

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

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

Regrets: Eric Weesjes, Nicole Whitten (public health)

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved after correcting Carolyn Breninck's last name and adding Nicole Whitten's last name. Jolie Locke 1st, Jaime Burns 2nd and approved by all in attendance, Updated minutes have since been provided to Mr. Embree.

PRO Grant has been submitted. We should hear something in the first week of February about the grant decision.

**Principals Report (Mike Embree)**

The Vice Principal, Pamela MacLeod is going on a medical leave starting January 23 for a few months. Christine Holmes will be substituting in the Vice Principal position in Mrs. MacLeod's absence. Mrs. Holmes has been a VP at Stratroy District High School, Saunders and Banting and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with her.

Exams begin January 23, 2026. An email was sent out to all Titan families advising what happens if there is a snow day or two. Everything is pushed back a day, which is why Thursday is included. If there are 2 snow days exams will be doubled up on Thursday.

Grade 9 exams are 90 minutes maximum and designed to get students ready for the bigger exams that occur in the higher grades and post-secondary.

Once students are done with their exams they are free to go home, without being signed out. Some students will stay at the school until they get rides and if they take the bus.

Extra curricular teams will be practicing at lunch throughout exams, so that students don't have to come back at the end of the day for practice.

Friday, January 30 is a PD Day.

Art For Wellness continues every Friday in room 203 or the cafeteria (depending on the week and situation). On the first day of exams we will be making stress balls with students. As well as our usual art options. Art For Wellness will be offered a few days through exam week.

When students return on Monday February 2, after the 3 day weekend, 2nd semester begins. A new semester is a great renewal and refresh for students.

At the last staff meeting Mrs. Taylor lead suicide awareness education, using the ASIST program. The information is being provided over 2 staff meetings. With the loss of a student and students struggling, it has left staff feeling ill equipped to help. Having more meaningful conversations about these topics helps kids to process when loss happens.

The school had the opportunity to recall 2 teachers who were lost after the end of last year. Mx. Davies has agreed to return to CECI. This is due to contracts and when they end. Mx. Davies will be doing an online course and DE.

Mr. Embree is beginning his process of reviewing timetables, calendars, registration, staff, course allocations and more in order to determine which courses are being provided next year and which courses may not have enough interest. Due to budget cuts, if there are less than 20 students enrolled in the course it will likely be cancelled. Students doing a 5th year are given last priority with courses. This information is available on Mr. Embree's "My Blueprint".

After the allocation meeting to present enrollment information to the board we will be advised how many teachers we will be allotted for the next school year.

It is at this point that the school administration will connect with all department heads to get creative on how to ensure that certain courses are kept and figure out the final number of courses that will be provided in the 2026-2027 school year.

### **AVSS Contingency Plan**

PCI - 2 schools in one location. Parkside has decided that Voaden will be contained in the portable village, with the staff that come with them from Arthur Voaden, They will have separate admin as well.

CECI - We will be welcoming 5 DE classes to the Titan family. We will receive their staff as well as students and will embrace them as CECI students right away. Central will have a DE wing with our 2 DE classes and their 5 DE classes.

When the contingency plan is put into place, due to need, schools will have 2 weeks to get everything that is needed out of Arthur Voaden.

Once this change becomes permanent we will likely need to add portables at Central.

EQAO - 50% of students have written EQAO at this point. 45% have reached the required 70% or above.

OSSLT - on the 1st run 71% achieved the required score. Staff will help the remaining students so that they can pass on the second writing of the OSSLT in second semester,

Last year, both EQAO and OSSLT scores were at provincial average.

A detention room is being created for the chronically late students, as well as any others that earn a detention. This begins the 2nd semester.

Washroom renovations are ongoing before school, at lunch and after school. Renovations causing noise are not done during instruction or exams. Aiming to have renos done in August.

Vaping is an ongoing issue that is hard to stop. Strathroy District High School has vape detectors but they come with their own set of issues that make it difficult to determine who specifically was vaping, when more than one student is in the washroom.

## **Community Event**

March 11 has been set for the community event. The school has been reserved by Mr. Embree.

The plan is to have leadership students lead a peer led campfire style talk to share topics and issues important to the students and in a safe setting. Katie Walker - 2nd semester for leadership.

The guest speaker, Dr. Charlene Doak-Gebauer, online child protection expert will cut her usual speech down from 2 hours, to work with the plan for the evening. The speaker to be in the gym with the audio tech available.

Vendor style information booths to be available in the cafeteria and down the hall outside of the cafeteria. We will be sending out letters very soon to the vendors we would like to invite. A new email address, [CECparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:CECparentcouncil@gmail.com) has been created for the vendors to reach out to with questions and to RSVP. Jennifer will provide the login information to Jaime and Jolie so a few people have access and can help to navigate the incoming emails.

We would like to have the St Thomas Police Service Community Resource Officer available at the event. There may be a fee associated, which was worked into the amount requested within the grant. Mr. Embree will reach out to the resource officer to look further into this.

We would like to have a space for students who have special needs or sensory needs, to be able to be away from the chaos of the event, but still benefit from the event. A space where students can feel safe and parents are able to discuss common issues without a lot of people around to overhear, as special needs families may have different conversations, needs and wishes. Cassandra may make a great option to be available in this room.

The fireside chat will be held in the library. It would be helpful to have some safe staff (who were voted as safe staff by students) or potentially Nicole Whitten available in the library for the fireside chat.

Refreshments - We would like the refreshments to be throughout the school, to encourage people to move about and explore the event. Refreshments are often a great ice breaker.

Scavenger hunt - students who finish the scavenger hunt can submit it to win a door prize. There will be 3 door prizes, one for each school. Each parent council is responsible for

creating one basket. We would like the baskets/prizes to be family focused, such as card games, board games, treats, movies, etc.

The event will be 3 hours. From 6:30 to 9:30 PM March 11, 2026.

Jennifer advised that she had already reached out to Mr. Embree to request a copy of a map of the school for the next subcommittee meeting, so that we could map out the event with the other schools, who don't know our layout. Jennifer will forward the map to the other subcommittee members after this meeting.

Next subcommittee meeting we plan to start delegating tasks

Jolie will be creating a save the date poster and marketing for the event. Jolie will have the save the date poster to Mr. Embree by Monday to send out to the other schools involved and grade 8s from the feeder schools. She will also work on a name for the event.

By inviting the feeder schools it helps to prepare students as they come into grade 9.

We plan to create a pamphlet to hand out to all attendees with vendors, itinerary, etc. This needs to be created sooner than later, to get them in time for the event.

Jaime advised that she believed that we will likely have up to 20 vendors at the event.

Subcommittee will be reaching out to the Y and the Seniors Center to ask about using their parking for overflow.

We plan to create a link for families to reach out and RSVP, so we have an idea of how many attendees to expect.

Mr. Embree will get the multimedia set up for the gym, for the speaker.

Teen/student volunteers will be needed for the event. Can speak to staff at each school to find volunteers when we know how many will be needed. Some council parents have students who plan to volunteer.

We need to connect with the leadership students about how they can support and give them the new date of the event. We would also like to encourage staff to attend the event. It is important for students to see staff there to support such a strong initiative.

The subcommittee would like to have a large meeting with the council members from Arthur Voaden and Parkside, so they can see the school as we plan and discuss the event. We need to let Mr. Embree know when and he will book the school for the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20. 1st Jolie, 2nd Carolyn.