

**OAKVILLE TRAFALGAR HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING
Thursday March 21, 2019 7:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

1. 7:00 – Call to order– **Rob Best**
 - a. Approval of minutes of last meeting held February 7, 2019
 - b. Approve adoption of agenda
 - c. Any new business
2. 7:05 – RDC update – **Ethan Smith / Hunter MacKinnon**
3. 7:15 - Community Connections / PIC Update – **Sandra Hurl-Smith**
4. 7:25 – Staff appreciation lunch – **Sandra Hurl-Smith**
5. 7:30 – Financial updates –**Rob Best**
6. 7:35 – 2019/2020 OT Council Chair – **Rob Best**
7. 7:40 – Principal/Staff Updates – **Meena Sahi/Monica Preiner**
8. 8:00 – Motion to Adjourn

Minutes

Attendees: Rob Best, Roberta Veitch, Sandra Hurl-Smith, Kimberly Swinoga, Meena Sahi, Margaret Finlay-Watzeck, Tara O’Connell, Ali Golandowian, Rosalind Ward-Smith, Carolyn Adams Hill, Monica Preiner, Gertrude Vandepol-Lin

1. Call to Order - Rob Best

Approval of minutes of last meeting held February 7, 2019

Approved: Sandra Hurl-Smith

Seconded: Tara O’Connell

2. RDC (Red Devil Council) update – Ethan Smith and Hunter MacKinnon

- Calendar white board is up and running in front of the cafeteria, showing events and activities for each month – specific students have been put in charge of changing the month and inputting items for the new month so that it doesn’t get out of date
- Selling brackets for March Madness – American college basketball playoffs – 59 brackets sold at \$2 each – ½ of the money raised goes to winner, rest goes to Relay for Life
- Junior Semi-formal April 23 or 24 – planning is in the works
- Coffee house – April 10 Wed – after school 1.5 – 2 hours, snack provided, sign up for performances – student perform in front of their peers in a casual environment

3. Community Connections / PIC Update – Anette Winslow/Sandra Hurl-Smith

- April 2 Community Connections speaker will be Meg Popovic – raising resilient children
- April 30 (date may change depending on the availability of the officer) Community Connections will be a presentation put on by Halton police (community officer) on what is happening in our students' lives as far as drugs and police encounters are concerned
- Ideas for speakers/topics for next year would be greatly appreciated

4. Staff Appreciation Luncheon – Sandra Hurl-Smith

- Most likely May 3 Friday – during lunch periods 3 and 4
- Sandra going to send out a Meal Train for food sign up
- Just had one put on by OT's Asian parents and it was great!
- There was money in the luncheon account left over from last year – people donated coffee money that we didn't end up using – Sandra asked whether we could move any leftover \$ into parent council funds or into the Relay for Life pot – we need to have a note at the bottom of the Meal Train announcement/sign-up to let people know where extra funds may go – we will look into this.

5. Financial updates –Rob Best

- \$9,000 has gone to the purchase of furniture for the library renovation
- \$2,000 has been set aside for end-of-year scholarships



Adobe Acrobat
Document

6. 2019/2020 OT Council Chair – Rob Best

It is Rob's last year here ☹ – his son is graduating and his daughter is at different school.

If you are interested in chairing the parent council please let Rob know this spring. You could start at the end of this year by going to meetings with Rob and Meena so in the fall you can hit the ground running!

7. Principal/Staff Updates – Meena Sahi/Monica Preiner

a) Staff happenings

- PD day – morning – teachers had a visitor from the Ministry of Education – he spoke about indigenous issues - indigenous studies are being written into the curriculum of the regular Grade 10 history course and other social sciences courses – the afternoon was spent preparing for second semester (this was back in February)
- Lunch and Learn – teachers have also been having sessions during their lunch periods on a variety of topics such as: technology in special education (talk to text, Google read and write), breakout boxes (escape room kits – problem solving clues lead to unlocking boxes), bereavement and grief, LGBTQ2 youth, handling people, classroom

organization, photoshop and talks with the police liaison officer updating teachers on the latest teen issues.

- OSSLT (literacy test) for grade 10s is next week – tomorrow is teacher training for that.
- Living library will be taking place for staff on April 12 – here a variety of different speakers will act as information sources for a number of topics so that teachers will have tools to connect with students in a more empathetic way. There will be 20 topics and staff will rotate around, gathering information from each speaker. The Wellbeing Committee is working on getting the speakers (students, former students, parents, etc.).

b) Student events

- The boy's and girl's hockey team won Halton Finals and qualified in GHAC. This was our first girl's team.
- Music –Jr. Jazz won bronze, Sr. Jazz won silver, Wind Ensemble won silver, Chamber ensemble won silver plus and an initiation to nationals, and concert band won silver plus and an invitation to Nationals.
- Robotics Team – one of our students from 1374 became a Dean's List Semi-Finalist. Team 1334 was eliminated in the quarterfinals. Their next competition is in North Bay.
- Debate - 4 students represented OTHS at the provincial championship
- Swim team went to OFSAA and won 1 gold, 2 silver, 2 fifth place finishes, 1 7th, 9th 11th and 16th place finish.
- Ski and Snow Boarders went to OFSAA and won many medals.
- DECA – business-oriented students competed at the provincials – several won awards.

c) Facilities

- Cafeteria has been painted - next year a new mural will be painted on the walls after the furniture is in – the students will be deciding on that mural and painting the mural themselves.
- Library lighting has been replaced.
- Library – book shelves have been emptied and books donated through our central library services.
- If the budget allows we will also be painting interior doors, bathroom doors over the summer.
- Still working on lights in theatre – they cannot be retrofit to the fixtures that are in there – replacements fixtures are \$20,000. Stay tuned.

d) Staffing, student numbers

- 1325 projection for next September-- Currently at 1350 – this is mostly due to the fact that only one class is coming from E.J.James instead of the usual two classes.
- Retirements are expected by the end of the month

- Next year there will be 2 classes at the Grade 9 level for gifted students – it is recommended that they take all 4 core courses at gifted level in Grades 9 and 10.

e) Miscellaneous items – but still important!

- **5th week reports** are coming out soon – these are sent to students who have less than 60% in one or more courses. Graphic analysis on previous years' numbers has shown that between 5th week and midterm there has been a significant reduction in the number of students that fall into this category – this shows support being given to our students by teachers and parents to improve their grades after the wake-up call of the 5th week report is received.
- **Ontario Government announcement – class size** average is to change from 22 to 28. Currently many of our classes are already up at 25-30 students. Plans have not been given to principals yet – these trickle down from the deputy minister to board – not released yet – all planning and hiring for next year is on hold because of this. It was also announced that each student is to take **4 courses of e-learning** before graduation – 1 per year – starting in 2021. Not sure whether this would start for just Grade 9s or for all grades. There is a lot of attrition in on-line courses which is a concern. OTHS doesn't offer a lot of online courses in Grades 9 and 10 as we feel that these younger students don't have learning skills they need to be able to self-regulate and do these courses on their own.

Cell phone ban – provincial – teacher may direct students to use phones for certain learning things.

Personal finance is going to be added to the Careers curriculum (Grade 10).

- **Vaping** – In Semester 2 OT has been taking a new approach with teachers supervising hallways, doing bathroom check-ins, limiting the number of students leaving the classroom at one time and having students leave their phones in class when they leave to go to the bathroom so that they cannot plan a vaping meeting with friends. Vice-Principals went to every class and spoke specifically about vaping in bathroom – lots of students have felt uncomfortable going into bathroom when a group of students were in there vaping. There have been an increased number of suspensions and an increase in the number of students asking for a supervisor to check bathroom prior to going in. Families need to understand that vaping can deliver 5 times more nicotine than a cigarette and that nicotine is a highly addictive drug. A person needs to be 19 years old to own a vape. We are hoping that the dangers of vaping will soon be part of the Phys Ed healthy active living curriculum and science curriculum. With the suspensions, OT discusses addiction with the student and family, and if necessary, refers students to ADAPT – addiction counselling for children.

A council member felt that removing a student caught vaping from a sports team for the school year didn't make sense as we are trying to encourage healthy behaviours. Meena assured us that decisions like that are made on an individual basis and the team coach often has the last word.

- Fire in the bathroom – Prior to March Break there was a fire in one of the bathrooms set by one of the students. The fire department was called and students had to evacuate the school in very chilly weather. It wasn't a large active fire, mostly just a lot of smoke.

8. 8:15 – Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Margaret Finlay-Watzeck

Seconded by: Tara O'Connell

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING Thursday April 11, 2019 7:00 pm