

Colonel By Secondary School Council  
Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Venue: Colonel By Secondary School Library

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1. Call to order, welcome and introductions:
  - a. Welcome by – Marie-Claude Meunier
  - b. Attendees – see attendance list.
2. Presentation by Brendan Fong – past student of Colonel By (graduated 2003)
  - a. Came to share his story from Colonel By to U of T – took 1<sup>st</sup> job offer and then got head hunted and became one of the youngest in a large firm in Toronto. University degree is now the norm to be considered. To be selected comes down to a few things – resume/cover letter and being able to sell yourselves.
  - b. When he came to Colonel By he was one of the exceptions (coming from an Asian community). Come from a family with high expectations. Usually teenagers do not know what they want to do. By the time he left Colonel By he had 3 jobs (McDonalds, telemarketing included). Started in pre-IB but didn't finish IB. When he graduated acceptance in graduate school was between 2 and 5%. Applied to McGill, Western, Queens and U of T and ended up settled for U of T. Studied at Mississauga campus studying digital science. Switched programs 3 times before deciding on the program that he graduated in.
  - c. At University, you are the small fish in a big pond. First year thought he could coast and still get good grades like in High school. Crammed for finals and didn't sleep for 3 consecutive nights just to pass. Got a huge wake-up call at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> year – had C minus average. Took the summer to take extra courses and re-did Economics. At the end of the summer, graduated with a 90+ average and suddenly knew that he could make it.
  - d. He knew that he wanted a management role so needed to build the work experience. Each experience is valid. Next summer job was being a concierge at American Express for high income holders specialized in ticket sales (Broadway concerts, etc.). Often use this example when being interviewed and asked to explain a time when you had to deliver under stress.
  - e. Used work experience to get better jobs and started perfecting the application. For example, use the job description to tailor the resume and cover letter to reflect what you can do that is better than the other applicant. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> point of contact prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> interview which is usually on a telephone. Need to practice that in advance and have that determination and drive to go for more.
  - f. There was an internship program at U of T with no placement. To get a placement, just started with the 20 largest companies in Toronto and dropped off resumes, then moved on to walking to the different companies and using an elevator pitch. Got an advertising 2 month placement and discovered that he hated advertising.
  - g. By the time he left University he had a multitude of jobs with varied experiences. Also use the university career center as a resource to get placements while a student. By the time he left University he had 3 job offers.
  - h. A year into that job, he received an unsolicited call from a head hunter based on his Linked in Profile listing his work experiences. This was an offer to go to an interview which he nailed on the first try – way above his expectations.
  - i. After 2 and a half years, discovered that he was stressed doing a job that he wasn't sure if this is what he really wanted to be doing. At the same time at the age 26 he was diagnosed with brain cancer and given 50% chance to live. At that time, he didn't think about a better job, better car, but more about life in general. This was the reality check that he wasn't doing things for himself but for other people. So must focus on what makes you happy – what gets you out of bed in the morning. Everyone has their own desires and what they really want to be doing. Survived brain cancer and got a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance in life. It has been 6 years.

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- j. After surviving cancer started giving back to the community, raising awareness for young adults and so on. So to emphasize that having ambition is great, but must also look at what makes you happy. Now you go with the flow at work and not trying to control every moment. Right now he works as District Manager for a lobby group here in Ottawa.
  - k. Cancer put a light on things that you want to improve and moves things to black and white. It allows you to be present to your family and access the strength that is around you. You visualize everything in advance including living 5 years ahead of right now. At some point you stop resisting and tell everyone goodbye and you live. One thing you learn is to integrate gratitude in your life for the little things and not on what you are still striving to achieve.
  - l. Need to focus on small things like resume writing, cover letters, preparing for the interview, researching the company prior to the interview, preparing questions in advance. These are the things that move you from applying for a job to getting multiple job offers. Small things like negative space, white space, fonts, and italicized, large sizes make a huge difference.
  - m. Interviews screen candidates first using the telephone (10 – 15 minutes). The follow up interview is with the manager of the position that you applied for. Use ARR (acknowledge, recognize, respond) to respond to the interview questions. Then you should use the section for you to ask questions – this is your point to have done your homework. Then there are those interviews that ask you to provide solutions to a problem on the spot.
  - n. Work experience should also include volunteer work.
3. Reports –
- a. IB Coordinator report – IB exams end on Friday May 20<sup>th</sup>. Huge thank you to parent volunteers and Jasmine and Mary-Ellen. This was our largest examining group this year sometimes filling 2 exam halls.
  - b. IB 1 Grade 11 should have selected their IE topic. Grade 12 IB students must have CAS hours completed by May 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be a reminder for exam fees sent out to parents.
  - c. Outdoor ED trip – 23 students to Algonquin park canoeing in 4 portages each day. Had amazing weather the entire time. Slept in tents.
  - d. Conference last fall – in love, in danger – Grade 11 3U English students came up with various media pieces along the same theme and presented them in small groups.
  - e. May 4<sup>th</sup> – Yoga on Parliament hill every Wednesday –Fitness class and Phys. Ed. 80 kids Biked down to Parliament hill for Yoga
  - f. Grade 9 English has a guest speaker this Friday focusing on aboriginal culture.
  - g. In 2 weeks – will be the annual Grad breakfast on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.
4. Principal Report – Jean Fulton-Hale
- a. CHOSE competition entries from Colonel By had 4 out of top 5 finishing. Our students won 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place and won \$4,000 in prize money. One girl wrote the music and the poem while another did all the videography. Another group researched mental health and how it affected Ontario and you.
  - b. Spring and Sports – concussion awareness – thank parents in reporting to the school any concussion external to school activities.
  - c. Music night in April – tribute to Teacher Terry Porter – did video tribute – current and past students.
  - d. Relay for Life coming up – thanks to all parent volunteers – May 27.
  - e. Grade 9 track and field – May 26.
  - f. Exam dates are posted on the website – please check for dates and expectations.
  - g. C Flats and Jazz band were at the Tulip Festival
  - h. CB musical Legally Blonde won 8 Cappies awards and will do a special performance.

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- i. Mr. Parsons and Ms. Fulton-Hale had students at Parliament Hill for Era Festival with a whole range of community people present.
  - j. Grade 12 – Prom will be happening on June 29<sup>th</sup> – dinner dance is at the Museum of History and after party will be held at Gatineau Airport. Have those conversations with your teenagers to be safe and arrive home safe.
  - k. Student success program – SOS day is early June and if the child is a candidate there will be a phone call home from Student success team.
5. Student Learning and Accommodation Plan – Jean Fulton-Hale
- a. The board of trustees has the 1<sup>st</sup> of a 5 year plan to discuss tonight and the discussion will be around which schools will participate in Phase 1. They will vote on June 7<sup>th</sup>. CB is the only secondary school identified in the Eastern Review for Phase 1. This will look at how we accommodate and provide access to learning. Public consultations will be a key part on that.
  - b. Tim Tierney (councilor) – 7 years ago we established a campaign to save this school. At the end of the day there were 750 people in the Rideau High School to campaign. Already engaged persons to restart the campaign if required. As successful as the school is, even at over capacity you cannot be too careful. Tonight is just a tabling, no decisions will be made. There are always pressures at the board level on budgeting issues, now in reviewing school zones. Started 7 years ago when had 3 kids to go through this school and now still have 1 kid in the school and won't stand by and let it close. Last time no selection was made to close Colonel By, Gloucester High or Rideau High. This time a selection will have to be made.
  - c. Until the trustees make a decision about next steps we are in a holding pattern. The expectation is there will be a people accommodation over the next 5 years.
  - d. There is a difference between Advanced placement and IB – not the same delivery model, though there is an external moderator.
6. Finance – Lise Baillot-Kutukian
- a. Treasurer's report – ending balance 6290.13 March and 6288.18 April. Jean is to get a cheque for 5000 to buy chromebooks and ipads. Also to reimburse the school for promo sign – 160. Issue tonight is to determine based on the report for PRO grant for 2015-2016 – how much to reimburse the school for the brochure (\$500) and how much to send off to the charity for Dr. Verley (\$300 fee). Needs it to be balanced to \$1000. Dr. Verley's fee donation of \$250 in lieu of fees is to go to the Youth Services Bureau Foundation and earmarked for their Youth Health Walk In Clinic. \$25 spent tonight and the balance will go to the brochure. Remaining balance for next year will be 627.16.
  - b. PRO Grant (\$1,000) – Need to know what will be applying for this year. Suggestions – teenage depression, tonight's session, workshop to provide parents with tools/strategies for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills (social media). Of the 3 suggestions only the last one is left. Other topics – meet the teachers/psychologists and developing the resource center. We could expand the new Parent information night to include associated professionals like RideauWood, Guidance, Ottawa Public Health (re vaccinations) and have persons choose what resources they want to meet. This would maximize the parent's visits instead of having multiple visits in the same week. We could split it 50/50 (\$500/\$500). Deadline is May 29<sup>th</sup>.
7. Closing - Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm. Next meeting: **Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016**. Usually a pot luck/social event.