

Centennial Secondary School Council
Monday, January 16, 2012, room 102
Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Deb Braun, Sue Davies, Alison Peloquin, Rob Motola (staff) Paula MacKinnon (principal) Larry Lemelin (Community Representative) John McDowell, Dan Saint-Laurent, Sherrill Roberts, Shelley Cutts, Ann Lalonde, Jennifer Tanouye, Cathy Alakas, Elizabeth Maltais, Walter Burattini (staff) Charles Voth, Nyle Collins (prime minister) Sophie Helpard (Student Council)

Regrets: Dan Godin, Jane Kopp, Pam Swick Janjak

Meeting Start: 7:05PM

Welcome :

Chair, Deb Braun, offered a warm welcome to everyone and asked if someone would volunteer to be secretary for tonight's meeting? Larry Lemelin accepted. Deb asked everyone if they have had a chance to check the minutes and then the minutes were passed.

Student Council Report:

Sophie Helpard spoke of how busy the month of December was at Centennial. The Grandparents Tea with singers, was a GREAT success! A Christmas Dance was held for the 1st time, which also was very successful. The "canned food drive" through the efforts of the Grade 10's, brought in a lot of food, which in return, offered tickets for the "Semi-Formal". A "Talent Show" was held the last day of school, along with the Staff / Student basketball game. A good time had by all who attended. January will bring exams. Also, a "Matchmaker" forum was created for "Prom". Students pay \$1.00 to be matched up and determine their compatibility with their match, all funds going to the "Prom." A "Semi-Formal" will be held on February 24th at Club Castropignano in Port Robinson, with the theme, "Rain Forest". An Open House will be held at Centennial on January 17th which will see Grade 9's helping at the Student Council Table and at various locations throughout the school, as their way of helping parents to understand the workings of the Centennial Secondary School.

Nyle Collins shared information about the Student Trustee Senate and their desire create a meaningful interaction with fellow high school students. The Senate has developed a survey with 10 school related questions. This survey will be distributed to all DSBN Secondary schools across Niagara in sample classes in each participating school. Nyle read out the thought provoking questions. Results of the survey will be brought to the next Parent Council meeting. For a copy of the questions, contact Principal MacKinnon.

Chairs Report:

Deb mentioned that she recently received the " People for Education" information and that her and Principal MacKinnon would complete the required information sharing.... which is an annual task.

Administration Report:

Principal MacKinnon opened her report by offering sincere congratulations to the Centennial Cougars Boys Basketball Team and the Cougar Cheerleaders for all their successes during the Tribune Basketball Tournament. She then noted that this is the first time since 1973, for the Centennial Cougar Boys Basketball Team to win the Tribune Basketball Tournament Championship, and that they were very deserving of this win. She indicated that she hoped that Coach Mosley would have the Championship Trophy on display for the Open House on January 17th. Principal MacKinnon and Sophie Helpard have been working collectively on confirming as many clubs and sports teams to be on hand to meet with visitors, in the cafeteria, during the Open House, in hopes of showcasing all the great activities students can get involved in when deciding to attend Centennial. There will be an actual sign up for clubs and team sports for the Grade 8 visiting students during the Open House. Several classrooms will have displays informing visiting families of all the interesting programs available at Centennial. A "Passport" will be offered to each visiting student and that student will be able to get their "Passport" stamped at various locations throughout the school in lieu of winning "Cougar Apparel". Draws will be held in the auditorium. Also, a preview to Centennial's upcoming musical production, "Music Man" will be performed for visitors along with a Cougar Cheerleader demonstration and opening remarks to kick off the Open House.

EQAO will be doing an assessment for math and will also be on hand to supervise and monitor the assessment at Centennial. Exams will be from Tuesday to Friday next week and there will be no classes on January 30th and January 31st will be a P.A. Day. Report cards will be out on February 10th and an early release day will be February 17th.

"Good News Items" include the window replacement project, which is going very well. Lighting and ceiling tile replacement on the second floor will take place near end of school year. 32 Security cameras will be installed in and around Centennial in common areas, in May. Laura Secord Secondary School was selected as the pilot DSBN Secondary school with regards to the installation of security cameras and as a result of the positive results, several other DSBN Secondary schools will also be equipped with security cameras. French Immersion will now start at Grade 4 at Gordon School which will balance student enrollment between Welland's east side and west side elementary schools with regards to French Immersion. Declining enrollment has caused less Grade 9's to enroll at Centennial and feeder school populations are also seeing a decline.

Professional Development – Student Success Supports and Alternative Education Programs

Walter Burattini- Student Success Teacher

Walter offered his congratulations to Cougar Cheerleaders and Cougar's Boys Basketball team and remarked that he attended the final game with his son, who is presently a student at Gordon School and his son is looking forward to becoming a Cougar in years to come!

Walter offered everyone 2 handouts. One explained the role of a Student Success Teacher (SST), and the process that said teacher engages in during a school calendar year, the reports, Ministry projects and meetings dates that SST adhere to in their role serving the needs of the students. The second handout gave detailed information to all the programs available to students and their families who work with a SST. The handout also lists all contact information and location for each of the programs or "tools in the tool box" of a SST.

Walter went on to explain how in the case of a student who has a lack of credits, that his role is to offer strategies and ideas on how a student can recover credits through various ways with the assistance of the SST. Reports offer SST's the knowledge of the struggles students may be experiencing and with all the "tools" these teachers are equipped with, they have the ability to help students gain confidence in themselves as a result of the assistance offered to recover credits. Walter explained several of the

programs and their locations across Welland. “ First Change, Connect, Rise Program, Rise Outreach, Project Turnaround, and College Link.” Walter ended his presentation by expressing, “ we have options to utilize and help any student.”

Question asked of Walter, “ Do you know of Grade 9's coming into Centennial that need help?”

Walter responded, “Yes” and that he would welcome those students to Centennial and that he feels he has a “critical role at Centennial to help all students and not just the students who are struggling.”

Round Table:

Principal MacKinnon mentioned that the school web site has been updated. There is a Parent Council link on the bottom left of the Home Page. Parents around the table asked for dates and times of Parent Council meetings to be listed, which was noted by Principal MacKinnon.

A question was asked if “Semi” tickets were going to be sold to students from other high schools around Niagara? Principal MacKinnon said “YES” and those students would have to sign in and that she would be in contact with those various high schools to confirm with them.

A healthy general conversation took place amongst several parents and staff around the table with regards to “Semi's and Prom's” and the after parties that also take place. The consensus agreed that the after parties are giving “Semi's and Prom's a bad rap. Nyle Collins informed everyone that Centennial Cougars were recently successful in winning their basketball game against the Lakeshore High School. Larry Lemelin offered kudos to Centennial Cheerleaders and Cougar Boys Basketball Team in their successes and that he attended the games proudly wearing his Cougar apparel.

Sophie Helpard mentioned that there was a great cross section of support for Centennial during the Tribune Basketball Tournament.

John McDowell mentioned that he would like to see more promotion of sports at Centennial and that sports had some bearing on why he enrolled his family at Centennial.

Alison Peloquin mentioned that 2 Centennial students have been successful in representing Centennial at Equestrian events.

A question was asked if a Parent Council table would be in place for the Open House? Within moments.... it was confirmed that there would be a Parent Council table and it would be in located in the Cafeteria and parent members of Parent Council committee would volunteer to arrive at 6:15PM to welcome visitors on behalf of Centennial Parent Council.

Next meeting will be February 27, 7:00PM

Meeting adjourned 8:16PM.