

**Call to order:** 7:00PM

In attendance: Mike Embree, Carolyn Breninck-Dentry, Eric Weesjes, Richard Locke, Jolie Locke, Jennifer Lawrence-Leach.

Regrets: Jaime Burns, Nicole Whitten (public health)

Minutes from previous meeting were approved unanimously

**Principals Report (Mike Embree)**

The past few weeks have been rough in the school. With the loss of 2 students, Hadley and Kyler, impacting both staff and students. The TVDSB provided outstanding resources for staff and students impacted by the deaths. The school is continuing to monitor, especially those who are still struggling.

November 12 - Mr Gordon and the Mass Band did instructional time with the feeder schools that was well received. All the students learn a new song, practice it within groups and then they come together as one big group to perform the song as one huge band. It was well received by all.

November 17 - OSSLT - Literature dipped about 4%. There was more work and intervention given to the literacy portion of the OSSLT but still saw a dip in scores. However, the math scores did increase. This year the school has made changes, so that students will potentially have the opportunity to take the OSSLT twice, if needed. This is designed to help reduce stress in the students, and allow them to make mistakes, but correct them and learn more for the second taking, to try to get a higher score for each student.

November 17-20 - The Caring Adult Survey was sent throughout the student body, asking which staff students feel most comfortable and safe with.

November 20 - 1st color house assembly of the year. Attendance has been down with color house assemblies but the school surprised the students, not telling them exactly what date and time it would be, so that more were caught off guard and attended it. Students took part and staff saw many students who they had never seen attend an assembly previously. It was great to see these students joining in.

November 28 - Hoop it Up - Ms. Dennison organized a sold out free throw competition. Other competitions with the DE class, Firemen and Police (police won by 1 point) and students occurred. It was a huge success. The event was covered by 94.1 MyFM.

December 2 - Open House - Went really well, but attendance was down (down at all high schools in St Thomas this year). Cookies and cream were a favorite this year. At the coffee station people often asked about hot chocolate, so this may be something to include for next years event.

December 4 - Winter Music Concert - Went well. Had an art display at intermission that was well received.

December 19 - Holiday Feast & Holiday Assembly

January 7 - Grade 9s will have EQAO practice.

January 14-16 is the EQAO testing, which is worth 15% of the students marks.

January 23-29 - Exams for all grades

February 2 - 2nd semester begins

### **Some additional events coming**

Race for the Way - Leadership got plasma cars and will have a track all around the school. Will be a great time. Mitchell Hepburn will also be coming in the afternoon too.

Having a friendly audit in the school, on how we, as a school, are doing things in the building. It is a good source of feedback.

Washroom renovations are happening over the Winter break.

General painting around the school is also happening over the winter break.

### **Community Event**

The subcommittee has been unable to meet yet, due to scheduling conflicts

PTA from Parkside are interested in being involved with the community event. Mr. Embree will help get PTAs connected.

The question was posed - is the PTA able to fundraise when funds are needed for events? Yes, there are many options that can be explored as a PTA for fundraising.

All agreed we would like to apply for the PRO (Parent Reaching Out) grant Mr. Embree shared through email. Jolie will be completing the application when details become available and will forward to Mr. Embree for review prior to submitting, Grant is for up to \$5000. We would need to determine what funds will be spent on by the January 23 deadline.

**Arthur Voaden Contingency** - no updates at this time. If students do need to be redirect from Voaden to other schools the DE class would come to CECI, ASD to Parkside. We will need 6 classrooms to support their DE class. CECI is currently at 650 students, with a maximum potential for 740 students.

Mr. Embree discussed the hope for a trade/tech SHSM program at the school. However, we need the students and teacher in the program before the school can apply for SHSM.

Although CECI is running out of room the current estimated date for a new high school in St Thomas is 2030, per the board webpage. Parkside is already above capacity.

Art For Wellness is happening in the Art room (207) every Friday over lunch with Mrs. Taylor, Nicole (Public Health Nurse) and Jennifer. Please be sure to encourage your children who attend CECI to come create some art, have some fun and relieve stress through art with us. A calendar is being created the first week of January and will be shared shortly after. The calendar will show what the focus of Art for Wellness will be each week (although students have a wide variety of art and crafting options every week, not just the type of art listed on the calendar for that week).

Next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2026 at 7pm.