

AY Jackson Secondary School Council

Monday, September 26, 2016

6:30 p.m. in the Library

Present: Lillian Neitzel, Susan Wehrmann, Sandra Blakely, Mathieu Dotzenroth, David Thickett, Wendy Clee, Kayvon Mihan, Diane McFaul Freeman, Jenny Janes, Valerie Norlen, Diana Brunke, Ruixue Huang, Muna Mohamed, Wendy Mains, Paul Warner, Maliheh Hooper.

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Vote for new council

Lillian Neitzel was acclaimed as Chair.

Susan Wehrmann was acclaimed as Secretary.

Grade 10 Literacy – Mathieu Dotzenroth

EQAO results from 2015/2016 (the number reflects the percentage of students to achieve a 3 or 4)

School – 88% success rate

Board – 86% success rate

Province – 81% success rate

Of the students who repeated the Literacy test

School – 70% success rate

Board – 57% success rate

Province – 49% success rate

If you look at the two different streams – the academic students had a 90-95% success rate and the applied students had a 40-50% success rate. We considered combining the academic and applied students in the same class hoping to see and increase in the confidence of the applied students.

This year we have 1 section of Grade 9 English in each semester that is 50% academic and 50% applied students. The split will allow for applied students to move to academic. Guidance works with the feeder schools to see who would benefit from being in the split class. We have had requests from other school to come in and observe the split class.

There are steps we have in place to help prepare students so that they will be successful – bootcamp to build confidence, students write practice tests.

Online EQAO-AY opted out of the October online EQAO test as there is currently no trained staff. We didn't want any possible issues to affect a students results. There will be another online option in March and Mrs. Blakely and Mr. Dotzenroth will be more comfortable offering it then. EQAO will be written Thursday, March 30th.

Student Council Report – Priya Sarwal, Hala Al-Shaer

The second week of school we had a spirit week with pits games each day. It was mostly Grade 9 and 12 students who participated.

This Thursday will be the Grade Rep elections.

The Terry Fox run/walk will also be this Thursday during 4th period. Students have to purchase a ticket for \$2 to participate or they have to go to class.

Orange Shirt day is this Friday in recognition of what happened to child in residential schools and to show a commitment that Every Child Matters.

Grade 10 history classes will do a blanket ceremony with a representative from (I can't remember where!). All 10 classes will go through the exercise.

October 6 will our first school dance. The theme is Fall Back into School.

The last week of October will be Halloweek with Halloween themed spirit days.

Student Council events will be posted on the school website calendar and their email address will be posted on the website.

Teacher Report – Sandra Blakely

Sept 27th – Music Fun Night

Sept 29th – Terry Fox run/walk during 4th period. School is collecting Toonies for Terry

Sept 30th – Orange Shirt day

Oct 5th – Progress reports go home

Oct 13th – Parent/Teacher interviews

Oct 11th – Photo retake day

Man Up – opportunity for young men in Grade 10-12 to talk about and advocate for violence against women. Mr. Dotzenroth runs the group. There will be a workshop on October 12th for invitees.

We will again have the Healthy Relationship workshops in both semesters for Grade 9 Phys. Ed students.

The New York City trip has 50 students going.

Oct 25th – Fall concert

Sept 29th – University Night 7-9 p.m. at Confederation High School. University of Ottawa, Algonquin and Carleton will be there.

Principal's Report – Sandra Blakely

Our numbers are really good. We thought we would have a dip but we are at 720 students. We have a small Grade 12 class this year so we anticipate that our numbers will climb next year.

We have a new Autism class this year. It currently has 3 students in it (max. of 6 students). All students are Grade 9 age appropriate. We have 2 new Educational Assistants in the class and a new teacher Kirk Herman. Ms. Verner also spends sometime in the class.

We will be getting renovations in excess of \$100,000. We may get an extension, update to the science labs, a lighting upgrade.

The Boards School Learning Plan – renewed math strategy. We will incorporate some of the stuff we did with the Grade 9 Math students. Sources of strength – message of hope for some students.

A parents commented that they liked the early access to lockers and schedules.

The J-Crew lockers are now located amongst the Grade 9 lockers.

Grade 9 EQAO Results - David Thicket

Three years ago our EQAO scores were low and the number of student in Applied Math two years ago was 14.

There were some Academic students who were struggling and realized too far into the school year that they should have been in Applied. This is how the idea of split classes in math (Academic and Applied students in one class) came about.

The Grade 9 Applied and Academic math curriculum is 90% the same. The Academic curriculum has a little extra.

Teachers noticed that the Applied students came to class ready to learn and the Academic students became mentors which was good for them and showed how they knew the subject.

Below are 2 tables of the EQAO results for the last 4 years. The percentage is the percentage of students who achieved a level 3 or 4 on the test.

Applied EQAO results for the last 4 years:

	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
AYJ	37%	38%	45%	60%
Board	42%	45%	Strike	45%
Province	44%	47%	Strike	45%

Academic EQAO results for the last 4 years:

	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
AYJ	79%	78%	89%	94%
Board	86%	87%	Strike	87%
Province	84%	85%	Strike	83%

This is really a Grade 7, 8 and 9 project. We have really started to work with the feeder schools. The classes are taught the same topics, progressively getting into more detail throughout the year. Students are exposed to the same topics repeatedly but just a little harder each time.

We also hold a boot camp for students. 40 students each semester are invited. Last year 32 came and they all but 3 achieved a Level 3 on their EQAO. We got the 4U students to be the boot camp students personal tutor, which we feel contributed to the students' success.

Ridgemont HS is following our lead.

Some people thought that the increase in success rate could be attributed to the teacher, however over the last 2 years there has been 7 different Academic Math teachers and 3 different Applied Math teachers.

It must also be noted that we have not had a Grade 9 student fail math in the last 2 years.

If you would like to check out any EQAO results you can go to

www.eqao.com

and choose A.Y. Jackson Secondary School. The results are a combination of 2 years as an average.

OCASC – no report

OCDSB Update - Lillian Neitzel

1. We will add the OCDSB school council weekly newsletters (or link to them) on the school council section of the AYJ website.

2. Items noted from those newsletters:

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) Immunization

As a parent, keeping your kids safe and healthy is your number one priority. All children attending school between ages 4 to 17 need to be immunized according to Ontario's

Immunization Schedule. Immunization protects children from many serious diseases that are easily spread in schools. Learn more here.

School Start Times and School Bus Transportation

There have been some changes to school start times and school bus routes. It takes a week or two for everyone to get used to new bus routes and schedules. If you have experienced delays, please be patient. Information about school bus transportation, including stop locations and pick up and drop off times is available from the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA). Please visit their website.

Do You Know An Innovative And Outstanding School Principal?

Every year The Learning Partnership honours principals across the country who exemplify excellence in public education. Nominations for the 2016 Canada's Outstanding Principals awards are now open and may be submitted by school boards, colleagues, parents, teachers, students and all community members. Nominate an Outstanding Principal today!

School Year Calendar

The 2016-2017 school year calendar is available on our website and a hard copy was distributed to students and staff this week. The highlights include School Holidays, PA Days, and District-wide Secondary Testing.

School Fees

All students are entitled to participate in school activities and access resources regardless of personal financial barriers. As such, school supplies, school fees, and class fees are voluntary. There are some fees for non-essential supplies/services. For additional information please review our procedure. If you require assistance with respect to fees, please contact your principal.

Student Accident Insurance

Creating a caring and safe environment for our students is our top priority. Unfortunately, despite all reasonable precautions being taken, accidents can still happen. Some injuries may result in medical, dental or other expenses that are not covered by provincial health care or employer group plans. As a parent/guardian, you become responsible for these expenses.

After School Literacy and Numeracy Support Program for Students Grades 7 -12

The Continuing Education Department is conducting after school Literacy & Numeracy Support Programs for students in Grades 7 - 12. The Literacy & Numeracy Programs provide assistance to students who need help in all subjects with a specific focus on English, Math, Science, and the Social Sciences. These programs are staffed by qualified Instructors. Students can drop in when it fits their schedule and the program is free. Students are required to bring their Ontario Education Number (OEN) for each session. OENs can be found at the top of the student's report card. The programs begin the week of Tuesday, September 13th. For information regarding the 10 locations, dates, and times, please visit homeworkhelpinottawa.com. For more information, call Continuing Education at (613) 239-2620.

Parent Conference 2016 and School Council Training Day

We're very excited to announce that we will again be hosting the OCDSB Parent Conference. This year we will be incorporating the School Council Training Day into the Parent Conference. The conference is held in partnership with the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and the Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC). Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 19, 2016 from 8:30 am to 12:30 am. There will be workshops on a wide range of topics including school council finances, well-being, learning and more. A full agenda will be released in October. Everyone is welcome and the session is free. We will be asking for all to register in advance to help us with our planning.

Round Table

Prom: Background – for the last 9-10 years there have been no school sanctioned proms. Business took advantage of that and offered proms. These businesses had no accountability to students or parents – they controlled the cost, venue and any fundraising the students did would not lower the price.

The last couple of years, parents came to the board asking to bring back school sanctioned proms. A board policy was created.

Last year AY had a school sanctioned prom that was a great success. There was some fundraising and we managed to lower the tickets prices. There was an after prom but it was organized by the students who went through a business.

Last year the students voted in 2 prom reps. One had to resign as they also were voted in as Co-Chair of student council. The other decided to resign as well as she was recruited by PromNight.ca, an outside company.

Most parents who attended tonight's meeting had strong opinions about keeping a school sanctioned prom. Mrs. Blakely is not willing to hold a competing prom and chance low attendance numbers. Mrs. Blakely is looking to meet with all Grade 12's before our next school council meeting and have a dialog. She is hoping to allow them to express their opinions via a Kahoot vote to confirm which they would prefer; a school sanctioned prom or to continue with PromNight.ca with no potential for repercussions to them. She will share the results with the parents at our next meeting.

Meet was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting

Monday, October 24th at 6:30 p.m. in the library. All are welcome!