

## TRANSITION COMMITTEE MEETING

Byng Public School, Clearview Meadows Elementary School, Stayner Collegiate Institute  
Tuesday, February 27, 2018  
1:00 p.m.

### MINUTES

The Byng Public School, Clearview Meadows Elementary School and Stayner Collegiate Institute (SCI) Transition Committee held their third meeting on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 1 p.m., at Stayner Collegiate Institute.

#### **PRESENT:**

##### Committee Members:

Byng Public School	Mae Senick, Principal Dave Richter, Teacher Alysia White, Parent Tori Collicutt, Student Linnea Donkers, Student Jaycee Gibson, Student	Clearview Meadows	Jacqueline Linton, Principal Kevin Goode, Teacher Matthew Laker, Parent Amelia Dutka, Student Luke Lighthouse, Student
Stayner Collegiate	Mark Keating, Principal Kim Hand, Vice-principal Janice McLeod, Teacher Sebrina Westbrooke, Parent Brittany Michalchuk, Student		
Community Representative:	Christine Tjeerdsma		
Student Success Teacher:	Chris Chater		
<u>Administration:</u>	Jackie Kavanagh, Superintendent, Area 5 Rita England, Executive Assistant, Area 5 (Recorder) Melanie Slade Morrison, Communications Officer		
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Grace Baker, Evan Marriott		

Chairperson Mark Keating, Principal of Stayner Collegiate Institute (SCI) called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

#### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

Principal Keating welcomed the transition committee members.

#### **2. Committee Purpose**

Principal Keating reviewed the 7-12 Transition Committee's statements of purpose.

-“Champion for a smooth and positive transition.”

-“We are here to support a smooth transition and learn details.”

-“Creating positive opportunities, recognize individual voices, while working together to shape a new school community.”

**3. 7-12 School Page on Stayner Collegiate Institute's (SCI) Website/Communication**

Principal Keating reported on the updates to the SCI school website page/Frequently Asked Questions and spoke on the seven videos that are now on the website. The videos, highlighting events held at SCI, were assembled by Curtis Dafoe, Media Specialist, Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB). Parents/guardians and the community have provided very positive feedback on these videos.

The committee discussed the use of the Safe Arrival attendance program for 7-8 students, the Balanced School day vs the regular secondary schedule, bussing and staffing.

At the present time the Student Transportation Consortium is considering a school start time of 8:30 a.m., rather than the current 8:15 a.m. start.

The committee requested information on the first day of school for grade 7 and 8 students. Principal Keating explained that the first day of school for grades 7 and 8 would be at SCI and classroom designations would be communicated by home room lists on the first day of school.

Principal Keating explained that as questions arise and are finalized, the answers will be posted on the SCI website page, Frequently Asked Questions.

**4. Transition Activities/Efforts to Date**

a) Joint School Council Meeting (January 29, 2018)  
Three school councils (Byng P.S., Clearview Meadows E.S. and SCI) held a combined School Council meeting at the SCI Library. The event was opened to the community. Forty-five people were in attendance.

b) Alphabet Game (January 30, 2018)  
Student Success teacher Chater, Byng and Clearview students explained how this interactive game was used to encourage students from both schools to communicate and get to know each other.

c) Explore SCI (February 15, 2018)  
This event was held in SCI's gym and was targeted specifically to grade 6 and 7 students. All SCI staff and students were involved.

Highlights of Explore SCI included:

- students receiving Spartan passports and a #SCI Proud T-shirt,
- team exhibits, selfie stations, locker challenge, open classrooms (Mathematics /Science/Art),
- Pizza and snacks handed out by student council and parents.

Teacher Janis McLeod provided a slide presentation on the highlights of this successful evening and stated that the parent/guardian feedback was very positive. They were excited to meet staff, view the facilities and introduce their children to SCI.

d) Wellness Walk (February 22, 2018)  
Student Success Teacher Chater reported that he had mapped out a variety of walking routes for grade 6 and 7 students to take to SCI and assisted in making them feel comfortable with their new routes to school.

**5. Input for Future Transition Activities**

- a) Supporting Parents – Workshop  
Christine Tjeersma, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, Health Nurse spoke to the committee regarding connecting and supporting parents and students by offering a session on either Coping with Anxiety or Raising Competent Teens.

Health Nurse Tjeersma will co-ordinate a one-hour session on Coping with Anxiety, to be held at SCI the week of April 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. Date and time to be confirmed.

- b) SCI Student Road Show  
The committee discussed a plan for students from SCI to create a play in a talk show format of commonly asked questions about “going to high school.” The play will be presented to Clearview and Byng students in the springtime.

Student Success teacher Mr. Chater will go to grade 7 and 8 classes at Byng and Clearview to generate questions and engage students and provide this information to Ben Murray, Student Council Chair at SCI.

- c) New Ideas  
Principal Keating provided details on future transition activities and asked for direction and suggestions.

Principals Jacqueline Linton and Mae Senick spoke to upcoming events: Paint the Town Pink, Stayner Hockey game and Celebrations.

Principal Keating suggested resuming the tradition of “Farmers’ Day”, opening it up to the entire community and also involve the grade 6, 7 and 8 students. Farmers’ Day would take place mid-May. Members of the committee suggested that it would be worthwhile that media be invited to Farmers’ Day so they can report to the community as a whole.

Superintendent Kavanagh answered questions on the elementary staffing process, which will not be completed till mid-April. It was suggested that once the staffing is finalized, the teachers could be asked to attend the final transition meeting.

**6. Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down Activity – Round Two**

Principal Keating asked committee members to break out into groups and share their concerns (pink), excitements (green) and wonderings (white) related to the transition students to the 7-12 model. The committee reviewed the first session’s notes and compared the new notes to determine where the committee was at now.

- Concerns (pink)
- One group had no concerns
  - Still some unanswered questions
  - Influence of older children on the younger children
  - Smoking area
  - Getting lost at the larger school
  - Being unable to open locker in time for class, using locks
  - Meeting new people and being separated from friends
  - Parking lot issues

Excitements (green)

- Ability to be on a club or team for 6 years, continuity, more sports
- Opportunity for staff, new changes, new learning
- Cohesive group, staff students and parents
- Excitement about energy grade 7 and 8s bring to building
- More opportunities
- Lockers and multiple classrooms
- Spirit days, i.e. pajama and twin day, house colours
- Meeting new students
- New clubs, such as art
- More access to the gym and facilities
- Senior classes take a leadership role with younger students

Wondering (white)

- Staffing piece
- Bussing, first day of school and classrooms
- Schedules
- Transition of other feeder schools, how will they be integrated?
- No recess break? - 4 period day, 1 period lunch
- Supervision in building and supervision of elementary students
- Elementary students can leave school grounds with parental permission at lunch time
- common lunch for grade 7 and 8s to integrate children into clubs
- 20 minutes Daily Physical Activity, in addition to lunch
- Phone rules – hallways yes, classrooms no, unless authorized by a teacher (can be a distraction to learning)

Sebrina Westrooke acknowledged the hard work, thoughtfulness and dedication that had been put into the planned transition activities. She commented that the community was impressed with the activities and that the time dedicated by staff has been recognized. Committee members and staff were thanked for their dedication and time in making this transition a successful one for students.

**7. Round Table Discussion/Next Steps**

Superintendent Kavanagh and Principal Keating responded to questions regarding elementary payment for sport teams and would there be Junior Spartans. As per the Ministry of Education Regulations, there is no fee for elementary students; however, there are certain regulations in secondary sports, i.e. football where students would not be able to qualify because of age. There would be only one team “Spartan” not a Junior and Senior Spartan team.

Elementary students asked questions regarding extra-curricular activities available at SCI.

**8. Closing Comments**

Principal Keating thanked the committee members for attending and providing their input.

**9. Adjournment**

The Transition Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

The next meeting is *tentatively* scheduled for Tuesday, May 15, 2018, at Stayner Collegiate Institute, Library, 1:00 p.m. – date and time to be confirmed.