

**OAKVILLE TRAFALGAR HIGH SCHOOL  
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING  
(Thursday May 3, 2018) 7:00 p.m.**

**ATTENDEES:**

Andrew Bigham, Marie Day, Susan Miles, Tracy Jarvis, Rob Best, Meena Sahi, Carolyn Adams Hill, Annette Winslow, Ann Harvey Hope, Kim Swinoga, , Roberta Veitch, Rosalind Ward-Smith, Tara O'Connell, Chelsea Shen, Sandra Hurl-Smith, Chris Reidy

**MEETING**

1. 7:00 – Call to order– **Rob Best**

- Approval of the minutes of last meeting held April 12, 2018  
Approval: Marie Day  
Second: Annette Winslow

2. **RDC Update** – Gr. 11 student Ethan Smith

- **SpringFest** – May 23 – volunteers are being organized
- **Coffee House** - Mon May 14 – an after school event, performing for peers, often not a lot of students sign up before hand, but come out to perform on the day
- today Grade 8s were taken through OTHS by Link crew (there was a scavenger hunt allowing Grade 8 students to see the music room, science rooms, etc., Q & A with students in theatre)

**Coffee house discussion by council** – 2 topics

- A) William Leathers (his name came up because he is such a great performer) who graduated last year from OTHS has been admitted to Julliard in NYC for undergraduate studies in classical trumpet performance! Tuition for 4 years is approximately \$400,000. There has been a YouCaring page set up to raise funds for his tuition. Please support him if you can!

<https://www.youcaring.com/williamleathers-1177193>

B) Can parents go to the Coffee House event? – According to Ethan, parents are neither invited nor turned away. Parents on council that have gone previously said that they stood at the back or peeked through the trees!

### 3. **Financial update** – Marie Day

Currently council has \$5,713, \$2000 of which is already allocated to scholarships. The remainder (\$3,713) is going to be handed over the next year's council for the fall of 2018.

PIC money has been spent.



OTHS Budget April  
2018

### 4. **Principal updates** – Meena Sahi

#### Staffing

- We are projected to be at 1,365 for next year. May end up being closer to 1,340. Currently hiring new staff – the hiring process can last up until the end of August.
- We have 3 retirements – Mrs. Miles, Ms. Vankova, and Ms. Farquharson, and Marie Savoie (office) is moving out of province.

#### New SHSM Programs

- Both the Manufacturing and Information and Communication Technology SHSM applications were approved last week.
- Students who have already selected the core courses in these SHSM courses will be contacted in the next month to discuss the opportunities available.

#### Exams and Performance Tasks (PT)

- We will use the PT/Exam calendars again so student can put dates on them and start planning a study schedule. This will happen in late May.
- We ask the parents not take students out of school during the PT and Exam times (month of June) as making alternate arrangements for examination and PT is difficult

#### Student Update

- Robotics Team 1,334 made it to the semi-finals at the provincials

- May Farhad from the Robotics Team 1,374 was a Dean's List Finalist at Nationals in Detroit
- Amanda He won first in her category at DECA Internationals in Atlanta
- A new club is available for women interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) to encourage more of our students into the shops

#### AP (Advanced Placement) Examinations

- Students will be beginning writing AP Exams next week (18 different ones) – AP credits allow students to apply to a variety of post-secondary schools outside of Canada

#### Grade 8s and Link Crew

- Our Link Crew leaders and guidance welcomed over 300 new grade 9 students into the building today for a visit before their official start in September – there are a number of feeder schools including Morden (gifted students)

#### Summer School Registration

- Register early for both recovery and full-credit courses. You can always cancel. Guidance office has all the information or you can go to [garyallan.ca](http://garyallan.ca)

#### Prom- May 17

- Prom will be held at Liuna station again in Hamilton
- We will send out the standard syner-message to parents about alcohol before prom.
- Please remind the students that as the prom is in Hamilton, the attending police officer is **not** our liaison officer and has no prior relationship with the school or our students.
- We have a school wide MADD assembly on May 16th ahead of prom that will discuss alcohol as well as marijuana.

#### **Discussion about prom by council – 2 topics**

- A) Question re: what school will be missed – grad breakfast is that morning, voting is done then students often leave for the day (not sanctioned by the school) – teachers often hold review in class that day or have a project work day. The next day is a normal schedule.
- B) Several parents on council noted that 2 years ago (when prom was at same venue) there were issues with the busses coming home and going to the venue – students had booked the busses, but some didn't show up. Meena Sahi – the school is not involved in transportation to or from the venue – parents are encouraged to help their children arrange transportation. Meena mentioned she would remind students to confirm with parents their booked transportation plans with limo/bus companies.

### Assassin Game

- This is the time of year that the Assassin/Gotcha game often starts up for our grade 12 students. This game is not supported by any HDSB schools because it is unsafe and has the capacity to exclude students due to the nature of the game. Students are reminded not to bring the “game” onto school property and during school hours. Halton Regional Police has asked for our support to discourage this game.

### Grad Prank

As we move into May and June student may start to plan a “prank”. Last year we did not have a “prank” happen. We would like to continue to discourage any pranks as this type of activity distracts from learning, can often cause damage to the building and has the potential for injury to staff and students.

**Question from council for Meena** – Is there going to be a Tailgate party this year? Meena Sahi – not having it this year because we are having Springfest (didn’t have Relay for Life this year so having Springfest).

**Question from council for Meena** – At the graduation ceremony last June the temperature in the gym was high and students and parents/guests were hot and thirsty. Can we give out water bottles? Susan Miles replied that this has been tried in the past and it took hours to clean up all of the empty water bottles and caps all over the gym afterwards. People are encouraged to bring their own reusable containers of water to the ceremony. Although plastic bottled water is usually not acceptable, an exception will be made for this day. There will not be food available this year either. Also, gowns will be given to students ahead of time for them to take home and get photos with people who cannot come to the ceremony due to limited seating. Photos at home prior to the ceremony will be great as the students will not yet be hot and tired. There will also be a photo area set up in the atrium for after the ceremony this year.

### **Staff Report** – Susan Miles

- Midterm reports - sent home April 26 - students to chase (grade 9 -11, grade 10 -9, grade 11 – 20, grade 12 -19, eLearning - 3) TOTAL = 62 students (these students either had 2 or more courses under 60% or failed a course)
- Grade 8 transition meetings with feeder schools completed (meet with social workers, etc. to discuss students, special needs)

- PD day, April 27 - subject specific - mental health, experiential learning, ELL (English language learners) (many teachers at OTHS made presentations to their peers)
- ARE YOU READY FOR HIGH SCHOOL - April 30 - 50 "in risk" students visited for the afternoon - organized and run by Leadership class – given swag
- May 3 - all grade 8's visited OT - 25 grade 8/9 teachers spent time together in an Open Session – issues around transition to high school from elementary school discussed
- ongoing – Department Heads - timetabling
- tomorrow, May 4 - Parent Council Appreciation lunch – teachers are looking forward to getting together over lunch
- Wellness week - variety of events planned for staff
- May 25 - Leadership Team retreat (PD day for department heads)

Rob Best thanked Susan Miles for her many years support to parent council – Susan has been coming to parent council meetings for many years – since it started and kept us up to date on what is happening academically with our students and their teachers. Thank you so much Susan – Happy Retirement!

#### **5. Community Connections/PIC Update – Annette Winslow**

We are in the process of applying for next year's PRO grant – next year's focus is communicating with new families, inclusion.

Annette and Sandra feel that a New to OTHS Coffee Morning for parents – done at MGPS for many years and well received - done in the fall would be a good idea. Sandra and Anette have volunteered to arrange this. Also, we should put in place a buddy system where a member of council is paired up with a new to the area parent as a resource/friendly face.

Tuesday's Parent Connection talk – not well attended, but it was such a beautiful evening outdoors! Rob Best attended and said that the presentation was obviously geared toward students, not parents. Even so there was some interesting information. Unfortunately the liaison officer had no info with regards to the new cannabis law – police don't have that info at this time. There was also an Adapt presentation on how drugs affect the brain that was interesting.

An email has gone out today with a survey about the Parent Connection talks/topics done this year. Please take a few minutes to give us feedback on the

information shared this year. Also, if you have ideas for speakers or topics for next year please share them with the council members.

We are planning for 6 nights next year. One of the guest speakers we are planning on is Chris Vollum – social media talk.

### **Discussion about topics for next year by council**

Kimberly Swinoga – mentioned the horrific van attack in TO and suggested a talk about how to deal with young men who feel marginalized, get into dark places on the web that lead to such tragedies.

Raise profile of trades was another topic discussed – students who go into trades post-secondary school tend to make more money, have less debt, be able to afford their own homes, etc. We need to educate parents that trades/apprenticeships and colleges are great post-secondary options. Our new Specialist High School Majors (SHSM) should help with this. A talk on various pathways post-secondary would be good.

### **6. Other items**

**Election process** – Rob Best – Last year we had a self-nomination process and it seemed to work well, so we will do the same next fall. The first two council meetings for the fall of 2018 are tentatively going to be Sept 20 and Oct 11. There will be a form sent out/available to fill out Sept 10 (self-nomination) – this form also has a list of the roles and what they do on the back - if there ends up being more than one person per position we will vote October 11. The Form will be asked to be sent into the office by Oct 4<sup>th</sup> but can also be brought to the Oct 11<sup>th</sup> council meeting. If more than one person shows interest in Chair/Co-chair, Treasurer or Secretary positions, then a vote will take place to decide on Oct 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Donation process** — a package is going out in the summer to students/families outlining how to support School Council. We need a volunteer to write a short piece as to what the money goes towards – Kim Swinoga volunteered to do this. Need this by mid-June.

Ann Harvey Hope told us that the HDSB now has an app for Apple and android phones – you simply click on School Cash Online in the app then click on the “Make a Donation” tab. This will simplify the donation process next fall hopefully.

**Next meeting** – Wednesday, June 13 our last meeting of the year will be a social meeting held at Corks above Longo's on Cornwall Road, 7:00 pm. One of the council members (Chris Reidy) is going to make us a reservation. All welcome – even if you haven't been able to attend our meetings, we would love to see you there.

7. 8:10 pm Motion to adjourn – Annette Winslow, seconded by Tara O'Connell