

## **Prom Update: Thursday, November 16, 2018**

**Date of Prom:** Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019

### **Format:**

5:00pm – 7:00pm – Meet and Greet (Location TBD)

8:00pm – 12:00am – Safe Grad – Paul Reynolds Community Center (times may change slightly)

**Cost:** No cost to students for the meet and greet. Safe Grad costs to be determined based on fundraisers organized by parent committee.

### **Rationale for change to format:**

This year we have changed the format of the prom while maintaining the spirit of the event. Traditionally we have fundraised upwards of \$15,000 towards a meal that was attended by students and guests only and then proceed to our school theatre for some fun awards. This year we are not having the formal sit down meal and therefore there will be no fundraising required. The emphasis will be on the Meet and Greet, where parents, students and guests will get to gather together. Students will be presented with a large assortment of food at the safe grad at 8:00pm where the fun awards will be presented.

Traditionally safe grad has gone until 5:00am. Having students leave late in the middle of the night after a very long day is very problematic on many levels. More and more students do not want to stay the entire night, as they are so tired from the day's events. Safety is a top concern for students while in attendance and their transport home. Our policy will reflect transportation to and from the safe grad event in future correspondence.

## **November 18, 2018**

### **Prom Information Update:**

To understand the change to the prom format, its important to know the previous format.

The format for the day in previous years was a meet and greet for two hours for students, guests, parents, guardians, friends, etc.

Students then went to HHM Gym for a sit down supper that was an hour in length. This was NOT attended by parents/guardians. It was for students and guests only. There were no speeches and such, just come and eat.

Then students and guests went to the theatre for an hour to do fun awards. While parents/guardians were welcome to attend, very few do.

After the fun awards, students went home to change and then went to Safe Grad. There was no dance.

The safe grad parent group also fundraises for this portion of the evening and gets large amounts of donations for food for consumption during the safe grad. Traditionally there are significant amount of food thrown out at the end of the night.

The safe grad as an overnight has increasingly caused concern for safety for those involved. While students were required to stay until the end (5:00am), well over half are asking to leave at all times throughout the event due to exhaustion, etc.

The conversations were had in advance with student council executive and school council.

Moving the safe grad to end at midnight (tentative end time, may shift slightly) instead of 5:00am provides for better control for safety of all participants. Because of this time shift, we are able to avail of the donations for food made to the safe grad and combine that portion of the evening. Students enjoy the food choices of safe grad far more than the meal.

While we realize that change is not always popular, we feel it important for all involved to seek out parent volunteers from previous years to get a sense of the event and the challenges that the organizers face and balance that with safety for the participants.