KCI Parent Council Meeting

Monday, Sept. 23, 2019 7:00 PM

KCI Library

*Present: Cathy Vollmer-Ashley, Liz Goetze, Vivian Fuchs, Alysse Hastie, Angelica Allen, Christine Carmody, Pamela Mulloy, Tracy Jackson, Joe Petrik, Debbie McIntyre, Cindy Desbiens, Jennifer Fournier, Margaret Walton-Roberts*

1. Update from Co-Premiers – Olivia Sargla and Charlie Reist

* Co-primes and a couple of other students attending CSLC (Student Leadership Summit) in Vancouver this week from Tuesday to Sunday.
* New: Raider of the Month and Athlete of the Month. Nominated by teachers and students. Raider of the Month is someone who has shown good Raider citizenship.
* Smoothie bar to open again in early Oct. Applications/interviews underway. Overseen by Catherine Charette.
* Limelight is Nov 13-14.
* Fri, Sept 27 is Spirit Day. Wear PJs to school.
* Mon, Sept 30 is Orange Shirt Day, run by Reconciliation Club, to show support of those who attended residential schools. Wed to Fri this week, orange shirts will be available for $5 (at cost).
* Oct 10 is Kitchener Clash. Junior and senior football teams will play against Huron Heights at University Stadium. (JR game at 5:30, SR game at 7:30). Tailgate party before the games. Tickets on sale in Oct.
* Good turnout at clubs fair last week.
* Over 200 students showed up for first Junior Leadership meeting. They brainstormed on ‘caf-tivity’ activity ideas. There will be a live telephone game on Oct 10. Plans for popcorn days, cotton candy days, future spirit days… Meetings are held once a month.
* Niner Night, Sept 18, was successful, with activities and a dance.
* Blitz Week – 565 T-shirts were ordered. They should be in in the next few weeks.
* Students left on the Alberta exchange trip on Sept 22.
* Picture retake day is Oct 30.
* Last year’s yearbooks are in.
* 3 students bought 150 smile cookies for staff and students. Proceeds go to Nutrition for Learning.

1. KCI’s African Heritage Club - Carol Pinnock, Chris Ashley and Layla (gr 10 student)

* Club meets once a week at lunch hour. All are welcome – ie not limited to students of African heritage. The club has done fundraising for a Kenyan orphanage, among other ventures.
* 3 goals:
  + Education: share articles, topics of discussion, current events
  + Empowerment: ‘step forward; don’t be shy’
  + Awareness: play a role in the school community
* Club was created because the need to offer support on a regular basis was perceived. Feb is Black History Month. Wilfred Laurier University hosts a conference once a year (Beating the Odds) to encourage post-secondary education in African heritage kids. The number of African heritage kids going on to post-secondary in WRDSB is low.
* WRDSB hosted first Black Brilliance conference in fall 2018. This year’s will be held at Google headquarters.
* Layla (British/Irish white mother, Somalian black father) spoke very movingly about her first experiences at KCI. She has been subjected to prejudicial comments on multiple occasions, and made to feel very uncomfortable. In her experience, KCI is not as diverse as her old school. She found support from teachers, and through this club.

1. WRAPSC (Christine Carmody)

* WRAPSC (Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils) is an umbrella group for school councils in WRDSB.
* First meeting is scheduled for Oct 1. Principal Cathy Volmer-Ashley will be speaking.
* WRAPSC meets six times during the school year.

1. Principal’s Report - Cathy Vollmer-Ashley

* Higher enrolment of students this year (1472) – more or less at capacity.
* Staffing changes – some changes among teachers and VPs. No contract teachers were laid off in WRDSB but no new contract hires. WRDSB is a growing board which helps offset the impact of government changes.
* Several renovations done over the summer: Family Studies (cooking and sewing rooms), windows on east and west of front sides, library painted and has new carpet and shelves, a stairwell painted.
* Impact on KCI of government spending cuts
  + Funding now is for 22 credits to 1 section. Government wants to increase that to 28:1.
  + Ratios of class size are: academic – 30:1, applied – 24:1, lifeskills – 16:1. Some classes are limited due to number of stations (eg shop).
  + Trying to maintain class size cap of 34, however, now more classes of 34 than before.
  + Funding was introduced to help implement changes slowly, over 4 years.
  + Some positions have been removed: Learning Support Teacher (LST), Math LST, Spec Ed head, Student Success room
  + Mandatory e-Learning courses coming in fall 2020 – allows for 38 students per class.
* Alexandra Seiling has been awarded the Beginning Teacher OTIP Teaching Award. Alex is a second year teacher in French Immersion Civics and Family Studies.
* Global Climate Strike is underway this week around the world. Kitchener-Waterloo events planned for this Fri, Sept 27. KCI is not supporting or condoning this action. If the majority of a class is present on Friday, new material will be taught.
* Universities Fair is scheduled for this weekend in Toronto, Fri-Sun.

1. Election of new officers
   * Alysse Hastie and Vivian Fuchs stepped down after two years as co-chairs of school council.
   * Tracy Jackson and Cindy Desbiens have taken over as co-chairs for the coming year.
   * WRAPSC representatives will be Christine Carmody and Angelica Allen.
   * Secretary duties will be handled by Melissa Jichici and others.
   * Liz Goetze will continue as teacher representative.
   * Need to find a community rep.
2. Other Business

* Christine provided an update on the letter that was sent to the Minister of Education in the summer addressing the changes in the education plan/budget. A form letter from Laura Mae Lindo’s office was received. Decision was made to await further communication from the government.
* Question was asked regarding the printing of course materials, particularly in science and math. CVA looking into how this will be handled going forward (ie. Students responsible for printing notes themselves vs teachers providing them).

Meeting closed 9:00pm