

## CECI Parent Council Minutes Sept 25/25

### Attendees:

Mr. Embree  
Nicole (Public Health Nurse)  
Paul  
Eric  
Christine  
Carolyn  
Cassandra  
Jennifer  
Julie  
Richard  
James  
Jamie

Discussed the Parent Council positions (chair, co- chair, Treasurer and Secretary). Please be sure to fill out and return a completed form prior to the next meeting, if you're interested in nominating yourself for one of these positions. Voting will occur during the next meeting.

Student engagement is up this year and incidents are down, starting the year off on a great note.

With the continuation of the no cell phones policy there have been less phones brought into the office with long text chains, private messages, etc causing drama between students. Additionally, there have been zero problems with students having their cell phones during assemblies.

In-risk reports go out to families October 3. These are sent to parents/students who currently have less than 60% in any of their classes.

\* Undergrad awards October 9

\* Parent teacher interviews October 15

\* Halloween Escape room October 27 - 30. Drama students are going on a field trip this Friday to do and learn about how escape rooms are created. They will then use that knowledge to create their own escape room that students will be able to take part in on the above dates.

\* Halloween dance October 30

All bathrooms in the school are being updated, one bathroom at a time, beginning around December.

This year there are approximately 640 students, which is down by 60 from the 2024-2025 school year. This means that some staff have been surplus. Also making switching courses difficult for students due to the large class sizes and surplus staff. Resource has gone from 2 staff to 1.5 also. Although Learning Support Teachers were decreased, IEP numbers increased, meaning more of a workload for each LST.

Discussed this year's School Council directive update from the Thames Valley District School Board. The government of Ontario's goal is for high school students to graduate within 5 years.

A new Code of Conduct is now in place and applies to all schools, instead of being school specific. This allows for more consistency between all the TVDSB schools. One of the new changes discussed is that students can be disciplined if they get into an altercation with another TVDSB student over lunch but off school grounds. This does not extend to evenings, after school, or weekends. You can

review the Code here: [https://centralelgin.tvdsb.ca/en/our-school/resources/TITAN-EXPECTATIONS-2022\\_2023.pdf](https://centralelgin.tvdsb.ca/en/our-school/resources/TITAN-EXPECTATIONS-2022_2023.pdf)

A new approach to cell phones being out during instruction is that instead of the teacher asking for the device, the student will be sent to the office to give the phone to Mr. Embree to be secured in his office safe. The first offense typically means that the phone is kept for half the day, and a second incident would be taking the phone for the remainder of the day. They have not had to implement the second time consequence yet this year.

The incident of students being late to school has decreased so far this year,

We talked about the SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major) program and that CECl is a green light school, which is what we want. The school is working toward being able to also offer SHSM programs in Tech and Phys. Ed also. We currently have Wellness and Business programs.

The track project originally planned and discussed last year has been placed on hold at this time, due to the board. The board may be more supportive of a building/facility project.

We discussed our planned mental health day and formed a subcommittee to work on the details of the event and come back to update the council on the progress and how the council can assist in the execution of the event. The first Sub Committee meeting is Oct 1 at 7pm at the St Thomas Public Library.

It was agreed that the event should be pushed out further to allow more effective organising. We believe it will be helpful to not only have resources available for students in our community but for the parents also. As well as bridging the gap of accessibility. The team would like to see more of an open information forum as opposed to just a gym with a bunch of booths in it with information available. The subcommittee will be meeting with the Student Council and Student Leadership teams to discuss the current plan and how they feel they would like to be presented with the info, what type of info, etc, so that we are ensuring to make the event geared to the students.

The name of "Nothing about YOU without YOU" is being considered.

Grade 8 date will be December 2. The parent council will be serving ice cream to families, and we also discussed having a parent council table to help encourage other parents to consider joining the council.

Mr. Embree will forward the power point presentation for anyone who would like to refer back or missed the meeting,

During the next meeting we will be voting on official positions within the council;. Please feel free to fill out a form volunteering to hold one of the positions available and submit it to Mr. Embree or bring it with you to the next meeting. Positions available are Chair/Co-chair, Vice chair, Secretary & Treasurer. The council should also have parent members, teacher members and student representatives.

The next Parent Council meeting is October 23 at 7pm.