



Gander Collegiate

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School Council Meeting Wednesday, May 4, 2016

Present:

Mr. Greg Drover
Mr. David Cheeks
Mr. Justin Heath
Mr. Randy Penney
Mr. Ken Samson
Mr. Barry Butt

Absent: Ms. Marina Saad and Ms. Samantha Dillon

➤ **Welcome**

- Mr. Drover welcomed everyone.
- An agenda and minutes of the previous meeting was distributed.

➤ **Minutes**

- Minutes of the previous meeting were read and having no errors or omissions, Mr. Drover asked for a motion to adopt the minutes as read. A motion was put forward by Mr. Penney, second by Mr. Cheeks and all voted in favor.

➤ **Business Arising from the Minutes**

- Staffing 2016-17.
 - Mr. Cheeks informed members he has been asked to convey a message from the St. Paul's School Council Chair, Mrs. Val Pritchett. The St. Paul's School Council is considering a letter to the Minister of Education regarding budget cuts and is inquiring as to whether the CG School Council would consider a joint submission. Mr. Drover felt it would not be any problem to meet with them to discuss the issue. Any correspondence should be vetted through the full GC Council.

➤ **New Business**

- April Results
 - Mr Drover is pleased to report that 81% of students are on the Honor Roll:
 - Grade 10 80% of students made the Honor Roll
 - Grade 11 81% of students made the Honor Roll
 - Grade 12 82% of students made the Honor Roll

- Level III Concorde Club (90%+ Average)
 - 21% of 140 students are members
- Teacher Allocations 2016-17
 - Mr. Drover noted he was very concerned prior to the release of the teacher allocation, but is less so now.
 - GC is down one teaching unit
 - 2015-16 GC had 25.75 units
 - 2016-17 GC will have 24.75 units
 - The lost unit will not affect the IRT Allocation
 - Class size caps have increased in Junior High (St. Paul's will be 29:1)
 - High School has no cap, but still expect class size increases.
 - Class sizes of 35 possible
 - 30-35 range very likely
 - Final numbers are unknown at this time as transfers are expected.
 - IRT support has been given a bit of a boost. Mr. Penney asked if this was due to a ratio change, or because more students needing support are coming in next year. Mr. Drover was not sure of the reason, but it is usually based on the number of students with exceptionalities.
 - Mr. Drover offered credit to the IRT staff, as there are high-need students that were attending ½ days that are now exploring the possibility of attending full days. There are also some that required individual instruction that are now in group settings.
 - Mr. Drover also complemented the work of the school council during this past year for their support of the teacher allocation appeal. It appears the District saw the benefit of more IRT support and acted accordingly. The approach taken in the appeal process was the right one.
 - The one teaching unit lost for 2016-17 was filled by a good teacher and the loss will affect the science program (due to the high number of science courses (9) offered).
 - There are a couple of Term Positions opening up and these will be filled over the summer.
- Continuous Day
 - Mr. Drover confirmed that there will be no lunch hour bussing this coming school year and several issues will have to be dealt with as a result.
 - There will be a need for coordinated bell schedules at all three Gander schools and the added issue of full day Kindergarten.
 - There will be issues with respect to administering medications
 - Lunch is planned for 40 minutes at Academy and St. Paul's
 - GC will not be a lot different from the other schools (First Bell will ring at 8:05 AM now instead of 8:08 AM and the plan is for a 50 minute lunch and a 15 minute recess.
 - Lunch tutorials will be approximately 40 minutes.

- Dismissal will be at 2:12 PM instead of 2:45PM.
 - Mr. Penney questioned whether a 12 minute recess was too short and Mr. Drover noted it is indeed short but had to be so as to allow for the 50 minute lunch.
 - Mr. Butt offered that tutorials would probably be better held after school than lunch.
 - Mr. Drover noted that start and end times for the day are critical to meet bussing schedules, but a discussion about gaining minutes within instructional times could still occur.
 - The GC cafeteria can accommodate ½ of the student population with the remainder using the lobby. New benches will be ordered (6 @ \$ 680 per bench) to increase seating.
 - Mr. Penney also noted there may be issues with using the cafeteria for holding tests.
 - Mr. Drover reported that Westen's catering has been contacted and they can accommodate pre-ordering of lunches if students wish to avail of the service. They can also offer pre-paid food cards. It is likely that there will be greater use of the CONA cafeteria as well.
 - Mr. Penney noted there will be maintenance issues surrounding the electrical capabilities in the cafeteria as it is not capable of running the two microwaves now there. Mr. Drover agreed and noted there may need to be an electrical upgrade required.
 - The janitorial schedule will have to change and Mr. Drover noted that has been addressed.
- Parking Lot
 - Mr. Heath asked if there has been any resolution to the issue of the pavement cracking up. Mr. Drover replied that he understands it is being looked at by facilities management, but repairs will be dependent on funding. Members of Council agreed to direct Mr. Drover to contact Mr. Gilbert regarding the issue of electrical upgrade and the parking lot.
 - Prom Preparations
 - Preparations are going well and the Prom Committee is on track to have everything ready on time and within budget.
 - Mr. Drover noted there was one contentious issue regarding non-grads attending as dates and individual requests to block certain non-grads from attending. He has explained the reasoning to the Prom committee and the Council noted their support of Mr. Drover's decisions.
 - Final Exam Schedules
 - Mr. Drover reported the schedules along with all accommodation plans are completed.
 - Review of course materials is due to start around the end of May.

- Student and School Recognition
 - Mr. Drover reported the following achievements
 - 2 gold banners for NL school sports
 - Boys ice hockey won the Regionals
 - Boys ball hockey are going to provincials this coming weekend
 - Girls ball hockey will attend provincials in 2 weeks
 - Julia Pritchett won the Lions Club Speak-off competition
 - Hanna Cole won the right to create artwork and trophies for the regional drama festival. She is responsible for materials and supplies so GC agreed to cover the cost
 - 7 students recently attended the Blundon seminar for mathematics and attended the provincial math competition with good results
 - The GC Choir and band attended a competition in Halifax last weekend and both returned with silver standard. The choir/band (80 students) held their spring concert last night with an excellent performance attended by parents and friends.
 - Mrs. McDonald's Brain Bee is scheduled to go ahead in the near future as well.
 - The student council cake auction is scheduled to take place tomorrow.
 - Mr. Drover noted the commitment of GC students is excellent.

➤ **School Council Concerns**

- As there were no concerns, Mr. Penney put forth a motion to adjourn. Motion was second by Mr. Butt and all were in favor.

➤ **Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 pm.**

➤ **Next Meeting:** June 1, 2016