principal), Mark Lynch (Vice Principal), Lisa Edwards, Trish Irlen, Jason Cole, Nancy Mann, Cyndi Fagan, Heidi Weitzman, Sandra Haworth, Karen Wiesner, Charlotte Truter, Anna Sunn, Caroline Jones, Carolyn Allen (Guidance), Kevin Inglehart, Sonya Kehoe, Kimber Stokes (Student Council), Mary Stewart (Student Council), Jack Loeve, Carol Loeve, Natalie Wood, Nathalie Robert, Morgan Finlay, Cindy Finlay, Julie Morrison, Chris Kakouros, Shannon Kakouros, Kim Kalinich, Sandra Sutherland, Martin Truter, Susan Ward, Michelle Lindsey

Informal welcome by Michelle Crawford-Eade highlighting the new library and additional STEM classroom.

1) Charlotte Truter opened with greetings to new and returning members.

Opened the floor to nominations for new council executive.

Chairperson position received 2 nominations: Charlotte Truter and Lisa Edwards. A vote by secret ballot was held and Lisa Edwards will be the Chairperson for the 2019-2020.

There were no other nominations for executive council. Vice-Chairperson - Heidi Weitzman, Secretary - Nancy Mann (Trish Irlen and Karen Wiesner have kindly agreed to back up the secretary in event of absence).

Minutes Approved by Michelle Lindsey (1st) and Sonya Kehoe (2nd) for minutes of May 2019 meeting.

2) Principal Report

A) Smoking and Vaping :

- Will not be tolerated. If caught on school property or within 20m (~65 ft) of ANY school property a \$305 fine will be issued (\$495 if caught sharing) by the Health Department and an automatic 3-day suspension for students. Adults (i.e. parents) can also be fined)
- Information has been shared with students, council and parents
- Also, of note, the Township and Durham Region at large will also be fining
- Information is also being shared through education in Biology and PE classes.

B) Staffing:

- Presently sitting at 1121 students, 72 staff. Down from 1350 a few years ago. When student population falls, staffing numbers also go down which can impact extra-curricular activities.
- Class sizes remain, for the most part, consistent with previous years. Largest class is 29 students, smallest is 15.
- Website has been revamped. Mr. Lynch demonstrated where to find some of the key parent information. Sports have been added. Clubs are in the process of being uploaded. Still determining where clubs will fall on the site.
- Staffing of teams and clubs is not mandated by the administration and all staff do so on a volunteer basis. Parent volunteers are welcome but any activity must be sponsored by a staff member. If a club/team does not run the only reason is due to lack of student interest or staff availability.

C) PROM 2019 issues:

- There were a number of issues with last spring's prom, particularly with students arriving under the influence, vaping and disrespecting staff. Most linked to activities taking place prior to prom.
- Prom cannot run without staff volunteers and it is difficult to get them if they are being mistreated.
- Administration is already speaking with this year's grade 12 students regarding expectations for Prom 2020.

D) Dress code:

- Time to modernize the dress code.
- Male and Female students are joining Mrs. Crawford-Eade in re-evaluating and updating the dress code. Will be presented to the SCC prior to implementation. It was found previously that when restrictions on hats were lifted, they were no longer an issue.

3) Student report – Mary Stewart and Kimber Stokes provide the following update.:

September 25– Terry Fox and Cam's Kids Run. No colour run this year as it is too expensive. Field activities, water balloon toss, obstacle course etc. will be taking place along with the run to create a fun community event. Tickets on sale thru Tuesday Sept 24th. Permission forms required and available online. \$5 entry fee can also be paid through cash online.

SCC parent assistance would be appreciated for clean up.

4) Guidance Report – Carolyn Allen

- New Department link for Guidance under the "department tab". Guidance events are cross posted with the calendar.
- Ms. Gillespie is on leave this school year.
- SLAM us under way. This is the Students Leading And Mentoring Group which strives to create a welcoming environment for all. They are on hand for the Grade 9 Welcome Day.

- Remind APP is not in use for Guidance this year due to new fee structure. Students have access to info through Google Classroom on their Chromebooks. Info is available to parents on the website.
- For additional scholarship information www.studentawards.com, create profile.
- \$42,000 in local scholarships available for graduates. May will be the deadline for application.

5) General Discussion:

Tech Info-

- All students now have Chromebooks. These are on LOAN to the students. If they received them in Grade 7, they will be upgraded in grade 10.
- Damage to screen is a \$50 repair.
- Full replacement is at the student's expense and is approx. \$325. Admin will decide if a repair or replacement is needed.
- This is a new Board wide policy.

IB (International Baccalaureate) Program-

- USS has been approved as a candidate school for this program. Mrs. Crawford-Eade and a team of teachers received training this summer in Atlanta.
- Plan is for program to be introduced in the 2020-2021 school year.
- No teacher will be solely dedicated to the IB Program.
- Research indicates that there are post-secondary placement advantages to an IB designation.
- Lots of discussion to still be had. There will be a community meeting in advance of the Program Introduction.

Strikes?

- The approach at USS is "status quo until otherwise notified"
- CUPE was in a strike position as of last week for labour action to commence at the end of September.
- The school does not get any advance information. Local news reports are the best source of strike/labour action information.

NEXT MEETING DATE: October 22, 2019 @ 6:30 pm.