

KCI Parent Council Meeting
Monday, October 29, 2018 7:00 pm
KCI Library

Present: *Cathy Vollmer-Ashley, Liz Goetze, Alysse Hastie, Diane Harnock, Tony Endres, Martha D'Agostino, Cher Mamuza, Christine Carmody, Suzanne Tyas, Melissa Jichici, Blair Allen, Pamela Mulloy, Kari Fisher*

I Presentation: Gord Downie/Chanie Wenjak Foundation - KCI's Indigenous Peoples of Canada ReconciliACTION Club and Trina Allinotte (KCI Staff Sponsor/Science teacher)

To bring awareness to Indigenous Issues facing our Indigenous Community

- Vimeo.com/247196482
- Teaches about residential schools
- To change the next 150 Years of Canada
- Held 2 bakes sales to raise funds for: 1. clean water, 2. books & school supplies
- Made a commitment to:
 - Teach about reconciliation, and what that means
 - Resources provided for English, History, etc. by GDCW Foundation
 - Land Acknowledgement, Orange Shirt Day, Secret Path Animated film, bake sales (for True North Aid - school supplies for northern communities; for Cleaner Water on reserves)
 - Different departments have been participating (e.g., Math of Reconciliation)
 - Library collection/display
 - Treaty Awareness Week upcoming; Rock Your MOCS event Nov. 14th (Wear your moccasins to school)
 - Club Wednesday at lunch, Room 120
 - Motto: "Do Something"

II Ion Update: Ron Bauman (Rapid Transit Department)

- Best resource: call Service First Call Centres 519-575-4400
- 19 km of cities, shaping transit network; providing seamless connection between bus and light rail; more of a grid network
- Independent from GRT only until the system goes live then will all be GRT
- More efficient service: Shorter connection times
- Electronic fare payment
- Conestoga Mall to Fairview Mall
- Stations:
 - Side running or centre running
 - Anchor walls are all different; may reflect neighborhoods, help identify station
 - benches
 - Passenger info displays
 - Audio announcement for oncoming trains/service announcement

- Overhead covering/vestibules
- Yellow marking for safety (Stay back from the tracks; helps with visual impairments as well), shows where doors will be
- Trains:
 - 1 driver/train; switch ends for change of direction
 - Powered electrically
 - Seat 60; fit 200 people comfortably
 - Bicycles allowed on the train in designated areas
 - 100% low floor
 - Trains will stop at every station
 - Currently have 11-12 trains, need 14 to launch
 - Every train requires 600 km burn-in period (3-4 month time); must train drivers
 - At least 4 trains testing now
 - Will get some trains running, while testing the newer trains
 - GRT.ca/IONsafety
- Keep KCI Safe! is the goal
 - Stay off tracks
 - Cross at designated intersections
 - Trains are quiet: Watch for trains crossing!
 - #MyIONtheTrain on Instagram
 - Community engagement contests
- Upcoming Events:
 - Visit ION at a station (rotates)
 - Dec. 7 Christkindl Market (Kitchener City Hall station)
 - Weekend event being planned
 - Let Ron know if there is another event to partner with
- Newsletter: regionofwaterloo.ca/subscribe
- Communication via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram -- updates, videos, contests
- Rapid Transit will be taken over by GRT once the train is operational
- Free transfer between train and bus; works similarly but electronic (EasyGO card - validation at station) - watch for education campaign
- No date for phase out of paper tickets yet
- Students can get a card now at the terminal; teams will go to different places to distribute
 - Planning distribution at KCI, as well as at malls, seniors homes, etc.
- University Student Cards are already tied to EasyGO; Conestoga College is hoping to have this arranged by September 2019
- Presentations(MSIP assemblies; 30 minutes long) for student education will be arranged
- Horns are louder than usual for now to help everyone adjust to trains in action
- Contact Ion with any ideas to improve safety or efficiency

III Update from Co-premiers: Alex Scharette

Last month

- Border Bash -- KCI vs. Bluevale football
 - Sold over 400 tickets
 - Spirit dances at halftime
- Fall Fury (new)
 - Battle between grades; 4-person teams, competed to find best team of each grade
 - Grade 12 won! Popcorn for whole grade
- Meme day (mostly on Instagram)
- We Scare food drive (Me to We Group) -- collected 150 Food Items for Food Drive
- Assembly
 - Great videos (see KCI YouTube channel) created by CommTech classes
 - Showed fall sports highlight video and winter formal announcement video to us

Upcoming:

Remembrance Day Assembly

- Scrabble Day
 - Everyone is a letter, spell a word together
- Jersey Day
- School Spirit Wear Days (Wear Red Yellow Black) tomorrow
- Limelight Arts show; open to parents as well
 - Nov. 14-15
 - Tickets approx. \$5

Winter Formal (1st week of December): District Nightclub, Thursday, Dec. 6th @ 7pm

- Rugby event (planned for Spring); similar to Border Bash

Spirit Council

- Raider Rally tomorrow
 - Supports girls' basketball teams after school
 - Face paint, spirit wear on sale
 - Games in the red gym
 - Senior girls' team is currently undefeated
- Blitz T-shirts arrived today
- Last year's Yearbooks arrived today as well
 - Students should have picked theirs up; if not, go to the Activities Office at lunch

IV WRAPSC Report: Kari Fisher/Christine Carmody (October minutes attached)

- Speaker: Prof. Marcel O'Gorman re: cell phone addiction
 - Velcro case as a deterrent (\$10 to make); he is researching effectiveness
 - Slot machines are similar in nature to cell phones in terms of addiction
- Speaker: System Admin re: MyWay portal
 - Mathify: program that helps with math (live math tutoring system) through TVO
 - Sunday-Thursday, 5:30-9:30pm
 - Requires OEN (from report card) to sign up

- My Blueprint : helps career plan (credits needed, schools offering this program, pathways to programs, etc.)
 - Recently been implemented; demonstration for parent council in future
- These are both available through MyWay
- Review of last year's meetings (see the minutes, if you are interested)
- PRO grant - Government is reviewing
- Changes in Education: What should we do?
 - Trying not to reinvent the wheel: What are other WRAPSC doing?
 - Comparing with Nurses Union
 - Ideas from school councils?
- Ontario Ministry of Education is requesting input from parents:
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/for-the-parents>. Deadline is Dec. 15, 2018.

V Principal's Report: Cathy Vollmer-Ashley

- We are getting \$500 Parent Involvement Grant (from government) to be spent by Council. Some possibilities include:
 - Support the school improvement plan
 - Pay for costs related to parent engagement in our school
 - Translation of posters/literature
 - Parent reading materials/resources/information/orientation
 - Guest speakers for parents
 - Elmira woman re: addiction experiences
 - Health & Nutrition: preventing mental health issues (Kari Fisher)
 - Bring ideas for speakers (and cost) to next meeting
 - Initiatives facing barriers

Note: money must be spent this school year

Question was asked: Do our speakers need to be board-approved? CVA looking into this.

- ADHD Community Workshop Nov. 25 @ Rockway Community Centre (see attached).
- Collaborative MSIP (new):

History: Students had begun working in halls during MSIP in pairs/small groups. This was becoming very popular, but difficult for custodians having so many students in the halls at all times of day.

- Now can work in a classroom with computers, round tables
- Staff trying to assign group work based on same MSIP times
- Students sign into MSIP
- Students can travel to library during MSIP as well but only so many spaces available
- Students on spare will also come in to work with a partner/group during MSIP
- Website Navigation walk-through
- WEFI is a WRDSB charitable foundation you can donate towards at any time online (link on left side of KCI website)
- SWIFT radio tab (on left side) has announcements each day

- KCI Parents tab just for parents
 - Has updated parking instructions (PDF) with map
 - Has Parent Meeting dates, minutes, and upcoming agenda
- Community Service Hours (changing this year):
 - Students will enter their own hours via MyWay at/after completion date
 - Previously entered hours will appear on the student's screen
 - It will automatically update in Trillium (school board data entry website)
 - Ask Guidance Counsellor any questions

VI Other Business

- Feedback re: Parent-Teacher Night
 - Core teacher (esp. math) line-up was very long (over an hour!)
 - Message from some teachers to parents: If there are no issues, don't bother coming.
 - Great that refreshments were provided
 - Perhaps more info provided than necessary (took longer time)
 - Suggestions for improvement:
 - Message to teachers and parents: Please keep it brief (3 minutes?), make appointments for longer conversations
 - Send announcement to parents in advance to remind them to keep it brief
 - Not just a teacher issue!
 - Teachers need to "see" line-up -- have next person in line right in classroom
 - Ushers communicate to teachers re: length of lines
 - Could use an usher in the library, or at least a map of where teachers are sitting
 - Online appointment sign-up?
 - SERT, Guidance counsellor, VPs, also available
 - Useful evening, great opportunity, teachers are generous with their time
 - Teacher feedback was useful for students as well as for parents
 - Cathy will discuss ideas at next staff meeting
- Lunch Program
 - Suggestion of vending machine with food that could be heated in microwave, as well as cold sandwiches
 - Currently Grand River Hospital is the best place to purchase food
 - Cafeteria was painted and is being renovated to encourage students to eat here with charging stations, tall (bar) tables
 - Opened a classroom at lunchtime for a quieter space
 - Kari Fisher may send Cathy an email with more ideas

Meeting closed at 9:00

Nov. 26th is the next meeting