**KCI Parent Council Meeting**

**Monday, November 25, 2019 7:00 PM**

**KCI Library**

***Present: Cathy Vollmer-Ashley, Cindy Desbiens, Tracy Jackson, Vivian Fuchs, Dwight Aplevich, Angelica Allen, Melissa Jichici, Christine Carmody, Martina Belanger, Brenda Bissell, Rosalie Griffett, Dennis Haid, Ingrid Bachmann, Richard Reive, Cher Mamuza, Alysse Hastie, Pamela Mulloy, Marnie Gerster, Jennifer Fournier. Regrets Olivia Sargla and Charlie Reist.***

1. Update from Co-Premiers- co-premiers not in attendance- see Principal's Report for updates from co-primes.

II. Student Supports at KCI: J Bannister, H Gibbons, C Stroud and C Russell

* Social Workers
  + Provide emotional, mental health, behavioural support
  + Work with students re: attendance issues,
  + Students sorted by last initial (keeps better communication that way)
  + Students can self-refer, no appointment necessary
    - Students can email/fill out a sticky note/short form/walk-in to book an appointment
    - Meetings usually scheduled during MSIP, but also during class, at lunch or before/after school
  + Provide community resource information (e.g., free counseling at OK2BMe)
  + Participate in all student success meetings with other admin and staff
  + Wellness committee primarily to promote well-being and mental health; mainly led by Jane Schulz-Janzen (guidance counsellor); students heavily involved
  + Communicate with parents, eg., for safety/support plans
  + Various student groups (e.g., Girls groups, Fast Forward program); help to build self-esteem, anger management, etc.
  + Alternative Suspension Program: Student suspended at least 5 days, work together to come up with program that may involve emotional component as well as academic component
  + Student struggles seen at KCI include academic stress/overload, relationship mediation, teacher-student or student-student conflict, social media-related issues, housing needs, family safety, sexual health questions
  + Increased need apparent re: mental health, increased students in crisis in general
    - Many factors, including social media
  + KCI belief: Take care of yourself, take care of each other
  + Many requests on behalf of another student
  + Student at risk of self-harm: risk assessment taken immediately which determines course of action, parent is always contacted
    - Students often don’t want parents contacted because of the worry it will cause parents
    - Important to be aware that not everyone needs to go to the hospital as part of the action plan
    - If hospital care is recommended, the KCI social workers will write a letter outlining the presenting issues, and the history as has been provided, to be given to the triage nurse
  + Chronic Non-attendance
    - Reach out to family, understand the reasons behind the low attendance rates, work together to come up with a plan to help the student
    - Some reasons for non-attendance include anxiety (improved by gradual exposure, support plans, “build-a-credit” program, etc.)
  + Social worker’s role: assess, support, refer (NOT diagnose/treat)
  + Brochures are available re: Parents for Children’s Mental Health
  + Front Door is a single-point of access for youth with mental health concerns (Front Door will refer to other programs and services as well)
  + Sexual Health Nurse comes to KCI once/wk (1st 3 periods each Wednesday); will speak with students, answer any of their questions, or refer when necessary
    - Social workers can let the nurse know if a student would like to speak with her, or students may go to her directly

III. WRAPSC Report (see attachment to minutes): Christine Carmody

* John Bryant and Michael Weinert, Lila Read and Matthew Gerard
  + Spoke re: EQAO results, split classes, fundraising, graduation rates
  + We are still at 22 students/teacher on average in WRDSB; likely not to change much before next teacher contract is negotiated
  + New application process for PIC grants; funding given by school board now, but cut by about half (most we could expect would be $500)
  + See slideshow from the schoolboard re: EQAO results as it explains quite well
    - Interestingly, student behaviour appears to be affecting the EQAO results

IV. Principal’s Report

* Leadership and Wellness Week - bulletin board displays on different themes (e.g., concussions) by leadership class
* Involved in Movember - raised over $1000
* Dec. 5th Semi-formal “Snowball” @ District Nightclub: There will be lots of supervision and any student is welcome
* Fundraiser in support of House of Friendship collecting hats, mitts, etc.
* PD Day (November) - continued work on Equity, Privilege
  + Staff self-selected from a variety of workshops they had requested, incl. Google Read & Write training; IEP student support best practices; supporting marginalized students with a focus on African heritage, Indigenous community & LGBTQ; wellness and technology
  + Speaker, Ben Finelli (former Kitchener Ranger) - was injured when he was 16
    - Discussed how using a positive lens on challenging life experiences can help build a stronger mental health
    - See link to news article re: Ben Finelli
* Teachers begin Work to Rule beginning tomorrow (Tuesday, November 26)
  + OSSTF and KCI do not understand the full effect of this strike
  + No one expects the students to be affected at this point, much like ETFO (elementary teacher strike), including extra-curricular activities
  + Watch School-Day and WRDSB.ca for any news on this topic
  + CVA agrees with WRAPSC meeting information suggesting WRDSB and teacher unions work well together
  + We expect EQAO tests would not be done during strikes; math EQAO (normally written in January) not necessary to graduate, but Literacy test (normally written in March) IS required to graduate
  + Report marks expected to be calculated, comments might not be written (which would not affect post-secondary school entrance acceptances)
  + Parents are understanding of the stresses and pressures put upon the teachers and admin; hopeful for a quick resolution

V. Other Business

* African Heritage Club volunteered with Westmount Public School and plan to return next year; great experience for the younger students who showed adoration for the KCI students
* Ripple Effect update
  + The organizer said the presentation was not designed for large groups (e.g., an assembly)
  + They are looking into a 2-group session (max 30-40 people/group of parents/students)
  + Plan to use the PIC grant ($500)
* Due date coming up quickly for grant proposal - PRO grant ($500) - Dec. 15th
  + Looking for ideas to use this grant
    - Binary Tattoo presentation for parents & students re: cyber security, data mining, permanence of social media
    - Last year’s Parenting Teens program from KW Counselling (max 100) was sold-out
      * Perhaps a follow-up program would be useful, or something similar with a digital focus
  + Email our chairs if you have any further comment otherwise Cindy Desbiens will apply for PRO grant for follow up to last year's program with KW Counselling.

Meeting closed at 8:10pm

Grade 8 Information Night - January 15th (Please contact Cathy Vollmer-Ashley and/or our chairs if you can attend and informally speak with parents at this event.)

Next meeting: January 20, 2019 re: Course Selection & EQAO results